LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0126-21

DATE: July 20, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF MR. ZANE JAMES, TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT, TO SERVE A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS

PURPOSE: An action related to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; confirming the Navajo Nation Presidential appointment of Mr. Zane James, to the Commission on Navajo Government Development, to serve a term of four (4) years upon confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.

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: J. Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 11:15AM 07-23-21
Posting End Date: 07-28-21
Eligible for Action: 07-29-21

Naabik'íyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year 2021

INTRODUCED BY

(Prime Sponsor)

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF MR. ZANE JAMES, TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT, TO SERVE A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Naabik'iyati' Committee has legislative oversight authority over the Commission on Navajo Government Development and the Office of Navajo Government Development. 2 N.N.C. § 970.

B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyati' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyati' Committee to recommend all resolutions to the Navajo Nation Council on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A)(3).

C. The Navajo Nation Council confirms appointments to the Commission on Navajo Government Development. 2 N.N.C. § 972 (A)(5).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Commission on Navajo Government Development is a special entity created by the Navajo Nation Council with quasi-independent authority to accomplish the

People's project of instituting reforms necessary to ensure an accountable and responsible government. 2 N.N.C. § 970.

B. The Commission consists of twelve (12) members confirmed by and serving at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 972 (A).

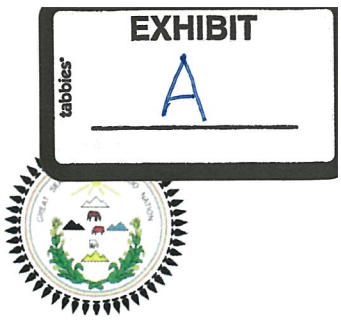
C. One (1) member shall be nominated by the Executive Branch through the President of the Navajo Nation to serve a term of four (4) years from the date of confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 972 (A)(1).

D. Commission members shall be chosen from among individuals who have demonstrated scholarship, a strong sense of civic interest, knowledge of Dine' history and cultural heritage, spiritual leadership, leadership in the Navajo government and abilities likely to contribute to the fulfillment of the duties of the commission. 2 N.N.C. § 972 (D).

E. Mr. Zane James has been appointed by Navajo Nation President, Jonathan Nez, to fulfill the Executive Branch appointment. *See* letter dated May 13, 2021 attached as **Exhibit A.** Mr. James' letter of interest and resume are attached as **Exhibit B.**

SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION

The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms the Navajo Nation Presidential appointment of Mr. Zane James, to the Commission on Navajo Government Development, to serve a term of four (4) years from the date of confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.



THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

May 13, 2021

Zane James
PO Box
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: Appointment to Navajo Government Development Commission

Dear Mr. James,

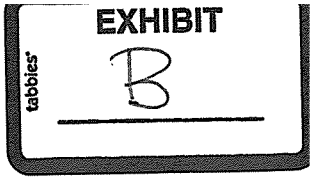
Thank you for your interest to serve on the Navajo Government Development Commission. Your two decades of service in Chapter government and Navajo government demonstrate your strong sense of civic interest and leadership in Navajo government. I am certain your abilities will contribute to the purpose and duties of the Navajo Government Development Commission.

With your qualifications, I am pleased to select you for membership on the Navajo Government Development Commission. As you may be aware, all nominations are subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



ZANE JAMES

PO Box Window Rock, AZ 86515 · 505.

Email · zanejames18@gmail.com ·

Honorable President Jonathan Nez
PO Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515

DEAR HONORABLE PRESIDENT NEZ,

As an experienced leader, the vacancy for Commission on Navajo Government Development member sparked my interest. I am very excited to find that the qualifications and strengths that I possess are well in line with the requirements necessary to serve as a commission member.

I have a set of skills that I believe would be valuable in contributing to the success and growth of the Commission on Navajo Government Development. In my current and previous role of Tribal Liaison, I have crafted my abilities in communication and collaboration, laying the necessary foundation needed for the government development commission member position. My person-centered nature, compassion for people of all walks and relentless willingness to work with all individuals have guided my excellent leadership skills.

I am excited at the possibility of contributing my talents and proficiency in teamwork towards the efforts of the great Navajo Nation. I have a proven track record of communication, building solid professional relationships and advocating for the great people of our Navajo Nation.

