

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

**Tracking No.** 0030-23

**DATE:** February 3, 2023

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUSTIN AHASTEEN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this proposed resolution is to approve Mr., Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office.

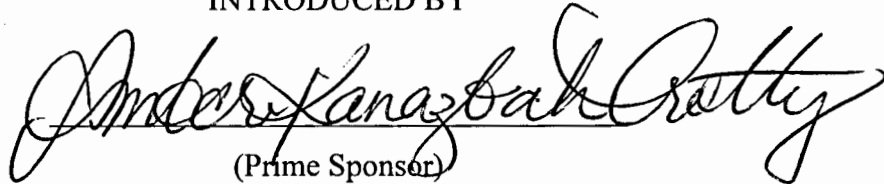
**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: 2:53pm; 03-03-23  
Posting End Date: 03-08-23  
Eligible for Action: 03-09-23

Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

  
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0030-23

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION  
COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUSTIN AHASTEEN AS THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

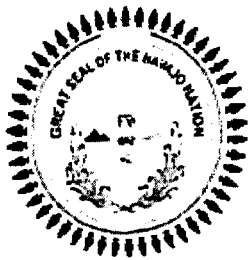
- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- B. A proposed resolution requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9).

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. The Navajo Nation Code provides, “[t]he [Executive] Director [of the Navajo Nation Washington Office] shall be appointed by the President of the Navajo Nation, subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council, to serve at a negotiated salary and at the pleasure of the President of the Navajo Nation.” 2 N.N.C. §1152(B).
- B. The Navajo Nation President appoints Mr. Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. Mr. Ahasteen’s appointment letter, résumé, and letter of intent are attached as **Exhibit A**.

1 **SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE**  
2 **NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE**

3       The Navajo Nation Council confirms the Navajo Nation President's appointment of  
4       Mr. Justin Ahasteen as the Navajo Nation Washington Office's Director.  
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# DR. BUU NYGREN RICHELLE MONTOYA



The Navajo Nation | Yideeskąądi Nitsáhákees

January 10, 2023

Justin Ahasteen

Alexandria, VA 22305

*RE: Appointment as Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Washington Office*

Dear Mr. Ahasteen,

We are pleased to appoint you to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. The appointment took effect at 12:00 pm on January 10, 2023. Your salary is \$165,014.64.

Thank you for agreeing to serve the Nygren-Montoya Administration, the youngest person elected Navajo Nation President, and the first woman elected as Vice President. Together we will uphold our promise of working for the people at the hogan level. Thank you for serving the largest sovereign nation in the country.

Ahéhee'

Handwritten signature of Dr. Buu Nygren in cursive script.

Dr. Buu Nygren, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Richelle Montoya in cursive script.

Richelle Montoya, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

A Marine veteran with 8 years of Administrative Management, Executive Assistant, and Government Affairs experience. Has proven ability to manage complex projects with competing requirements, lead diverse teams, and exceed organizational goals. Cross-functional proficiency includes development of employees, strategic planning, and identifying and improving operational inefficiencies. Often praised by the organization's director for superior work performance *"Is a mature, focused, and tireless professional who possesses superior intellect and an unsurpassed work ethic...Sought additional responsibilities outside his job description and performed those tasks superbly"*. Hard skills include the following:

- |                                     |                                 |                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Administrative Management         | • Microsoft Office Applications | • Record Management   |
| • Contract Negotiation & Management | • Creating Policies             | • Tribal Affairs      |
| • Budgeting                         | • Relationship Building         | • Event Coordination  |
| • Google Suite                      | • Logistical Management         | • Policy Development  |
|                                     | • Data Analyzing                | • Government Affairs  |
|                                     |                                 | • Legislative Affairs |

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Navajo Nation Washington Office  
750 First Street NE, Washington DC 20002

04/2022 – Current

#### **Government and Legislative Affairs Associate**

- Review, analyze, and research proposed/pending legislation and policy initiatives to ensure that legislation and initiatives do not adversely affect the Nation or Indian Country. Provide reports and advise the Nation of policy ramifications and provide recommendation on how to address these issues.
- Draft budgetary and appropriations requests, legislative bills, policy proposals and position papers.
- Advocate and communicate extensively with congressional representatives and federal agencies on the issues and positions of the Nation such as racial disparities, social determinants, other inequities tribes face.
- Prepare and/or provide testimony and oral remarks to at legislative hearings.
- Secure federal funding for the Nation's needs and ensures that ongoing projects continue to receive funding.
- Engage with non-governmental organizations to advance social justice and environmental justice for Tribal communities.
- Worked on activities and events to advance the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments to address federal nuclear policies adversely impacting tribal communities.

