



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Special Prosecutor files complaint in court against President Buu Nygren over Ethics in Government Law violations

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Friday, Special Prosecutor Kyle T. Nayback filed a formal ethics complaint in the Navajo Nation District Court, alleging multiple violations of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. The complaint outlines a series of alleged governmental misconduct between January 2023 and May 2025.

According to the filing, the Special Prosecutor asserts that President Nygren violated several provisions of Navajo Nation law related to the misuse of public office, improper use of his Navajo Nation p-card, nepotism, and wrongfully directing staff to perform non-governmental work that benefited him personally.

The complaint alleges that President Nygren used his Navajo Nation travel P-Card to pay for lodging and meals for his family members during official travel, in violation of policy that prohibits such activity. The filing states that staff were directed by President Nygren to conceal the p-card charges by falsely identifying family members as Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) staff and falsifying travel documents.

The Special Prosecutor also alleges that President Nygren improperly hired his father-in-law, John Blackwater Jr., to a political at-will position despite Blackwater being related and lacking required qualifications. According to the complaint, President Nygren ordered subordinates to alter Blackwater's application to falsely reflect appropriate qualifications and placed him directly under the President's supervision after being advised that such action would violate law and policy.

The complaint states that the President required at least one staff member to perform domestic and personal duties including childcare, cooking, cleaning, and managing personal bills, which were outside the scope of their official job responsibilities, violating Navajo Nation law.

The Special Prosecutor cites these actions as violations of multiple sections of the Navajo Nation Ethics in Government Law.

In accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 3780, the complaint seeks remedies that includes the immediate removal of President Nygren from office, disqualification from public office for five years, forfeiture of compensation for 30 days to one year, public reprimand, and a requirement to pay restitution to the Navajo Nation.

The Special Prosecutor has requested that the Navajo Nation District Court schedule a hearing to consider the allegations of ethics violations.

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