

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2023

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE PER NABIN-36-22

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A) and 401(B)(1), the Health, Education and Human Services Committee is established as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered "[t]o establish Navajo Nation policy, promulgate rules, and regulations governing health, social services, education, human services, and general government services of the Navajo Nation and its tribal organizations, entities, and enterprises."
- B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 600 *et. al.*, the Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has the power to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council regarding matters involving their oversight authority.
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council that serves as the oversight committee for task forces under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation government, unless otherwise designated by Navajo Nation law, and to approve and amend the plans of operation thereof. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A) and 701(A)(5).
- D. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is also empowered to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most effective delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(4).
- E. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is further empowered with the authority to delegate its authority as appropriate for efficiency and streamlining of government process to appropriate entities. 2 N.N.C. § 701(B).

- F. In 2022, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee passed resolution NABIN-36-22, attached as **Exhibit A**, establishing the Naabik'íyáti' Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task force.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. In Resolution No. NABIN-36-22, **Exhibit A**, the Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Missing and Murdered Dine Relatives Task Force, and provided for twelve (12) sitting members of the Task Force, as follows:
1. A representative from the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
 2. A representative from the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
 3. A representative from the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
 4. A representative from the Office of the Speaker who is selected by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council;
 5. A representative from the Office of the President and Vice-President who is selected by the President of the Navajo Nation;
 6. A representative from the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch who is selected by the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation;
 7. The Chief of the Navajo Nation Police Department or the Chief's designee;
 8. The Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation or the Chief's designee;
 9. The Chief Public Defender or the Chief's designee; and
 10. Three representatives from Navajo Nation communities who have extensive experience and knowledge of missing and murdered Diné relatives. Such community representatives shall be selected by a majority vote of all sitting MMDR Task Force members.

SECTION THREE. APPOINTMENT

- A. The three (3) members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council to represent the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and Law and Order Committee are:
 1. Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty, representing the Naabik'íyáti' Committee
 2. Honorable Helena Nez Begay, representing the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee
 3. Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton, representing the Law and Order Committee
- B. The Speaker has selected Ms. Sonlatsa Jim to be the representative from the Office of the Speaker, as identified in **Exhibit B**.
- C. The President has selected John L. Tsosie to be the representative from the Office of the President and Vice-President, as identified in **Exhibit C**.
- D. The Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation has selected Laveena Begay to be the representative from the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, as identified in **Exhibit D**.
- E. The Naabik'íyáti' representative shall be the Chairperson of the MMDR Task Force, as stated in resolution NABIN-36-22.
- F. The MMDR Task Force shall establish regular meeting day(s) of the month and shall set special meetings as needed.
- G. No later than sixty (60) days after their first meeting, the Task Force shall establish a process to select the three (3) representatives from Navajo communities to complete the membership of the MMDR Task Force. Per NABIN-36-22, the Navajo Nation community members are to have extensive experience and knowledge of missing and murdered Dine relatives and be selected by a majority vote of the nine (9) established members.

SECTION FOUR. TASK FORCE TERM

Per NABIN-36-22., the MMDR Task Force members shall serve in their positions until the next Navajo Nation Council is seated. MMDR Task Force members may be removed for lack of attendance by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all sitting Task Force members.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 19 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 22nd day of June 2023.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Chairwoman
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

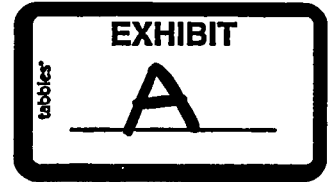
6/27/23

Date

Motion: Honorable Danny Simpson
Second: Honorable Andy Nez

Chairwoman Crystalyne Curley not voting

RESOLUTION OF THE
 NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2022



AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING
 THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to serve as the oversight committee for task forces under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation government, unless otherwise designated by Navajo Nation law, and to approve and amend the plans of operation thereof. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A) and 701(A) (5).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is also empowered to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most effective delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701(A) (4).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is further empowered with the authority to delegate its authority as appropriate for efficiency and streamlining of government process to appropriate entities. 2 N.N.C. § 701(B).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. As reported by the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Justice, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives people are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing violence, murder, or going missing.
<https://www.doi.gov/priorities/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people>
- B. U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland recently stated that "(v)iolence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated."
<https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american>

- C. Approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) throughout the U.S., and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and non-negligent homicide offenses have been reported to the Federal Government's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. <https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american>
- D. In October of 2020, the 116th Congress passed Public Law 116-166 establishing the "Not Invisible Act of 2019" to, among other things, "ensure prevention efforts, grants, and programs of Federal agencies related to the murder of, trafficking of and missing Indians consider the unique challenges of combating crime, violence, and human trafficking of Indians and on Indian lands faced by Tribal communities, urban centers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal law enforcement, Federal law enforcement, and State and local law enforcement". Exhibit A.
- E. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee recognizes the need for the Navajo Nation to be actively involved in the efforts to comprehensively and holistically combat the murders and missing cases of Diné people on and off the Navajo Nation. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee furthers recognizes that these efforts can most effectively be developed, coordinated, and implemented through the creation of a Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force with representative from all three Branches of the Navajo Nation government, as well as community member representatives.