Hackensack Meridian Health  
343 Thornall Street, Edison, NJ 08837

09/2021 – 04/2022

#### **Executive Assistant to the Chief Risk Officer & Vice President of Occupational Health (Contract)**

- Scheduled appointments, meetings, and conferences.
- Prioritized calls through screening processes and delivers messages to appropriate personnel.
- Coordinated special projects, composed memos, transcribed notes, and researched-created presentations.
- Generated reports, processed invoice, and assisted in maintaining departmental budget.
- Reviewed and distributed mail to appropriate personnel.
- Conducted office inventory and replenished supplies as needed.

Valleywise Health  
2601 E. Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008

07/2020 – 08/2021

#### **Executive Assistant to the CEO of FQHC Clinics**

- Prepare executive level correspondence for submission to the Maricopa Special Health Care District Board of Directors.

- Created, implemented, and managed new division within organization to research, investigate, and respond to customer complaints.
- Conduct audits of records to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal guidelines to include requirements from accrediting bodies such as JCAHO and DNV.
- Completed administrative projects by identifying and implementing new technology and resources; redesigning systems; recommending re-deployment of designated resources.
- Maintain administrative workflow by studying methods; implementing cost reductions; developing reporting procedures.
- Created and submitted reports to the Health Services Resource Administration (HRSA) regarding patient visits, volumes, demographics, and statistics based on service location. This includes preparation of the annual Uniformed Data Systems (UDS) report.
- Maintain current grants from the federal government and consistently report on grant status to ensure continued funding.
- Assist in federal grant writing and submitting grant proposals through the Electronic Handbook portal.

Snell & Wilmer Law Offices  
400 E Van Buren Street, STE 1900 Phoenix AZ 85004

06/2018 – 03/2020

#### **Administrative Assistant to the Chief Information and Chief Financial Officer**

- Collected monthly variance reports from budget owners in each department.
- Run sequel inquiries utilizing Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio to track and compare YTD expenses with current budgets & PYTD expenses.
- Supported budgeting and bookkeeping procedures; create and update records and databases with personnel, financial and other data.
- Assisted with special projects, such as process improvements and budget development particularly in Project Budgeting.
- Created and revised systems and procedures by analyzing operating practices; studying utilization of micro-computer and software technologies; evaluating personnel and technological requirements; implementing changes.
- Maintained rapport with managers and employees by arranging continuing contracts, researching and developing new services and methods; setting priorities; resolving problem situations.
- Maintained suggestion system by directing and controlling administrative technical aspects in accordance with management directives.
- Maintained continuity of work operations by documenting and communicating needed actions to management; discovering irregularities; determining continuing needs.
- Guided employee actions by researching, developing, writing, and updating administrative policies, procedures, methods, and guidelines; communicating developments to management.

Headquarters Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs  
3000 Marine Corps Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350

07/2014 – 07/2018

#### **Administrative Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge**

- Received, managed, and responded to administrative inquiries from the United States Congress and their staff that require immediate attention from the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant.
  - Responded to and completed over 2,000 congressional cases swiftly which resulted in Member and constituent satisfaction. Received praise from the Legislative Assistant, *"Is an exceptional young man with limitless potential"*.
  - Researched, consolidated, and synthesized complex data into easy to interpret information for Legislative Affairs Portfolio Managers improving efficiency by 12%.
  - Planned and facilitated high visibility congressional travel engagements that coincide with constrained timelines for senior military leaders within Headquarters Marine Corps.
  - Negotiated and managed active contracts and creating purchase request (PR's) to fund contracts.
  - Managed a budget of \$950,000 over 4 years for the Office of Legislative Affairs, often staying 30% under budget significantly saving resources.
-

- Planned social events and maintained social calendars keeping track of information including attendee rosters, thank you correspondence, and collect fees if necessary.
- Developed staff development and workforce capacity plans.
- Conduct human capital management activities such as personnel administration, hiring, onboarding, offboarding, employee performance review, and employee improvement plans.

