



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Naabik'íyáti' Committee approves Mutual Aid Agreements to strengthen public safety across the Navajo Nation



Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton sponsor of legislations 0238-25, 0243-25 and 0244-25, strengthen cooperation between the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety and three neighboring jurisdictions

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Naabik'íyáti' Committee unanimously approved three Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Agreements that strengthen cooperation between the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, the Navajo Police Department, and three neighboring jurisdictions: Navajo County, Coconino County, and the Hopi Tribe.

Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton, who sponsored the measures, underscored the importance of coalition-building for long-term public safety. “Stronger partnerships make stronger communities,” said Delegate Charles-Newton. “By standing together with Navajo County, Coconino County, and the Hopi Tribe, we reinforce the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation while protecting the rights and safety of every person within these shared regions.”

The agreements formalize coordinated enforcement of criminal and traffic laws across the Navajo Nation and adjoining jurisdictions. Together, they establish unified response protocols, cross-commissioning authorities, joint operations, and extradition procedures intended to streamline cooperation between agencies.

Under each agreement, certified officers may be cross commissioned to conduct searches, make arrests, and enforce criminal and traffic laws across jurisdictional boundaries. This includes enforcement between the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona for the county agreements, and between sovereign tribal jurisdictions for the Hopi Tribe.

These authorities close gaps that previously allowed offenders to evade arrest by crossing borders, reduce flight between regions, and support consistent, enforceable public safety practices. Legislative summaries note that all agreements were reviewed and deemed legally sufficient by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Training and certification requirements are defined through the Navajo Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. Officers from partner agencies must meet background standards and complete required training before receiving the Navajo Nation mutual aid certification. These requirements ensure that all officers operating across jurisdictional lines are qualified and follow the proper criminal procedure codes. The agreements further authorize interjurisdictional assistance during emergencies and disasters while preserving the agency chain of command and safeguarding the Navajo Nation's sovereign authority.

The Mutual Aid Agreements provide clear operational guidance for joint investigations, fresh pursuit, traffic enforcement, detention, and emergency response in areas where law enforcement jurisdictions border or overlap. They also outline processes for sharing crime data and coordinating responses to incidents affecting multiple regions. These provisions help ensure that offenders—Navajo and non-Navajo—are processed under the appropriate laws and court systems, reinforcing a consistent approach to justice.

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee voted 16 in favor and none opposed to approve Legislation No. 0238-25, 0243-25, and 0244-25 on a consent agenda. As the final authority on these measures, the Committee's approval completes the legislative process.

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