



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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Navajo Nation Council celebrates groundbreaking ceremony for new Cameron Chapter Building



Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Cameron Chapter officials and President Buu Nygren for a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Cameron Chapter building.

CAMERON, Ariz. - On Wednesday, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Cameron Chapter officials and community members to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new chapter facility.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley was joined by Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson and Council Delegates Otto Tso, Herman Daniels, and Helena Nez Begay. Delegate Tso provided the invocation for the ceremony.

Current and former Cameron Chapter officials provided a historical account of the project and thanked delegates and officials whose efforts helped bring the project to today's groundbreaking.

Cameron Chapter Community Service Coordinator (CSC) Billie Baldwin said the project faced delays during the COVID-19 pandemic, but chapter officials continued working to secure funding and move the project forward.

Former Chapter Vice President Candis Yazzie spoke about the chapter's role as a central hub for community services, government, and resources.

"The old chapter building was always full during our meetings, but after the building was condemned, participation dwindled," Yazzie said. "The building had to be torn down, and

although it carried many memories, we remained determined to keep projects moving forward.”

The project was originally intended to support tourism opportunities through the Síhasin Fund funding. However, after the former facility was demolished, the project’s focus shifted to constructing a new chapter facility.

“The 25th Navajo Nation Council was able to work through the process, and legislation was sponsored by Delegate Johnson,” she said.

Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson sponsored Legislation No. 0039-24, which was unanimously approved by the 25th Navajo Nation Council on April 23, 2024. The legislation allocated \$4.8 million from the Síhasin Fund for the construction of a new Cameron Chapter House building, with Cameron Chapter contributing \$80,000 in matching funds.

Former 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Thomas Walker, who represented Cameron Chapter, said, “This day would not have been possible without your support, your prayers, and the approval of our community and relatives.”

Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson reflected on attending chapter meetings at the former facility alongside his late parents and grandparents and said advancing the project required working with people committed to moving it forward.

“My late father was so happy when the Council passed the legislation unanimously,” Johnson said.

He said one of his primary motivations was ensuring communities impacted by the former Bennett Freeze received direct investment.

“These people do not receive enough funding, and we needed to get resources to them,” he said. “It had to be done.”

“I’d like to thank my colleagues on the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Buu Nygren, and all of the chapter community members,” Johnson said. “You made your vote count. There is more coming.”

Speaker Curley also thanked her colleagues on the Navajo Nation Council for supporting the project and encouraged continued growth and development within the community.

“This building is justified. The legislation received no opposition, and the Council recognized it as a priority,” Speaker Curley said. “After you receive the new building, it will be time for more investment in the community. This is only the beginning for Cameron. The new chapter facility will give you the motivation to pursue additional projects.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council congratulates the Cameron Chapter, its leadership, and community members for their dedication and perseverance in advancing the new chapter building project to the construction phase.

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