#### **Congressional Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge**

- Analyzed congressional activity that may affect the Department of Defense (DoD) and/or the Marine Corps to keep the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant informed of relevant development and their potential impact.
- Assisted in the preparing in the clearance of Congressional testimony and legislative proposals through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) meeting time parameters established by Congress.
- Developed and maintained relationships with Member of Congress and their staff resulting in the positive support of the Commandants legislative priorities.
- Assisted in the development of the office's Legislative Campaign Plan while simultaneously developing individual engagement plans for senior leaders of Headquarters Marine Corps which increase mission effectiveness by 30%.

#### **DECORATIONS, AWARDS, AND HONORS**

- Awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for over 600 hours of selfless volunteerism.
- Awarded the 99th Annual American Legion Spirit of Service Award for a high level of volunteer community service that was performed off-duty in the local community. This award is presented to one member of each branch of the military.
- Awarded the 2017 United Service Organization (USO) Service Member of the Year Award. This award is presented to one member of each branch of the military for superior performance above and beyond the call of duty.
- Awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award with Silver Distinction.

#### **EDUCATION**

**Master of Public Administration** (May 2024), American Public University System, Charles Town, WV 25414  
Major: Public Administration  
Concentration: Public Policy

**Bachelor Degree** (August 2021), Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011  
Major: Justice Studies Emphasis on Justice Administration  
Minor: Public Administration

**Associate of Applied Science Degree** (September 2021), Rio Salado Community College, Tempe, AZ 85281  
Major: Public Administration  
Graduated with High Distinction – 3.75 GPA

**Associate Degree** (September 2021), Rio Salado Community College, Tempe, AZ 85281  
Major: General Studies  
Graduated with High Distinction – 3.75 GPA

#### **Relevant Coursework, Licenses, and Certifications:**

- U.S. Department of Labor Certification in Office Manager/Administrative Services  
Registration Number: X0098680001-696976      Expiration: Indefinite
  - IAAP Certified Administrative Professional  
Registration Number: 42103595      Began: 10-2021      Expiration: 11-2024
-

**Justin C. Ahasteen**  
**Letter of Interest**

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter of interest for the position of Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Washington Office. I have worked for the Navajo Nation Washington Office just shy under a year and since onboarding I have developed a strong working relationship with the U.S. Federal Government advancing many of the needs of the Navajo Nation. Specifically, I have been working to advance priorities in Public Safety, Health, Social Services, Road Transportation Infrastructure, Veteran Affairs, additional work to improve functions within the Office of Navajo Hopi Indian Relocation, and to obtain justice for those affected by the federal governments uranium mining operations by working on the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments. I take significant pride in my work as I well understand the impact these issues can have on our people.

Additionally, it comes to no surprise that Tribes within the United States have a unique status as separate sovereign nations. With this comes a special government-to-government relationship that is deeply rooted within treaties the U.S. Federal government had established with tribal nations. Although tribes within America have this status, federal Indian law and policies have not always been equitable or fair to Native Americans. Although a method exists for tribes to engage with the federal government on a nation-to-nation basis, this does not always mean that the interactions with the Federal government have been positive. The challenges confronting Indian land have been disregarded throughout the entirety of American history. Tribal governments over the last several decades have voiced their frustration with working with the Federal government making the argument that federal Indian policy and law have always been established to dissolve or disproportionately affect tribal nations as seen with policies of assimilation and allotment from 1871-1928, the reorganization of Indian tribes from 1928-1942, and even policies and laws enacted to terminate the federal trust responsibility from 1943-1961.

Recent efforts to provide redress through a series of appropriation packages within key pieces of legislation including the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law, American Rescue Plan Act, CARES Act, and Inflation Reduction Act are a step in the right direction but there are factors that Congress must take into account when providing these appropriations. Firstly, due to many bureaucratic impediments, tribes lack the capacity to utilize funding appropriated to them in specific timelines because they lack the infrastructure needed.

