



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law and Order Committee addresses Public Safety and Judicial Concerns



PHOTO: The LOC heard reports addressing critical concerns facing tribal departments during a special meeting held on March 4.

Window Rock, Ariz. – On Monday, March 4, the 25th Navajo Nation Council Law and Order Committee (LOC) convened in a special session addressing pressing issues regarding public safety, judicial facilities, and operational challenges within the Navajo Nation.

In attendance were LOC Chairwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock), Vice Chairwoman Cherilyn Yazzie (Dilcon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone, Greasewood Springs), Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Tсах Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato) and Delegate Nathan Notah (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a).

Reports presented during the session addressed critical concerns facing tribal departments.

Anselm Bitsoi, Executive Director of the Office of Labor Commission, discussed challenges with Financial Management Information System (FMIS) training and certification, stressing the need for comprehensive training and adequate resources to meet operational demands effectively.

In response, Chair Charles-Newton directed Legislative staff to draft a memorandum seeking support from the Office of the Speaker to facilitate FMIS training completion.

Lewnell Harrison, Interim Executive Director of the Ethics and Rules Office, emphasized the need for an increased budget allocation to enhance building security and provide essential equipment for ethics and rules investigators.

The Committee also deliberated Legislation No. 0278-23, which, if approved, would establish the Judicial/Public Safety Facilities Fund Priority List for FY 2023 and 2024.

Legislation sponsor Chair Charles-Newton discussed the critical need to establish public safety substations in various regions across the Navajo Nation. Chair Charles-Newton provided updates that highlighted planning stages for several substations.

Legislation co-sponsor Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) said the substations are a priority that will enhance public safety services and emergency response times across the Navajo Nation.

Speaker Curley discussed possible funding sources for the substations like the loss revenue funds related to COVID-19 but pertaining to ARPA funding.

“We want to use the loss revenue concept to leverage additional funding from the Tribal Infrastructure Budget Council,” said Chair Charles-Newton. “That’s the goal.”

Law-and-Order Committee member, Council Delegate Daniels motioned to table Legislation No. 0278-23 until after March 15, proposing that the Committee has a workshop on the legislation before it moves forward.

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