

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

**Tracking No.** 0032-21

**DATE:** February 25, 2021

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. STANFORD LAKE TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO FILL THE 6 N.N.C. § 606 (B) POSITION OF THE "CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT OR ENGINEERING OR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OR EQUIVALENT FIELD EXPERIENCE WITH BACKGROUND IN INDIAN HOUSING OR FEDERAL HOUSING"

**PURPOSE:** If approved by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, this legislation would, pursuant to 6 N.N.C. 606 (B), confirm the appointment of Mr. Stanford Lake to serve on the Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to fill the position of the "construction management or engineering or business management or equivalent field experience with background in Indian Housing or Federal Housing." Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. § 607, Mr. Stanford Lake would be appointed for the remainder of the term of his successor; therefore his term would end on May 25, 2021.

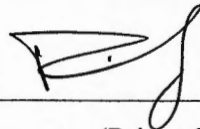
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Bye Advance  
Website Posting Time/Date: 03-03-2021 5:00PM  
Posting End Date: 03-08-2021  
Eligible for Action: 03-09-2021

Naabik'iyati' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY



(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0032-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE  
APPOINTMENT OF MR. STANFORD LAKE TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO  
HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO FILL THE 6 N.N.C. §  
606 (B) POSITION OF THE "CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT OR  
ENGINEERING OR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OR EQUIVALENT FIELD  
EXPERIENCE WITH BACKGROUND IN INDIAN HOUSING OR FEDERAL  
HOUSING"

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- A. Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. §606 (A), [t]he Board Members shall be appointed, and may be reappointed, by the Nominations Committee composed of the Navajo Nation President, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, Resources and Development Committee designee, and confirmed by the Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
- B. Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. §606 (A), a resolution of the Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council as to the appointment or reappointment of any Commissioner shall be conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of the Commissioner.

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 1 A. Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. § 602 (A), the Navajo Nation established a public body of the  
2 Navajo Nation known as the Navajo Housing Authority (Authority) to: remedy  
3 unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions that are injurious to the public health, safety  
4 and morals; alleviate the acute shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for  
5 persons of low income; provide employment opportunities through the construction,  
6 reconstruction, improvement, extension, alteration or repair operation of low income  
7 dwellings; and promote economic growth and development activities within and near  
8 the Navajo Nation. See 6 N.N.C. § 604 (A)-(D).
- 9 B. The affairs of the Authority shall be managed by a Board of Commissioners  
10 composed of five persons. 6 N.N.C. § 605; CJA-13-17.
- 11 C. "One Commissioner shall have construction management or engineering or business  
12 management or equivalent field experience with background in Indian Housing or  
13 Federal Housing." 6 N.N.C. § 606 (B); CJA-13-17.
- 14 D. Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. § 606 the Nominations Committee, composed of the Navajo  
15 Nation President, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, Resources and Development  
16 Committee designee, has appointed Mr. Stanford Lake. The appointment letter is  
17 attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 18 E. Mr. Lake's letter of interest is attached as **Exhibit B**. Mr. Lake states that he has "21  
19 years [of] experience in design and construction sector." He also states that he has  
20 "experiences with planning with different tribes in the southwest including Navajo  
21 Nation, with county building departments, and latest building codes." He also has  
22 "experiences running my own business for five years... ."
- 23 F. A majority of the Commissioners shall be members of the Navajo Nation. 6 N.N.C. §  
24 606 (B); CJA-13-17. Mr. Stanford Lake's Navajo Nation Certificate of Indian Blood  
25 is attached as **Exhibit C**.
- 26 G. "The term of office shall be four years and staggered. When a Board is first  
27 established, one member's term shall be designated to expire in one year, another to  
28 expire in two years, a third to expire in three years, and the last two in four years.  
29 Thereafter, all appointments shall be for four (4) years, except that in the case of a  
30 prior vacancy, an appointment shall be only for the length of the unexpired term.

1 Each member of the Board shall hold office until his successor has been duly  
2 appointed.” 6 N.N.C. § 607.

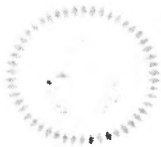
3 H. The current Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners member filling the  
4 position of “construction management or engineering or business management or  
5 equivalent field experience with background in Indian Housing or Federal Housing”  
6 is Ms. Derrith Watchman-Moore who was confirmed through Resolution NABIMY-  
7 46-17. Ms. Watchman-Moore has submitted a letter of resignation, attached as  
8 **Exhibit D**. Ms. Watchman-Moore’s four year term expires on May 25, 2021.

