



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2025

President Nygren defunds missing persons services to fund travel and operations for OPVP

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Monday, members of the Budget and Finance Committee were notified that the Office of the President and Vice President executed a budget revision that defunds missing persons services in the amount of \$229,000, and redirects the funding to be used for Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's travel and operating expenses.

During the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget process, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved \$250,000 for the "4 Corners K-9 Search and Rescue" to support search and rescue missions for missing persons on the Navajo Nation. On Sept. 15, President Nygren signed the funding into law and stated that he was "pleased" to approve the funding to support missing persons searches.

"When President Nygren campaigned, he promised the families of missing persons that he would fight for them. Now, his actions are taking away the very resources that are intended to save lives," said Speaker Crystalayne Curley. "This decision not only contradicts his public statements, but directly harms Navajo families still searching for answers. The Council will do what it takes to reverse the President's actions."

The Office of the Controller expressed concern about the transfer of the funds from its intended purpose outlined in the budget resolution passed by the Council and signed by the President, adding that the transfer of funds may require the approval of the oversight committee.

"Missing persons was prioritized in the budget and we will do everything within our authority to ensure that these funds are directed to the intended purpose and not the President's travel. Our people deserve leadership that puts their safety first, not travel funds for themselves," stated Budget and Finance Committee Chair Shaandiin Parrish.

The Navajo Nation Council and the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force remain committed to supporting funding for missing persons services and the safety and well-being of Diné families.

###