



25th Navajo Nation Council

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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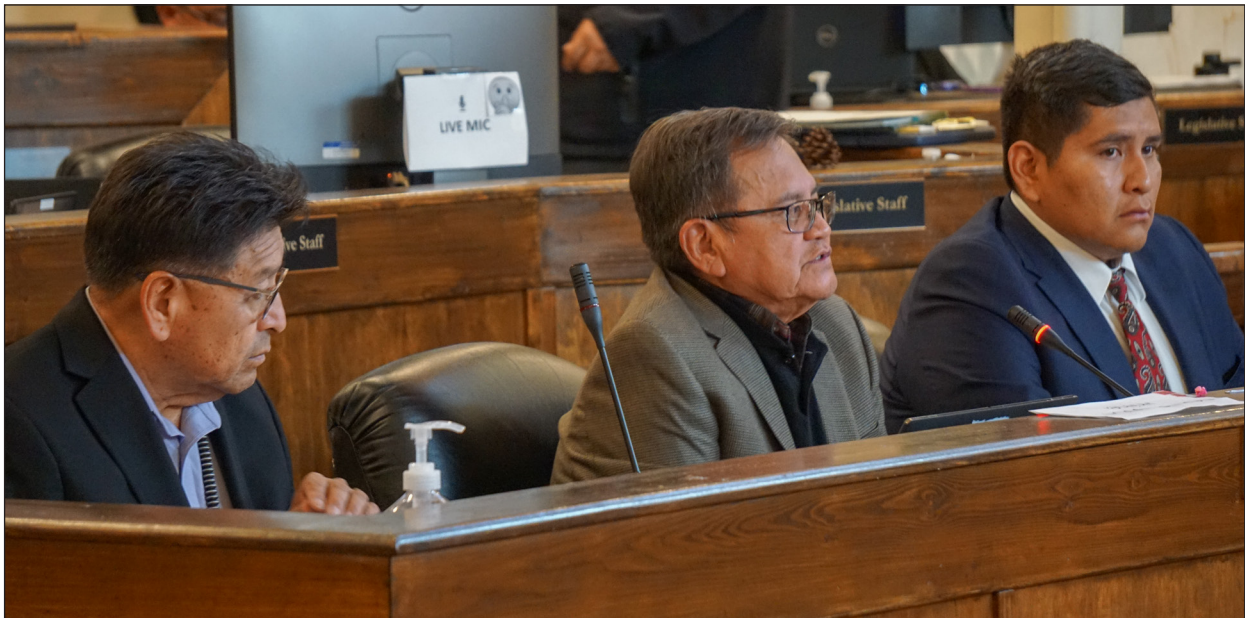
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 28, 2024**

### **Naabik'iyáti' Committee receives financial report for 76th Navajo Nation Fair**



**Deputy Director of the Division of Natural Resources Immanuel Charley (left), Fredrick White (center), and Charleston White (right) of Building Nations, LLC deliver the 76th Navajo Nation Fair report to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Tuesday, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee convened to review a financial report detailing the revenues and expenditures for the 76th Annual Navajo Nation Fair.

The report was presented by Immanuel Charley, Deputy Director of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR), and Fredrick and Charleston White of Building Nations, LLC. The presentation initiated discussions about the fair's future operational structure, the need for improved financial reporting, and sustainable funding strategies.

This effort aligns with a broader commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency across all divisions. The report marks the first comprehensive financial disclosure presented to the committee, underscoring the importance of accountability in resource management.

The financial figures, reconciled up to November 25, 2024, showed total income of approximately \$2.85 million, with a current net balance of \$935,000. Charleston White emphasized transparency in the reporting process, noting that additional sponsorship funding is still being collected.

“We must be able to verify how funds are handled. Transparency is the only way to ensure public confidence,” said Committee Chair Parrish. “This is about ensuring every dollar is accounted for—from sponsorships to expenses.”

Revenue sources included \$772,000 in sponsorships, \$732,000 allocated by the Navajo Nation Council, and \$971,000 from events such as rodeo ticket sales, parking fees, and general admission. White also highlighted the significant turnout at this year’s fair, with over 11,000 attendees on the busiest day.

While acknowledging the fair’s successful financial performance, committee members focused on operational sustainability, long-term planning, and concerns about in-kind services and the reconciliation of revenues generated by the fair.

Resources and Development Committee Chair Brenda Jesus raised concerns about the fairness of financial allocations across regional fairs. Delegate Shawna Ann Claw called for detailed documentation of contributions from the Navajo Nation’s divisions and questioned the impact of in-kind services on the Nation’s overall budget.

“Other fairs, such as the Northern Navajo and Eastern Navajo fairs, do not receive this level of financial assistance from the general fund,” said Delegate Claw. “We must evaluate if the current funding structure aligns with our broader goals for equity and fiscal responsibility.”

The committee requested that final financial reports be shared with the Navajo Nation Council and its oversight committees, including the Resources and Development Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee. Delegate Otto Tso stressed the importance of establishing clear protocols for timely budget amendments for future fairs.

“It is vital that we avoid last-minute funding requests by incorporating fair-related expenditures into the comprehensive budget well in advance,” Tso said. “This will streamline planning and allow for better allocation of resources.”

Looking ahead, the Division of Natural Resources committed to working closely with the Office of the Controller to resolve these matters and meet reporting deadlines. A final report on the 2024 Navajo Nation Fair is expected by the end of December 2024.

The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee voted 7 in favor and 5 opposed to accept the report and scheduled a detailed review session for December, during which financial records will be examined.

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