

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; RECOMMENDING ACTION TO
THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE OFFICE OF
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT'S LEGAL COUNSEL

BE IT ENACTED:

WHEREAS

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and has the authority to oversee the conduct and operations of entities of the Navajo Nation not otherwise under the oversight authority of other standing committees, except that such oversight shall not interfere with the prerogative or business decisions of management governing boards. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A) (9), 700 (A) and 701 (A) (2) (2012).
- B. Karis N. Begaye is officially listed as Legal Counsel in the Office of the President and Vice President.
- C. Karis N. Begaye is a political at-will employee serving at the pleasure of the President and Vice President.
- D. Several reports surfaced regarding an April 22, 2018, vehicle collision south of Flagstaff, Arizona, involving Karis N. Begaye driving under the influence of alcohol and severe damage to an assigned tribal vehicle.
- E. On May 4, 2018, the Office of the President and Vice President issued a statement from Karis N. Begaye in which she apologized for "being involved in an incident that has brought embarrassment to this Administration and to my family and friends."
- F. Vice President Jonathan Nez issued a statement regarding Karis N. Begaye saying, "On Monday, May 7, 2018, Karis Begaye, Legal Counsel to the Navajo Nation President and Vice President, was placed on administrative leave indefinitely. Begaye has entered rehabilitative services."
- G. After May 7, 2018, no other action has been taken by the Office of the President and Vice President.

- H. The Diné Traditional Law declares and teaches that: It is the right and freedom of the Diné to choose leaders of their choice; leaders who will communicate with the people for guidance; leaders who will use their experience and wisdom to always act in the best interest of the people; and leaders who will also ensure the rights and freedoms of the generations yet to come. 1 N.N.C. § 203(A)
- I. The Diné Traditional Law declares and teaches that: All leaders chosen by the Diné are to carry out their duties and responsibilities in a moral and legal manner in representing the people and the government; the people's trust and confidence in the leaders and the continued status as a leader are dependent upon adherence to the values and principles of Diné bi beenahazaanii. 1 N.N.C. § 203(B)
- J. On April 22, 2018, the Legal Counsel to the President and Vice President, who is also the daughter to the President, was involved in a serious vehicle collision while driving a Navajo Nation vehicle and no disciplinary action has been taken by the Office of the President and Vice President.
- K. The Navajo Nation President and Vice President have not communicated with the People on this matter, and they are not acting in the best interest of the People in carrying out their duties and responsibilities in a moral and legal manner.
- L. The Navajo People's trust and confidence in the Executive Branch leadership is fading due to the President's failure to adhere to the values and principles of Diné bi beenahazaanii.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- A. The Navajo Nation Council urges the Navajo Nation President to personally address the issue involving his daughter and his Legal Counsel immediately.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council strongly recommends the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President take appropriate measures, referring to the Navajo Nation Personnel Policy Manual and the Motor Vehicle Use Policy as when applied to all employees of the Navajo Nation government, for the action of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, severe damage to tribal property and other violations of Navajo Nation law and policy.

- C. Adhering to the values and principles of Diné bi beenahazaanii, the Navajo Nation Council strongly recommends the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President take appropriate action, using Navajo Nation Personnel Policy Manual Table of Penalties, as a guide, to resolve the matter involving their Legal Counsel within ten (10) days.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23rd 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 13 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 24th day of May 2018.



Seth Damon, Chairperson Pro Tempore
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Benjamin L. Bennett

Second: Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye

Chairperson Pro Tempore Damon not voting

NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 922

5/24/2018

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

04:26:48 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation 0176-18:

PASSED

MOT Bennett

Recommending Action to the

SEC BeGaye, N

President and Vice President

Regarding OP/VP Legal Counsel

Yea : 13

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 11

Yea : 13

Begay, S
BeGaye, N
Bennett
Brown

Chee
Daniels
Filfred

Jack
Perry
Slim

Smith
Tso
Yazzie

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 11

Bates
Begay, K
Begay, NM

Crotty
Damon
Hale

Pete
Phelps
Shepherd

Tsosie
Witherspoon