9 I. The duration of Mr. Lake’s appointment shall be in accordance with 6 N.N.C. § 607  
10 which states: “in the case of a prior vacancy, an appointment shall be only for the  
11 length of the unexpired term. Each member of the Board shall hold office until his  
12 successor has been duly appointed.” Therefore, Mr. Lake’s term shall end on May  
13 25, 2021.

14  
15 **SECTION THREE. CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT**

16 A. Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. 606 (B), the Naabik’iyati’ Committee hereby confirms the  
17 appointment of Mr. Stanford Lake to serve on the Navajo Housing Authority Board  
18 of Commissioners to fill the 6 N.N.C. § 606 (B) position of the “construction  
19 management or engineering or business management or equivalent field experience  
20 with background in Indian Housing or Federal Housing.”

21 B. Pursuant to 6 N.N.C. § 607, Mr. Stanford Lake is appointed for the remainder of the  
22 term of his successor; therefore Mr. Lake’s term will end on May 25, 2021.  
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**THE  
NAVAJO  
NATION**



**MEMORANDUM**

To : Mr. Stanford Lake

From : *J-N Nez*  
Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez  
NHA Board of Commissioners Nominations Committee Member

*[Signature]*  
Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon  
NHA Board of Commissioners Nominations Committee Member

*[Signature]*  
Resources and Development Committee Chairman Rick Nez  
NHA Board of Commissioners Nominations Committee Member

Date : February 25, 2021

Re : Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Nominations Committee appointment of Mr. Stanford Lake to fill the position of the "construction management or engineering or business management or equivalent field experience with background in Indian Housing or Federal Housing."

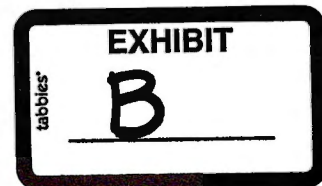
The Nomination Committee is pleased to inform you that the Committee is appointing you to fill the position of the "construction management or engineering or business management or equivalent field experience with background in Indian Housing or Federal Housing" on the Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. This appointment is to be confirmed by the Naabik'íkáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

The experience noted in your Letter of Interest in which you stated that you have "21 years [of] experience in design and construction sector"; "experience with planning with different tribes in the southwest including Navajo Nation, with county building departments, and latest building codes"; and "experiences running my own business for five years..." are valuable skills and knowledge for this position on the Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Legislation confirming your appointment will be considered by the Naabik'íkáti' Committee.

Respectfully,  
The Navajo Housing Authority Nominations Committee

Xc: The Naabik'íkáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council



# Stanford Lake

PO Box Kayenta, AZ 86033 | 928. | stanfordlake@gmail.com

**8-23-2020**

President Jonathan Nez  
Navajo Nation Office of the President  
Nez-Lizer Administration  
100 Parkway, P.O. BOX 7440, Window Rock, AZ 86515

**Dear President Jonathan Nez:**

I would like to express my interest to be on the Navajo Housing Authority board. I have seen the advertisement on several appointed openings for the board. I am from Kayenta, Arizona, full Navajo, and registered with my chapter in Kayenta.

As you can see from my resume, I have 21 years over experience in design and construction sector. I have experiences with planning with different tribes in the southwest including Navajo Nation, with county building departments, and latest building codes. I have worked on a many housing projects with different housing authority across the southwest Indian Country including some recent work as a subconsultant to an architect with the Hopi Housing Authority. I believe I can be an asset in planning and development of new and existing projects for construction. My experiences include running my own business for five years (Hogan Structure Group) and moved on to partnering with my current company called Terraform Development on local projects in Tuba City, Arizona and across Navajo Nation.

For the record, I am currently working on a design project for Leon Shirley Architect on designing 60 units residence as two-story apartments and a 10,000 sq. ft. community center for Navajo Housing Authority in Window Rock, AZ. This design project should be completed by end of October 2020 of this year. I can then stop my consulting business with activities related to Navajo Housing Authority to meet the four-year commitment as a board member.

Let me know if you need more information and an interview if needed at my immediate mobile number: 928.

Ahe'hee (Thank you).