Many would argue that the funding most recently appropriated is meant to build the capacity and infrastructure with tribes without understanding that many infrastructure projects are hindered by rights of way (ROW) processes. To address this, tribal governments must ensure that they are seen as strong, legitimate, sovereigns which for the Navajo Nation struggles. The Navajo Nation government struggles with maintaining and fostering positive work cultures as well as improving coordination between the three levels of government. While the NNWO falls under the executive branch, there is a duty and responsibility to ensure that all stakeholders and elected tribal leaders have the appropriate support in order to advance the position of the Navajo Nation and achieve goals. As Executive Director, I would ensure that we maintain a positive, collaborative, and

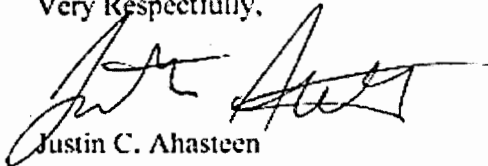
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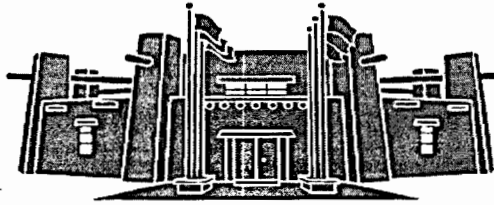
transparent relationship with our regulatory body, the Navajo Nation Council, and all other appropriate stakeholders. I truly believe that in order for us to progress as a Nation we must be unified and work towards a common goal for the benefit of our people.

Thank you for your time and consideration and if you have any questions or concerns, I welcome to opportunity to meet in person.

Very Respectfully,



Justin C. Ahasteen



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM: K.A. Lowell  
Kristen A. Lowell, Principal Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: February 3, 2023

SUBJECT: **AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUSTIN AHASTEEN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. 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.

**Please ensure that this 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.

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).

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.

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0030-23\_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office

*Date posted:* March 3, 2023 2:53 PM

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.

**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.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0030-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty**

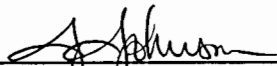
**TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office**

**Posted: March 03, 2023 at 2:53 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: March 08, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	1) Ethan Charles Tom 2) Sherry Dick 3) Barbara Harding 4) Virda M. Yazzie 5) Justin Tapaha 6) Brian Bitoie 7) D. J. Furness 8) Alyse Marrietta 9) Tilman Gonnice
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	1) Susan Montoya



**Policy Analyst  
Office of Legislative Services**

**March 09, 2023; 8:20 AM**

**Date/Time**

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this document is to support the appointment of Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. During the time I have known him, I have witnessed him display exceptional skills.

To expound further:

- **Leadership Skills**  
Justin demonstrates impressive leadership skills that results in positive outcomes with those involved in his team. He can handle situations calmly, and when tasked with finding solutions he is able to without difficulty. He ensures that those involved on a project are supported and have what they need to be successful. He also shows great commitment to his projects through his transparency and open communication with all stakeholders.
- **Work Dedication**  
Justin works diligently to ensure that a task is completed within a timely manner because he understands the importance of being action oriented. He will work long hours after his contract time because he's passionate about the work he does. I have never seen an individual so fervent about the work they do; he spends majority of his personal time researching and planning ways that he can improve himself and the efforts of his division.
- **Empathy**  
Justin has a huge heart, and he cares deeply about those he's forged relationships with, both professionally and personally. Although it might seem like he doesn't display much emotion when he's in a professional setting, he comes from a history of inequities himself growing up on the reservation. He wants what's best for his people and those close to him. He is also very knowledgeable about the hardships that many indigenous communities face in both rural and urban settings. His work as a government official is rooted in his personal commitment to ensure that individuals don't experience the inequities he's faced growing up and to make resources available to the Navajo people.
- **Collaboration**  
Justin has tremendous collaboration skills that makes him results oriented. He's able to work with almost anyone to get the outcomes he or his team desires. Once again, his ability to build relationships and partnerships makes him an irreplaceable asset to one's team.

I am confident that Justin's attitude and skills would make him a valuable contributor to the Navajo Nation as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Washington Office.

Sincerely,



Ethan Charles Tom M.A., M. Ed.  
P.O Box  
Chinle, AZ 86503  
ethantom.21@gmail.com

# Recommendation for Justin Ahasteen

Sun 3/5/2023 8:38 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

The Division Director for Washington Office recommendation.

My name is Sherry Dick, Community Services Coordinator. I am submitting my recommendation for the appointment of Justin Ahasteen. Mr Ahasteen has strived extensively as a child and reached his goals while educating himself in various fields to reach the highest mark in his life.