I have extensive knowledge in working with leaders throughout the great State of Arizona and New Mexico. As an Executive Staff Assistant to former Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim, I learned the importance of working across party lines in an effort to advocate for the people you represent. As a Liaison for the New Mexico Office of Secretary of State, I learned the important role of educating the people on the fundamental right of voting. As a Chapter President of the Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter I gained valuable knowledge of bridging the gap between a central government and grassroots people, with the priceless ability to do so as a fluent Navajo speaker.

I was honored to be elected two terms by local leadership of the 16 chapters in Arizona as the Chinle Agency Council President. The trust bestowed upon me by elected leaders within those 16 chapters demonstrates my strong leadership skills and abilities.

On a personal level I take great pride in being a family man. I have a loving wife, Deirdre Dominguez, who is a Registered Nurse at Fort Defiance Indian Hospital, in Fort Defiance, Arizona. She has been a force on the front lines fighting this global pandemic over the past year. We have five beautiful girls and one amazing son. I am the youngest of seven children, with three older brothers and three older sisters. My mother resides in Wheatfields, Arizona within the Navajo Nation. My parents were married for 55 years before we lost our father in June 2020.

Please review my resume for an illustration of my work history and accomplishments. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this great public service position. Thank you for your time and consideration and may the Great Spirit continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Zane James

Zane James

P.O. Box • Window Rock, Arizona 86515
Phone: • E-Mail: zanejames18@gmail.com

ZJ

Objective

To serve as a voice of the Navajo people in providing meaningful information that could improve the function of the Navajo Nation government

Experience

Western Sky Community Care **July 2018 – Current**

Currently serving as a Tribal Liasion for Western Sky Community Care where I am responsible establishing a business relationship with the Navajo Nation by coordinating and facilitating business meetings with Navajo Nation leaders. Coordinated meetings between the Navajo Nation President/Vice President and Centene Corporation executives to develop a professional relationship. Assist and prepare Centene employees in developing strategies for building relationship with the Navajo Nation and other Native American tribes.

Centene Corporation **February 2016 – July 2018**

Currently serving as a consultant for Centene Corporation where I am responsible for promoting Centene's goal of establishing a business relationship with the Navajo Nation by coordinating and facilitating business meetings with Navajo Nation leaders. Coordinated meetings between the Navajo Nation President/Vice President and Centene Corporation executives to develop a professional relationship. Assist and prepare Centene employees in developing strategies for building relationship with the Navajo Nation and other Native American tribes.

Community Outreach Patient Empowerment **July 2015 – September 2018**

Serve as a consultant working with Navajo Community Health Outreach serving as a leadership coach for select Navajo Nation youth. Assist in developing monthly gathering agenda and topics of discussions along with promoting and addressing the health disparities of the Navajo Nation. Mentor youth leaders as they prepare for presentations to organization outside of the Navajo Nation such as the National Council Teachers of English, La Casa Roja, National Indian Health Board and working with Navajo Nation tribal organizations. Provide reports and updates to Navajo Nation oversight committees and Navajo Nation Departments. Championed a presentation to the youth leaders in the leadership roles of Navajo young males in society.

New Mexico Appleseed **September 2015 – June 2015**

Served as a consultant working on a Federal Grant that was awarded to the Navajo Nation and New Mexico Appleseed was contracted to provide technical assistance in administering the grant. The federal grant was to establish a Food Access Navigator network identifying food insecurities on the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Nation. Coordinated and worked with the Navajo Nation Chapters in New Mexico to identify potential storage locations for access to health foods such as schools, senior centers, chapter houses, etc. Additionally worked in promoting and advocating for a Breakfast After The Bell program to be initiated in Navajo Nation schools in addressing the food insecurities of the Navajo Nation. Worked with the Navajo Nation Department of Health in the implementation of the grant and provided technical assistance training to the food access navigators that was hired through the grant.

Navajo Nation Office of the President/Vice President **January 2012 – May 2015**

Served as an executive staff assistant to the Vice President of the Navajo Nation. Tasked with all Navajo Nation issues pertaining to Health and Education. Assisted the Vice President with outlining priorities and execution of goals and objectives for the Navajo Nation, specifically in the areas of health and education. Coordinated and

championed a movement of the development of the Navajo Nation Department of Health by bringing together stakeholders of Health of the Navajo Nation that included the Indian Health Service facilities, 638 Health facilities, health clinics on the Navajo Nation, Navajo traditional medicine men organizations, non-emergency medical transportation groups and others to discuss and develop policies for the development of the Navajo Department of Health to operate similar to a state department of health. Coordinated this effort and accomplished this task by the passage of the establishment of the Department of Health. Worked to promote Navajo health issues and develop and implement solution in addressing the disparities of the health on the Navajo Nation. Assisted the Navajo Nation in national organizations such as the National Indian Health Board, Secretaries Tribal Advisory Committee, National Council of Teachers English, the United Nations and other work pertaining to advancing the interests of the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation Division of Transportation **June 2006 – January 2012**

