



25th Navajo Nation Council

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**April 18, 2024**

## **STATEMENT FROM SPEAKER CURLEY REGARDING ALLEGATIONS BROUGHT FORTH TO THE ATTENTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

As the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I offer this statement to our Navajo People to address the allegations of sexual harassment and mistreatment within the Office of the President and Vice-President.

Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya brought concerns to the Council's attention during the State of the Navajo Nation Address during the 2024 Spring Council Session, and also communicated the allegations to the public through social media this week.

As I became aware of these allegations, I invited all members of the Council to come together on Wednesday, April 17th, to discuss the issues and to seek their input. Based on the discussion, there was a general consensus that the allegations warrant an independent investigation.

This marks the second recent sexual misconduct allegation within the Office of the President and Vice President. The Council continues to await the outcome of the federal investigation in the first case.

The Office of Legislative Counsel has received a request to draft legislation to initiate an independent investigation into the recent allegations. The nature of these allegations compels us to act swiftly to gather the facts and to seek accountability. We must proceed assertively and cautiously to ensure a fair investigation.

As the Speaker of the Council and also as a mother, I strongly condemn harassment and abuse in any form whether it's sexual, physical, verbal, mental, or emotional. As leaders of our Nation, we have a great responsibility to respectfully listen to the voices of those who are victimized and to promptly address acts of harassment, particularly in the workplace.

As elected leaders, we hold ourselves to a much higher standard of conduct to ensure that all individuals and Navajo Nation employees are safe, respected, and valued. This is a time for our Nation to stand together against all misconduct.

I thank my Council colleagues for addressing these matters and offering their support as we move forward with appropriate and lawful measures. As the Speaker, I continue to provide sexual harassment prevention training opportunities for the Legislative Branch on a regular basis.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council will continue to monitor this situation and is prepared to take further action, as necessary. To our Navajo People, I thank you for bringing forth your concerns and demands for action. As we move forward, the Council will ensure the continuity of government operations. Please continue to pray for our Navajo People and our Nation.

Ahee'hee' dóó A'daa'a'hólyá'

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Crystalyne Curley, Speaker  
25th Navajo Nation Council