As An adopted child, he took in all the traditional teachings by his elders and adopted mother, which lead him to graduate as a scholar in High School, college, Marines (military), and university schools.

He will make a great director for the Washington office as a military official and highly educated person. This is position is critical as it requires critical decisions.

Acceptance of my recommendation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sherry Dick, CSC

INDIAN WELLS CHAPTER

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**Indian Wells Chapter**

[indianwells@navajochapters.org](mailto:indianwells@navajochapters.org)

[indianwells.navajochapters.org](http://indianwells.navajochapters.org)

PH: (928) 654-3280

FAX: (928) 654-3282

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

March 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to endorsing the appointment of Mr. Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office.

I came to know Mr. Ahasteen in 2020 when he was hired as my Sr. Executive Assistant. At that time, I was serving in the role of Sr. Vice President and CEO of the Valleywise Health Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). Valleywise Health is the Phoenix area's only public teaching health system providing health care services to the medically underserved community. There are 11 health center sites located throughout Maricopa County.

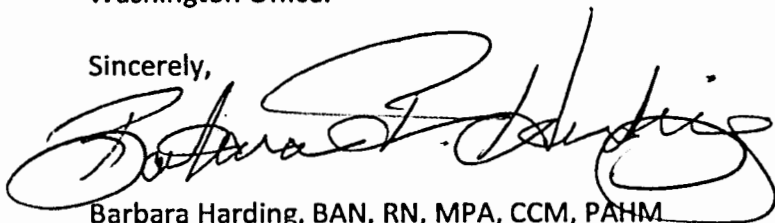
The health system's focus of work is to improve access to care, reduce the impact of social determinants of health and improve the health outcomes of those served. Mr. Ahasteen was integral in providing support of this critical work as his employ was during the COVID-19 pandemic. His strengths lie in the ability to take complex problems and determine appropriate resolutions for customer satisfaction.

He is passionate in his work to serve the community. This was demonstrated in his work with opening the 5 new clinical sites during his tenure. Given the time, there were many challenges that occurred but he was able to easily resolve them. Each of the clinical sites is now active providing vital resources to the community.

Another area of support was assurance in areas of regulatory compliance. Given that Valleywise Health was a public health system and the FQHC's are under the jurisdiction of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Justin became proficient in working with regulatory agencies providing the necessary information and documents for compliance.

Mr. Ahasteen's public service and leadership demonstrate his commitment and passion to serve the community. I endorse his appointment as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Harding', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Barbara Harding, BAN, RN, MPA, CCM, PAHM  
Independent Health Consultant  
Former Sr. Vice President and CEO FQHC Clinics, Valleywise Health

Phone: (804)-

Email: hardingbj06@gmail.com



**THE NAVAJO NATION**  
Dr. Buu Nygren, President  
Richelle Montoya, Vice-President

**WHITE CONE CHAPTER**  
28 N. HWY 77 PMB 5120  
Holbrook, Arizona 86025  
Telephone: (928) 654-3900/3828  
FAX: (928) 654-3901  
Email: [whitecone@navajochapters.org](mailto:whitecone@navajochapters.org)

Robert E. Salabye  
**PRESIDENT**  
Linda M. Yazzie  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Lavida B. Maestas  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**  
Justin Yazzie  
**GRAZING MEMBER**  
Cherilyn Yazzie  
**COUNCIL DELEGATE**

March 03, 2023

IN SUPPORT OF MR. JUSTIN C. AHASTEEN

Honorable Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council,

The purpose of this letter is to offer support for the confirmation of Mr. Justin C. Ahasteen to the position of Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Washington Office.

Mr. Ahasteen is a proud resident of the White Cone Community and over the years have provided great support to the White Cone Chapter House. Since his high school days, Mr. Ahasteen (then referred to as Edwyn Scott, Jr.) volunteered 168 hours of his time to support the White Cone Chapter even while he was serving our country in the U.S. Marine Corps. Mr. Ahasteen continues to represent and advocate for his community even after his military service. On several occasions he has discussed opportunities to improve the White Cone Community through his work in the Navajo Nation Washington Office, engaging with federal officials and providing information that would allow the White Cone Chapter to receive additional assistance. He truly cares for his community and we are glad to offer our support to Mr. Ahasteen as he continues his journey advocating for the Navajo people in Washington D.C.

