



25th Navajo Nation Council

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **25th Navajo Nation Council confirms Michael Anderson as Director of the Division of Public Safety**



**PHOTO: Division Director of Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, Michael Anderson - Window Rock, AZ**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On the second day of the Spring Session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council confirmed the appointment of Michael Anderson to serve as the Division Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety (NNDPS).

Anderson, who has dedicated his career to public safety was confirmed following a rigorous review of his background in law enforcement, judicial roles, and community leadership. Before the vote, Council Delegates questioned Anderson about his vision and goals related to making communities safer, increasing accountability, allocating resources, and overall efficacy within the Division of Public Safety.

Council Delegate Brenda Jesus (Oaksprings, St. Michaels) highlighted the need for improved data reporting stating, "It is essential that we have accurate data to secure the necessary resources for our communities. I trust that Director Anderson will prioritize this."

Council Delegate George H. Tolth (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor), a former police officer, asked Director Anderson why the NNDPS has not proposed or increased the number of substations across his

region. He emphasized that an increased law enforcement presence is needed to impact the increase in crime, drugs, and abuse on the Nation. Delegate Tolth said that often community calls for a police officer go unanswered.

Delegate Simonson (Hard Rock, Forest Lake, Pinon, Black Mesa, Whippoorwill) stressed the importance of providing proper equipment to law enforcement.

“Understanding the needs and issues of law enforcement is critical—we need to take better care of our officers by providing adequate protection and equipment,” Delegate Simonson said.

Upon his confirmation, Director Anderson shared his vision for a unified and robust Division of Public Safety stating, “My goal is to bring all departments under one umbrella to foster a strong, communicative, and cooperative environment. We also aim to elevate our police officers to federal officer status to effectively tackle serious crimes across our Nation.”

Additionally, Anderson addressed the pressing issue of sexual assault, a critical concern within many communities.

“Addressing sexual assault cases is paramount,” he said. “We must refocus our efforts and ensure that our women and communities are safe. This will be a priority for my team.”

The Council approved Legislation No. 0059-24 with a vote of 10 in favor and four opposed.

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