RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Third Year, 2021

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN C. BEGAY AS AN AT-LARGE COMMISSIONER ON THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is established as a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 700.

B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has the authority to approve and confirm appointments of Commissioners by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. 2 N.N.C. § 922(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Commissioners of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission ("NNHRC") shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and confirmed by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 922(A).

B. According to the NNHRC's Plan of Operation, the NNHRC shall consist of five Commissioners with reputable and established backgrounds in the fields of education, business, law enforcement, and social services. 2 N.N.C. § 922(A).

C. The NNHRC commissioners shall each serve a four-year term pursuant to the NNHRC Plan of Operation as approved by Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CJN-15-08. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council appoints a new qualified member. NNHRC Plan of Operation, at Section IV-B, Organization/Term of Office.

D. The NNHRC has approved Resolution No. NNHRCJUNE-07-21, which describes its recommended method of selecting new Commissioners. See **Exhibit 1** (2 pages).

E. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council has appointed Steven C. Begay for the at-large position on the NNHRC. See **Exhibit 2** (1 page).

F. Steven C. Begay fulfills the requirements for the at-large position on the NNHRC, based on his reputable and established professional background. See **Exhibit 3** (5 pages).

G. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee consider it to be in the best interest of the Navajo Nation that Steven C. Begay be appointed to the at-large position on the NNHRC for the current remaining term left vacant by the recent removal of a former Commissioner.

SECTION THREE. APPOINTMENT

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby confirms the appointment by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council of Steven C. Begay to the at-large position on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. Mr. Begay shall fill the at-large position for the current remaining term left vacant by the recent removal of a former Commissioner.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' 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 19 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 18th day of November 2021.

Honorable Jamie Henio, Chairman Pro Tem
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Nov. 25, 2021
Date

Motion: Honorable Paul Begay, Jr.
Second: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair

Chairman Pro Tem Jamie Henio not voting

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EXHIBIT
1

NNHRCJUNE-07-21

RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Recommending the Method for the Selection of the Candidates for the Law Enforcement and At-Large Positions on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 920 and 921, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission ("Commission") is established in the Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation government and organized to operate as a clearinghouse entity to administratively address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation; and to interface with the local, state, federal governments, and with national and international human rights organizations in accordance with the Commission's plan of operation (Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJN-15-08) and applicable laws and regulations of the Navajo Nation; and

2. Pursuant to the Commission's plan of operation, Section IV (B), there are five (5) commissioners appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council based on their qualifications and confirmed by the Naabik'iyati Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. One must represent businesses, education, community services, and law enforcement, and one is appointed at-large. The current commissioners are serving a four year term that started in 2020 and will end in 2024; and

3. The Commission, pursuant to Resolution NNHRCMAY-06-21, removed the law enforcement commissioner for good cause on May 7, 2021. There was only one candidate for the law enforcement position after the position was advertised twice in 2020. The Commission made the effort to work with the appointed and confirmed individual who occupied the law enforcement but unfortunately had to be removed from the position; and

4. The Commission's Statement of Principle is as follows: "The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission commits to honor the Diné guiding principles of yínídílyinee and álílee k'ehgo and to be guided by the Diné principles of Sa'a Naaghai Bik'e Hozhoo, Hashkéejí, Hózhóójí and K'é." Yínídílyinee means respecting the thoughts and intellect in a dignified manner. Álílee k'ehgo refers to ways of resolving situations that often seeming impossible; and

5. Currently, the law enforcement and at-large positions for the Commission are vacant. The Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission readvertised the vacant positions from May 13, 2021 to June 4, 2021 in the Navajo Times. The deadline for individuals interested in becoming a commissioner is Friday, June 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Those interested must submit their resume and a letter of interest; and

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6. The Commission has the responsibility to serve as a fiduciary. As fiduciaries, the commissioners shall carry out their responsibilities and authorities to promote and protect the Navajo human rights, consistent with the fiscal and governmental responsibilities of the Navajo Nation. It is imperative that individuals appointed and confirmed as a commissioner must have respect for and foster k'e and hozhoojigo.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission hereby respectfully recommends the following methods to the Speaker of the 24th Navajo Nation Council when reviewing and selecting the candidates for law enforcement and at-large commissioner positions on the Commission:

A. When there is only one candidate for the position, the vacant position be readvertised in order to get an additional pool of candidates and keep the single applicant as part of the pool of candidates;
B. When interviewing each candidate, assess their perspectives on Navajo values and traditions, and their understanding of collective indigenous rights; and
C. Have one sitting member of the Commission participate as a member of the interview panel when interviewing the candidates.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission as a duly called meeting via telecommunication, at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed, this 4th day of June 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Jennifer Denetdale
17880BE4786740F

Dr. Jennifer Denetdale, Ph.D, *Chairperson*
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

HONORABLE SETH DAMON

Speaker, 24th Navajo Nation Council

EXHIBIT 2

September 22, 2021

Steven Begay

St. Michaels, AZ 86511

RE: NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Mr. Begay,

It is my pleasure to notify you of your selection for appointment to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC). Thank you for your interest in serving the remaining three (3) years of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commissioner term, pursuant to the NNHRC Plan of Operation.