On behalf the White Cone Chapter Officials and staff, we are in support of Mr. Justin C. Ahasteen to be offer the permanent position in Executive Director for Navajo Nation Washington Office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach and call if you should have any questions to the above phone number.

Sincerely,

Virda M. Yazzie, CSC  
White Cone Chapter

Cc: White Cone Personnel file



# Confirmation Comments Washington D.C. Office

Justin J. Tapaha

Mon 3/6/2023 9:35 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Justin Tapaha, Nutritionist  
Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program  
justintapaha@navajo-nsn.gov  
tapahajustin@gmail.com

This email/comment is my support for appointing Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. If you have questions or concerns, my work office number is (928)674-2422, personal number is (928) [redacted] or email justintapaha@navajo-nsn.gov or personal email [redacted]@gmail.com.

Kind Regards

Justin Tapaha, Nutritionist  
Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program  
Chinle Service Area  
Telephone: (928)674-2422

# Justin Ahasteen comments

Brian Bitsoie <bitsoiebrian@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/7/2023 8:21 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern,

Justin Ahasteen is kind and fair. Seeing how much he accomplished in his career is truly astonishing. I remember times when we were young boys with only the environment to entertain ourselves, always had a smile and enjoyed being in the moment with his brothers. The kind of discipline he had to endure to get where he is now is something to recognize. He has not one lazy bone in his body.

I can confidently state that Justin will take care of his position as the executive director of the Washington office of the Navajo Nation. He will be calm and collected in helping to guide our nation to a bright future.

Brian Bitsoie

Auto Technician

bitsoiebrian@yahoo.com

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
1000  
PPO  
7 Mar 23

From: Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations  
To: Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council

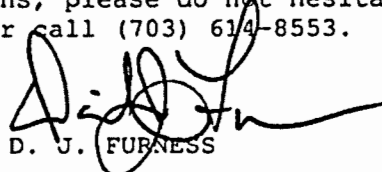
Subj: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION ICO MR. JUSTIN C. AHASTEEN

1. This letter serves as a recommendation to appoint Mr. Justin C. Ahasteen as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Washington Office. I had the privilege to serve with then Corporal Ahasteen during his assignment at Headquarters Marine Corps in the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Pentagon. Justin worked under my supervision for two years, where he demonstrated extraordinary growth and potential as a non-commissioned officer. Justin was exceptionally mature, conscientious, and thorough in carrying out his day-to-day assignments, and he earned the respect and trust of his senior leaders. Through his work ethic and personal initiative, Justin earned three prestigious awards during his military service, two of which given to one member of each branch of the military. These awards included the Presidential Volunteer Service Award with Silver Distinction, the American Legion Spirit of Service Award, and the United Services Organization Service Member of the Year Award.

2. During our time together, Justin always sought out opportunities for self-improvement and opportunities to enhance the processes and procedures of the organization he served. He built a solid reputation within the organization as someone who could communicate effectively while demonstrating unquestionable character. Mr. Ahasteen is a self-starter whose superior personal initiative and leadership skills identify him as being head and shoulder above his contemporaries.

3. Mr. Ahasteen is an exceptional role model and leader; his actions and contributions continue to emulate the Marine Corps' values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. His willingness to serve contributed to his success within our organization and would add tremendous value within your government. Justin's inclination to serve others, coupled with his technical expertise and dedicated performance, had a profound impact on his command and within his community. The skills he possesses will serve the Navajo Nation Government and would help build on the continued success of leading your nation's efforts in Washington, D.C

4. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at david.j.furness@usmc.mil or call (703) 614-8553.

  
D. J. FURNESS

March 6, 2023

Executive Director  
Office Of Legislative Services  
P.O Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

To the Navajo Nation Council,

I am humbled to introduce myself as Alyse Marrietta, a community member of the Gila River Indian Community and former Miss Indian Arizona 2021-22 titleholder.

I am writing in support of Mr. Justin Ahasteen, and to congratulate him on his appointment as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. I believe Justin has always possessed the qualities of leadership that have shaped him to be an outstanding candidate for this position.

I've known Justin for a number of years and it is no surprise that he's gained many accolades this early in his career. During our early years of friendship during high school he was involved with many clubs and stood out among our class as a great student. It was inspiring even then, to see him utilize his voice to share issues that Native American students faced and educate school faculty on solutions.