SECTION THREE. ESTABLISHING THE MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby establishes the Naabik'íyáti' Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force ("MMDR Task Force").
- B. The MMDR Task Force shall continue in perpetuity unless otherwise dissolved by resolution of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.
- C. The general purpose of the MMDR Task Force is to coordinate a dynamic holistic approach to help combat the missing and murdered Diné relative crisis on and off the Navajo Nation. Exhibit B.
- D. The specific purposes of the MMDR Task Force, include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Develop recommendations to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Office of the President and Vice-President on actions that the Navajo Nation government can take to respond to and combat instances of missing Diné persons, murder, and human trafficking on and off the Navajo Nation.
 2. Develop a non-profit data institute to collect the stories and community-based knowledge to aid the Navajo public and Navajo Nation leadership in understanding the scope of missing and murdered Diné relatives, as well as to develop solution-based pathways for healing and justice through wrap around services, programming, and prevention;
 3. Develop, finalize, and continually update a missing persons toolkit easily accessible by all Navajo members and Navajo Nation residents;
 4. Advocate for and develop programs, including victim's services and victim advocates, that support families with a missing or murdered Diné relative;
 5. Advocate for federal, state, and tribal funding for an inter-coordinated tribal information management system with judicial data tracking systems and training;
 6. Advocate for federal, state, and tribal funding for transitional housing for victims of violent crimes and their families;
 7. Secure information and propose data-sharing agreements with state and federal law enforcement agencies; and
 8. Expand partnerships with other internal and external entities, including state and federal law enforcement agencies, that are also striving to resolve the missing and murdered indigenous person crisis.
- E. The MMDR Task Force Authority shall have the authorities necessary to implement and accomplish the purposes set forth above and specific responsibilities and authorities as follows:
1. The MMDR Task Force shall conduct a study to determine how to increase resources for reporting and identifying missing and murdered Diné relatives on and off the Navajo Nation.
 2. The MMDR Task Force shall collaborate with programs, departments and entities within the Navajo Nation and

federal and state agencies to determine the scope of the missing and murdered Diné relatives crisis, identify barriers to address the crisis and create partnerships to improve the reporting of and the investigation of missing and murdered Diné relatives.

3. The MMDR Task Force may collaborate with programs and departments within the state and federal government to improve MMDR's processes for information sharing and coordination of resources in regard to reporting and investigating cases of missing and murdered Diné relatives.
4. The MMDR Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Office of the President and Vice-President at the end of the second and fourth quarters of each Navajo Nation fiscal year.

F. The MMDR Task Force shall consist of twelve (12) members as follows:

1. A representative of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
2. A representative from the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
3. A representative from the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
4. A representative from the Office of the Speaker selected by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council;
5. A representative from the Office of the President and Vice-President selected by the President of the Navajo Nation;
6. A representative from the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch selected by the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation;
7. The Chief of the Navajo Nation Police Department or their designee;
8. The Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation or their designee;
9. The Chief Public Defender or their designee; and

10. Three representatives from Navajo communities who have extensive experience and knowledge of missing and murdered Diné relatives. Such community representatives shall be selected by a majority of the MMDR Task Force.

SECTION FOUR. TASK FORCE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee representative shall be Chairperson of the MMDR Task Force. Other officers of the MMDR Task Force shall be selected by its members.
- B. The MMDR Task Force shall operate by resolution with a majority of Task Force members constituting a quorum.
- C. The MMDR Task Force shall establish its own meeting rules
- D. MMDR Task Force members shall not be compensated, but shall receive reimbursement for mileage, meeting, and travel expenses at the rates set forth in the applicable Navajo Nation Travel Policies.
- E. MMDR Task Force members shall serve until the next Navajo Nation Council is seated. MMDR Task Force members may be removed for lack of attendance by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Task Force members.
- F. The Office of the Speaker and Office of Legislative Services shall provide technical assistance, clerical, and administrative assistance. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice and the Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide legal assistance and guidance for the MMDR Task Force.
- G. Navajo Nation law, policies, and regulations shall apply to the MMDR Task Force and its members.

SECTION FIVE. AMENDMENTS

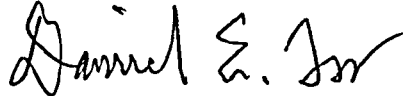
Any amendments to the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force enacted herein shall be approved by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this legislation shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(C).

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 18 in Favor, and 01 Opposed, on this 10th day of November 2022.



Honorable Daniel E. Tso, Chairman Pro Tem
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

11/16/22
Date

Motion: Honorable Mark A. Freeland
Second: Honorable Raymond Smith, Jr.