The materials you submitted for consideration, conveyed a purpose for your work and your expertise to qualify for the Human Rights At-large Commissioner position. Your skills and experience will be suitable to meet the needs of the organization. Thank you for your interest and leadership, we are certain you will become a strong asset to the NNHRC.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Chief of Staff Sherylene Yazzie at (928)871-7160 sheryleneyazzie@navajo-nsn.gov.

Best Regards,

Seth Damon, *Speaker*
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

EXHIBIT 3

Steven C Begay

Saint Michaels, Arizona 86511

June 4, 2021

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
P. O. Box 129
Saint Michaels, Arizona 86511

Subject: Letter of Interest for the At-large, NN Human Rights Commissioner (NNHRC) Position

Dear Chair of the Commission,

This is my letter of interest for the Human Rights Commissioner, At-large position. I have attached copies of my personal resume' and college diploma for your consideration. My expertise and knowledge can contribute to NNHRC's oversight management and operation. I can participate as an active member to help move things forward for NNHRC.

Early on, I was trained as a tribal court advocate under the DNA People's Legal Services. I represented clients in criminal and civil cases in the Western Navajo Agency, and interpreted for Navajo clients in federal social security benefit cases.

When I worked in the Navajo Nation government, I interacted with people at the chapter and central government levels. I have managed the accounts of 21 agency level, chapter-based, infrastructure and economic projects. I have worked on business site leases and subleases, and communicated with lessees, sublessees and vendors who have dealt with the processes to conduct business on Navajo lands. My work as the Tribal Tax Director entailed corresponding with individuals, small companies, and large corporations so that there is compliance with the Navajo tax laws. I managed the program and worked with attorneys to amend tribal business and related tax laws and policies. I am aware of the business environment, and I have a limited liability company that I have set up to work on projects during my retirement years.

As General Manager of the Dine' Power Authority, I worked with consultants in the areas of energy production, transmission development, environment protection, engineering, finance, and governmental approvals. I worked on agreements, plans, environmental analyses, financial proformas and regulatory approvals for the transmission and power plant projects. I directed the development of a high voltage transmission line and a proposed power plant that would use Navajo resources. The projects did not materialize when the federal approvals succumbed to environmental lawsuits.

Under Interim President Leonard Haskie, I served as the Director of Economic Development during a political transition period, and served on three executive management committees in the administration.

I have taken core business courses at Arizona State University to learn, and I have prepared and given PowerPoint presentations at the various jobs that I have held. I have a 4-year, Bachelor of Science Degree in Accountancy from the WP Carey School of Business at ASU which now gives me strength and a good working knowledge of financial and governmental accounting.

My advocacy work has provided me opportunities to interact with people and to learn about human problems and living conditions. Similarly, my volunteer work has given me the experience to arrange meetings at chapter houses for different reasons. Working on nonprofit issues involves communication with the media and local officials. And, Board meetings, subcommittee meetings, and a commitment of time from each board member are important. I can attend board meetings and believe that I can be instrumental and useful as a Human Rights Commissioner.

I am available for an interview if my qualifications are sufficient. Thank you for letting me apply and I ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Steven C Begay

Attachments: Copy of Personal Resume'
Copy of Accountancy BS Degree Diploma from ASU

Personal Resumé
Steven C Begay
, Saint Michaels, Arizona 86511

Tribe: Navajo

Current Status: I am retired, and have a limited liability company to do consulting, interpretation and translation, tax work, business development, political advocacy, and nonprofit work.

Education

Arizona State University, W.P. Carey School of Business, School of Accountancy, Tempe, Arizona. Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, 12/18/92

Other Colleges Attended: Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ (Summer sessions 1974 & 1986); Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA (Fall 1971-73 & fall 1974); Canada College, Redwood City, CA (Spring 1975); and Navajo Community College, Tsaile, AZ (Fall 1981)

High School: Lenox School, Lenox, Massachusetts, (Spring 1970-06/06/71, graduated); Phillips Academy, Andover, MA (Fall 1969-Spring 1970); Ramona High School, Riverside, CA, (Fall 1968-Spring 1969); Chemawa Jr. High School, Riverside, CA (Fall 1967-Spring 1968).