His more recent accomplishments such as being awarded USO Marine of the Year in 2017, are further proof that Justin is consistent and determined to work towards a high standard for himself. Anyone who is in working proximity to him will be encouraged and motivated to do and be better.

As someone who has worked for my own tribal community, I know how hard one must work towards gaining education and work experience while trying to stay connected to their culture. It's been amazing to see Justin prosper in both ways. His heart and passion to help his people is what I find most inspiring about Justin. I know he will continue to give more of himself in this new position.

Congratulations Mr. Justin Ahasteen! Prayers to you and your staff as you work on behalf of the Navajo Nation in Washington DC.

Sapo (Thank you),  
Alyse Marrietta

## **Tilman Gonnie**

Flagstaff, Arizona  
(928)  
tgonnie@gmail.com

March 5, 2023  
Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, Az 86515  
(928)871-7586  
Dear Director,

I hope this letter find you well. My name is Tilman Gonnie and I am Taneesahnii, Born for Scottish, My maternal Grandparents are Lo'kaa' Dine'e. My Paternal Grandparents are German, I come from the community of Pinon, Arizona. I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. Strong, Adaptive, and Intuitive are adjectives that come to mind when thinking of how Mr Ahasteen conducts himself and by extension his work.

I have know Justin for only a few years now, but in that time I have come to know that he is an individual that take ownership and pride in the work he does. Accountably and perseverance are just some of the qualities that come naturally to him.

The involvement and passion he has for fellow member of the Armed Forces shows in the work he has pursued, from representing our Navajo veterans in the capital to volunteering his free time to help other is another example of the character he possesses.

As the Director of the Office he would assure it would function at the best ability of all involved. He would lead the team with Integrity and confidence. You can rest assured and rely on Justin, knowing that he has the best interest of our nation in mind with every action he will perform. Supporting and uplifting this individual will not only better the office, but by extension the younger leaders of our nation that can relate and see themselves in the same positions. He will continue to bring pride to our nation and lead us with a good heart. He has my full support and encouragement in this endeavor. You will do well in confirming him as the New Director.

Sincerely yours,

Tilman Gonnie.

Justin Ahasteen

Susan Montoya <Susan.Montoya@dsllog.com>

Tue 3/7/2023 2:30 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to submit a comment for Justin Ahasteen.

Justin Ahasteen is a determined, kind, dependable, hardworking gentleman, that has a heart of gold. Once Justin sets his mind and heart on accomplishing something, he gets it done. Justin is very family oriented and loves to take care of his family. Justin is educated and very strong willed. Justin is courageous and often volunteers his time to nonprofit organizations. Justin is a great advocate for his community in White Cone, AZ and the entire Navajo (Dine) Nation.

Justin strives to continue his education and his employment in Washington, DC. Justin is also a Veteran of the Marine Corp and has severed his country proudly. I cant express enough how proud and lucky I am to know Justin Ahasteen.

Thank you,

**Susan Montoya**  
**Export Customer Service Manager**  
DSL Logistics  
23860 West US Highway 85  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
O: 623-234-2750  
C: 623-217-0363



**DSL Logistics**

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

**25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT  
First Year 2023**

The **NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

**NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0030-23**

An Action Relating to Naabik'íyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Justin Ahasteen as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office .

*Sponsored by: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty*

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,



*Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Chairperson  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE*

**23 March 2023**

**MAIN MOTION**

*Motioned by: Honorable Otto Tso*

*Seconded by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez*

*Vote: 17 In Favor, 0 Opposed (Chairperson Curley Not Voting)*

# NAVAJO NATION

60

3/23/2023

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

05:03:38 PM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business: Item D.

PASSED

MOT Tso, O

Legislation 0030-23: Confirming

SEC Nez, A

the Appointment of J. Ahasteen  
as the Executive Director of ...

**Yeas : 17**

**Nays : 0**

**Excused : 6**

**Not Voting : 0**

**Yea : 17**

Arviso, S

Crotty, A

Jesus, B

Parrish, S

Aseret, L

Damon, S

Johnson, C

Tolth, G

Begay, H

Daniels, H

Nez, A

Tso, O

Begay, N

James, V

Nez, R

Yanito, C

Claw, S

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 6**

Charles-Newton, E

Simonson, G

Slater, C

Yazzie, C

Notah, N

Simpson, D

**Not Voting : 0**

**Presiding Speaker: Curley, C**