Sincerely,

**Stanford Lake, PE**



## THE NAVAJO NATION

THOMAS E. ATCITY  
PRESIDENT

MILTON BLUEHOUSE, SR.  
VICE PRESIDENT

UNACCEPTABLE IF ALTERED

### CERTIFICATE OF NAVAJO INDIAN BLOOD

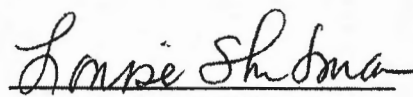
PART A (To be used if applicant is enrolled)

WESTERN NAVAJO  
AGENCY

May 08, 1998  
DATE

I certify that Stanford Lake is listed on the Navajo Indian Census roll,  
dated January 01, 1940 which is an official record of this office as being of 4/4  
degree Navajo Indian blood, with Roll Number \_\_\_\_\_ date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD: Enrolled on January 19, 1976

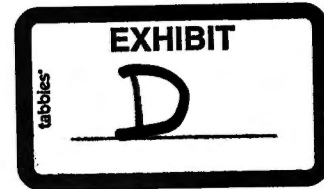
  
VITAL STATISTICS MANAGER  
VST

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS DOCUMENT  
HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL TRIBAL ROLL OF THE NAVAJO TRIBE.

WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY - TRIBAL ENROLLMENT SERVICES  
THE NAVAJO NATION □ P O. BOX 1510 □ TUBA CITY, ARIZONA 86045

June 29, 2019 (revised)

Honorable Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez  
The Navajo Nation  
Post Office Box 6000  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515



Honorable President Nez:

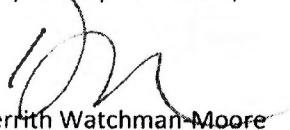
It has been a great privilege to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) since my appointment in May 2017. I am writing to inform you of my intention to resign my position by August 1, 2019 or as soon as a replacement is identified. My decision is based on additional work added to my current full-time role as Trustee for the second phase of the Navajo Environmental Response Trust overseeing environmental investigations of select abandoned uranium sites on the Navajo Nation. I will begin the "cleanup" phase of this work beginning in 2020; and this work requires my fullest attention for the next few years.

The NHA plays a critical role in assisting Navajo families with the greatest housing needs. To do this with diminishing revenues, NHA is moving toward partnerships with other entities on the Navajo Nation and the federal government to contribute to infrastructure development such as water and electricity. NHA is also working towards changing its business model to be the economic engine that it is by procuring more Navajo small business services and building mixed income homes in our communities. Underlying these changes, is NHA's focus on financial stability and compliance with federal and tribal laws. By the Board of Commissioners direction, NHA continues to find and address "lost communities" that once relied on NHA to provide initial funding to build homes; but the management entities failed and went defunct years ago. For years to come, NHA will have to address non-compliance issues and make these projects "whole" by corrective action measures that entail spending non-federal or tribal funds to demolish, rebuild, or build the homes as originally planned.

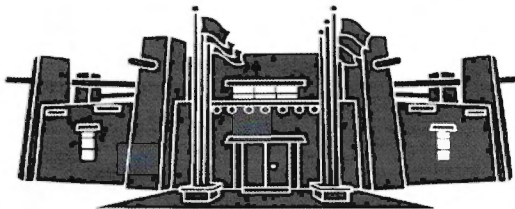
It has also been a pleasure to also work with my colleagues: Kris Beecher, soon to enter the ranks of aspiring Attorney, Frankie Lee, a Navajo professional engineer returning to the Navajo Nation with vast private sector experience to assist in infrastructure planning and development, and Ms. Kerrie Begay, a wonderful single mother and human resource professional addressing housing tenant concerns. Our professional experiences have taken NHA down a transparent path of decision making and sound fiscal management while addressing past serious misappropriation of NHA funds. The Board of Commissioners, as it currently stands, is steadfast, energetic, innovative, and unwavering of political pressure and media releases tainted with mistruths. Because of these qualities, I am confident in the current Board of Commissioners and the work that lies ahead of them.

Finally, I am deeply honored to have served the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People while at the NHA. I will continue my service to the Navajo Nation in another capacity and invite any questions regarding this letter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Derrith Watchman-Moore



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rick Nez  
T'iistoh Sikaad, Nenahnezad, Upper Fruitland, Tse' Daa' Kaan, Newcomb, San  
Juan Chapters

FROM: Mariana Kahn  
Mariana Kahn, Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: February 25, 2021

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION  
RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE  
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I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary  
sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting.

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are  
encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally  
sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts  
in the event of proper challenge. The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate  
standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301,  
401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce  
[the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight  
committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper  
consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0032-21\_\_

SPONSOR: Rick Nez

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Confirming the Appointment of Mr. Stanford Lake to Serve on the Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to fulfill the 6 N.N.C. § 606 (B) Position of the "Construction Management Engineering or Business Management or Equivalent Field Experience with Background in Indian Housing or Federal Housing"**

***Date posted:*** March 03, 2021 at 5:00PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

**Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.**

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