Elementary School: Tuba City Boarding School, Tuba City, AZ. (Fall 1958- Spring 1962 & Fall 1963-Spring 1967); Leupp Boarding School, (Fall 1962-Spring 1963)

Employment

1. August 29, 2011 to October 31, 2013. Senior Accountant, Head Start Program, Department of Diné Education, Window Rock, Arizona

2. September 2000 to April 14, 2011. General Manager, Diné Power Authority (DPA), Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

3. June 20, 1999 to September 2000. Financial Analyst, DPA, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

4. January 15, 1995 to January 12, 1999. Executive Director, Office of Navajo Tax Commission, (ONTC), Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ

5. February 16, 1993 to January 15, 1995. Accountant IV, ONTC, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

6. June 30, 1991 to March 31, 1992. Accounting Manager, Fort McDowell Gaming Center, Fountain Hills, AZ.

7. March 19, 1990 to January 15, 1991. Executive Director, Division of Economic Development (DED), Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

8. May 20, 1989 to March 18, 1990. Technical Support Department Director, DED, NN, Window Rock, AZ.

9. September 29, 1987 to May 19, 1989. Economic Development Specialist (EDS) III, DED, NN, Window Rock, AZ

10. April 27, 1987 to September 1987. Project Coordinator/Systems Analyst, Office of Navajo Land Department, Division of Resources, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

11. March 31, 1986 to July 4, 1986. EDS II/III, Commerce Department, DED, NN, Window Rock, AZ.

12. September 28, 1984 to March 28, 1986. EDS II, Business Leasing Branch, Commerce Department, DED, Saint Michaels, AZ.

13. May 1981 to August 1982. Accountant/Office Manager, George Law Firm, Tuba City, AZ.

14. October 1980 to May 1981. Administrative Service Officer II, Grants and Contracts Department, Division of Labor, Navajo Nation, Tuba City, AZ

15. June 1980 to September 1980. Contract Analyst II, Office of Budget and Contracts, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

16. May 1977 to June 1979. Staff Auditor II, Office of Auditor General, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ.

(Other jobs held from 1969 to July 1975)

Training: SCORE, How to operate a nonprofit, April 20, 2017, Phoenix, AZ. Division of Economic Development, NN-Entrepreneurial Empowerment Workshop, May 6, 2014, Saint Michaels, Arizona 86511. WIPFLi National Training on Head Start Program, Standards and Protocols, July 8 to July 14, 2012, and July 14 to 20, 2013, Las Vegas, Nevada. Navajo Nation-Strategic Planning for the Department of Dine' Education, March 12 & 13, 2012, Flagstaff, Arizona. **Other:** Over 36 seminars, workshops and specialized training in various subjects, including Power Generation, HV Transmission Development, Power Marketing, CFO summits, Oil and Gas Revenue Accounting, CPA review course, LSAT review course, Capital Investment, Integrated Software, ARC/INFO Software, Principles of Real Estate, Records Management, Real Property Management, Indian Lands and Natural Resources, Writing Business Plans, Government Budgeting and Financial Planning, Civil Litigation for Legal Assistants, Title XI, Public Law 95-561 (Education Amendments of 1978), Zero-based Budgeting, Internal Auditing I and II, Organizational Analysis and Budgeting, Audit Interviewing Techniques, and Audit Report Writing.

Board Membership
Board Member, Northern Apache County Special Health Care District. February 2018 to Present.
Board Member, Navajo Voters Coalition, Inc, since 2019, and Agent, Navajo Voters Coalition, Inc., P. O. Box 590, Saint Michaels, Arizona 86511 since February 15, 2015 to Present
Vice-Chair, Apache County Democrats. January 7, 2021 to Present. Chair, February 2019 to January 7, 2021.

Business
Principal, S2JB Alliance LLC, P. O. Box 613, Saint Michaels, Arizona 86511

Political Advocacy
Arizona Senate Candidate for Legislative District Seven. April 21, 2015 to November 8, 2015.
Cultural Advisor, Chris Deschene for Navajo President Campaign. August 2014 to May 2015.
Campaign volunteer and advisor on various political campaigns in Arizona, New Mexico and U.S.
President and Board Member, MAAZO Publishing, Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504. 1983 to 1991.

REFERENCES (available upon request)

Arizona State University

Greeting to all to whom these Letters shall come
The Arizona Board of Regents
by virtue of the authority vested in it by law and
on recommendation of the University Faculty does hereby confer on

Steven C. Begay

who has satisfactorily completed the Studies prescribed therefor
the Degree of

Bachelor of Science

with all the Rights, Privileges and Honors thereunto appertaining
In Witness whereof the Seal of the University is hereto affixed
Done at Tempe, Arizona, this eighteenth day of December,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two.

Governor of Arizona

President of the University

President of the Board

Registrar of the University

NAVAJO NATION

1138 | 11/18/2021

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Special Meeting | 02:34:18 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0231-21	PASSED
MOT Begay, P SEC Yellowhair	Approving Speaker's Appointment of Steven C. Begay as an At-Large Commissioner on the...	

Yeas : 19 **Nays : 0** **Excused : 1** **Not Voting : 3**

Yea : 19

Begay, E	Damon	Nez, R	Tso, O
Begay, K	Daniels	Slater, C	Walker, T
Begay, P	Freeland, M	Smith	Wauneka, E
Charles-Newton	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Yellowhair
Crotty	James, V	Tso, C	

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Yazzie

Not Voting : 3

Brown	Tso, D	Tso, E

Presiding Speaker: Henio, J