



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 accepts public safety report on 77th Navajo Nation Fair



Law and Order Committee receives a report on Monday from the Division of Public Safety regarding public safety operations for the Navajo Nation Fair.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On September 15, the Law and Order Committee voted unanimously to accept the Division of Public Safety’s report regarding public safety operations at the 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair. The report, presented by Navajo Nation Police Chief Ronald Silversmith and Deputy Chief of Police Leonard Williams, detailed efforts to maintain safety during the Navajo Nation Fair.

“The Nation must be prepared for all types of situations,” said Law and Order Committee (LOC) Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton. “Our people need to know that our public safety teams are ready to handle everything—especially concerning the parade and the practice of camping on the right-of-way. We cannot take our people’s safety lightly.”

According to Chief Silversmith, there was a low arrest rate during this year’s fair, which he attributed to the proactive presence and coordination of officers throughout the week. Silversmith reported that only eleven arrests were made. The department’s safety plan included crowd and pedestrian control, traffic management, and coordination with multiple agencies through mutual aid agreements.

LOC Chair Charles-Newton proposed stricter consequences like keeping offenders in custody until they appear before a judge to avoid any further repeated offenses.

Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell inquired whether command centers would be established at the upcoming Northern and Western Navajo Agency Fairs. Deputy Williams confirmed that command centers would be active at both events.

Although the policy against saving spots along the parade route wasn't enforced, Chief Silversmith assured the committee that this will not be the case at the Northern and Western Agency Fairs. Camping on or near the right-of-way will be prohibited, and the Navajo Nation Police Department is prepared to strictly enforce this rule.

The Law and Order Committee expressed strong support for this policy, citing the growing risks associated with parade route camping, including altercations and vehicle-related incidents. The committee also encouraged working with the Northern Agency Council to identify designated camping areas away from roadways and continuing mutual aid efforts with neighboring jurisdictions.

"We want our people to enjoy the fair and parade, but we don't want any altercations during the parade or serious injuries due to parade camping spots," said Delegate Steven Arviso. "Enforcing this rule is about protecting lives and making sure everyone can enjoy these celebrations safely."

The Law and Order Committee voted two in favor and none opposed in accepting the report from the Navajo Division of Public Safety.

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