



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council Delegates attend historic groundbreaking ceremony for Kayenta Judicial Complex



Left to Right: Council Delegates Herman Daniels, Jr. Shaandiin Parrish, and Kayenta Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie and Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso.

KAYENTA, Ariz. – On March 14, Kayenta Township celebrated the groundbreaking of the long-awaited Kayenta Judicial Complex, a historic milestone, with Council Delegates Shaandiin Parrish, Steven Arviso, and Herman M. Daniels, Jr. joined by community leaders, judicial officials, and state representatives to mark this significant step for the region’s judicial and public safety services.

The facility was funded through the Navajo Nation’s Sihazsin Funds with an additional funding from the State of Arizona, marks a transformative moment for the Kayenta District. The new judicial complex will consolidate court services, probation and parole, the prosecutor’s office, public defender services, and the Peacemaking Program under one roof, replacing outdated modular units that have served the community for decades.

“This groundbreaking is more than just the start of construction—it is a testament to the resilience and dedication of our people,” said Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. “For over 25 years, our leaders have worked to secure the funding needed to provide our community with a modern judicial facility. Today, we honor their vision and commitment.”

Council Delegate Steven Arviso emphasized the importance of collaboration in making the project a reality. “This new complex represents what we can achieve when our government, judicial branch, and community work together. It will not only improve access to justice but also create opportunities for our youth to pursue careers in law and public service.”

Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. echoed this sentiment, stating, "This is about investing in our people. A fair and efficient judicial system is vital to the well-being of our communities, and this facility will help ensure that justice is served with dignity and respect."

The ceremony began with a traditional blessing, honoring the land and the project's significance. Former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, and other officials spoke on the decades-long effort to bring the project to fruition. Community members also witnessed the symbolic first turning of the soil, marking the official beginning of construction.

With the completion of the Kayenta Judicial Complex anticipated within the next year, the groundbreaking represents a major step toward strengthening public safety and judicial services in the region. The 25th Navajo Nation Council reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that Diné communities continue to have access to modern infrastructure that upholds the principles of justice and sovereignty.

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