Chairman Pro Tem Daniel E. Tso not voting

CRYSTALYNE CURLEY
SPEAKER




LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
NAVAJO NATION



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Sonlatsa Jim, Legislative Staff Assistant
Office of the Speaker

From: 
Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

Date: May 11, 2023

Subject: Appointment to Naabik'iyati' Committee MMDR Task Force

This memorandum shall serve as official notification that you, Ms. Sonlatsa Jim, are hereby appointed to the Naabik'iyati' Committee Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force of the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

As stated within the establishing resolution, NABIN-36-22, the purpose of the MMDR Task Force "is to coordinate a dynamic holistic approach to help combat the missing and murdered Diné relatives crisis on and off the Navajo Nation."

Section Three (F)(3) indicates that the task force shall consist of twelve (12) members and one member shall be "A representative from the Office of the Speaker selected by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council;" Thank you in advance for accepting this important responsibility as I know you will be a great asset to the MMDR Task Force.

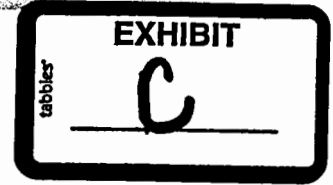
If you have any questions, please contact Chief of Staff, Manuel Rico, Jr. at (928) 871-7160 or at mrco@navajo-nsn.gov

Cc: MMDR Task Force Chairperson
Dana Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel
Manuel Rico, Jr., Chief of Staff
Jared Touchin, Deputy Chief of Staff
Michele Cook, Acting OLS Executive Director



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*
Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

April 26, 2023



John L. Tsosie
P.O.
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Re: Representative to the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

Dear Mr. Tsosie,

It is my distinct pleasure to appoint you as the representative from the Office of the President and Vice President to the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force. I strongly believe you have the background and experience to competently represent the Office of the President and Vice President on this board.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE NAVAJO NATION

JOANN B. JAYNE
Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation

ELEANOR SHIRLEY
Associate Justice, Navajo Supreme Court



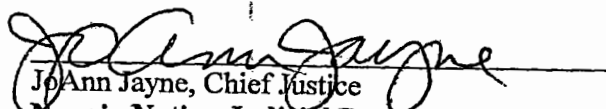
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

P.O. Box 1779 Window Rock, Arizona 86515
Telephone 928-871-7669 Fax 928-871-6866

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michele M. Cook, Acting Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
The Legislative Branch

FROM:


JoAnn Jayne, Chief Justice
Navajo Nation Judicial Branch

DATE: June 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch selected Laveena Begay from the Navajo Nation Peacemaking Program to serve as a representative on the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force. Mrs. Begay is a Traditional Program Specialist with Chinle Judicial District. She has been part of roundtable discussions on this topic since the onset of MMDR initiatives with public hearings where Peacemaking was asked for input and traditional guidance on the topic. She will be a great asset to this task force.

If you have any questions, please contact LaVonne Wauneka, Judicial Staff Assistant, at 928-871-7669. Thank you.

Cc: OCJ file
PMP file
JB HR

Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

Peacemaking Program

P.O. Box 520 □ Window Rock, Arizona 86515
Telephone 928-871-6388 □ Fax 928-871-6120

Honorable JoAnn B. Jayne
Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation



Elaine Henderson
Program Coordinator

MEMORANDUM

TO: JoAnn Jayne, Chief Justice
Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

FROM: Elaine Henderson
Elaine Henderson, Program Coordinator
Peacemaking Program

DATE: May 16, 2023

Re: MMDR Task Force member recommendation

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Peacemaking Program is forwarding the recommendation of Mrs. Laveena Begay from Peacemaking Program to the Office of Chief Justice to be considered for the Missing and Murdered Dine Relatives Task Force.

Mrs. Begay is the program Traditional Program Specialist with Chinle Judicial district and has been with the Judicial Branch for 4 years. Her clans are Naakaii Dine'e, born for To Dik'ozhi, Tódich'ni'nii are her Chei, and Kin yaa'aanii are her Nali and originally from Nazlini, Arizona. Mrs. Begay has been part of roundtable discussions on this topic since the onset of MMDR initiatives with public hearings where Peacemaking was asked for input and traditional guidance on the topic, I am confident she will be an asset to this Task Force. Mr. Dempsey J. Harvey and I are available at (928) 871-6388 for any questions.

Accept

Decline

Laveena Begay
Laveena Begay

5.16.23
Date

Concurrence:

Dempsey J. Harvey
Dempsey J. Harvey, Bi-Culture Training Manager

CC: files

NAVAJO NATION

130

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

6/22/2023

12:00:09 PM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business: Item D.

PASSED

MOT Simpson, D

Legislation 0129-23: Appointing

SEC Nez, A

Members to the Missing &
Murdered Dineh Relatives...

Yeas : 19

Nays : 0

Excused : 3

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 19

Arviso, S

Crotty, A

Nez, A

Slater, C

Aseret, L

Damon, S

Nez, R

Tolth, G

Begay, H

Daniels, H

Notah, N

Yanito, C

Begay, N

James, V

Simonson, G

Yazzie, C

Claw, S

Johnson, C

Simpson, D

Nay : 0

Excused : 3

Parrish, S

Jesus, B

Charles-Newton, E

Not Voting : 1

Tso, O

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C