Coordinated with Navajo Nation communities on prioritizing local road projects for funding through the Fuel Excise Tax. Worked with Navajo Nation oversight committees to give reports on the status of the funding and completion of projects. Worked with the New Mexico State Tribal Infrastructure Program funding from the state legislature to advocate for cost sharing on road projects. Recommended and implemented changes to the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Tax program legislation to ensure a comprehensive approach to the funding criteria. Attended Navajo Nation Agency Council meetings to provide updates on the status or road projects. Worked with Navajo Nation chapter to gain support of goals and objectives of the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation. Assisted in the elevation of the Navajo Department of Transportation to a cabinet level Navajo Division of Transportation through public forums and community outreach to the Navajo Nation.

New Mexico Office of the Secretary of State **January 2002 – January 2006**

Worked as a Navajo interpreter for the Secretary of States office where I translated county, state, federal election documents into the Navajo language in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act. Coordinated with 6 counties in New Mexico that are under consent decrees with the Department of Justice to provide voter outreach to Native American Communities in New Mexico, specifically worked with over 50 Navajo Nation chapters, 2 Apache tribes, and 19 Pueblos to provide voter outreach and ensure Native American populations were advised of voting rights. Assisted in the development of a Navajo election terminology that translated election terminology into the Navajo language to ensure consistency. As a result of the 2002 Help America Vote Act passed by the United States Congress, interpreted a full election ballot into the Navajo language to assist Navajo language speakers to vote on voting machines without assistance.

Navajo Nation Office of the Chief Prosecutor **January 2000 – January 2002**

Worked with the Navajo Nation Office of Chief Prosecutor and the United Stated Department of Justice, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program to implement an adjudication program on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Youth who were in violation of victimless crimes. Worked with the Navajo Nation legislative council in developing and revising criminal code to allow for the adjudication program. Coordinated an effort of stakeholders that included faith based organizations, Navajo traditional medicine men, tribal courts, tribal departments in the development of the Hoozhoji Youth Diversion Program that addressed truancy, and other victimless crimes on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation youth under the age of 18.

Education

Coconino Community College – Flagstaff, Arizona **Current Student**

Accepted into the CCC2NAU Business Administration program where I acquired 23 credit hours towards my Business Administration degree. Class taken are ECN 205 Microeconomics, ACC 255 Principles of Financial Accounting, ECN 204 Macroeconomics, GLG 110 Natural Disasters, ACC 256 Principles of Managerial Accounting, BUS 214 Legal Ethics Issues in Business, MAT 211 Business Calculus, I will be transferring

Pima Community College – Tucson, Arizona **September 1992 – May 1996**

Attended Pima Community College where I earned 37 credit hours.

University of Arizona - Tucson, Arizona **June 2017 – May 2018**

Attended the University of Arizona where I earned 18 credit hours

Skills

Tsaile/Wheatfield's Chapter President, 3 terms	January 2009 – January 2021
Chinle Agency Council President	January 2017 – January 2021
Chinle Agency Council Vice President	January 2013 – January 2017
Lukachukai Community School Board Member	January 2015 – January 2017
Navajo Board of Election Supervisor – Chinle Agency	January 2007 – January 2009

Certified Federal Court Interpreter – Navajo Language through University of Arizona Minority Language Institute

Contracted Interpreter for the New Mexico Secretary of State	January 2010 – Current

Office of Legislative Counsel
Telephone: (928) 871-7166
Fax # (928) 871-7576

Honorable Seth Damon
Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

TO : Hon. Edison Wauneka, Delegate
24th Navajo Nation Council

FROM : _____
Troy D. Cook, Senior Court Advocate
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE : July 19, 2021

RE : **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF MR. ZANE JAMES, TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT, TO SERVE A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. As to format, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. Regarding substance, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want.

If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.

21-309-1

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: _0126-21__ SPONSOR: Edison J. Wauneka

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Navajo Nation Presidential Appointment of Mr. Zane James, to the Commission on Navajo Government Development, to Serve a Term of Four (4) Years

Date posted: July 23, 2021 at 11:15AM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to 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.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. *§374 et. seq.*