

THE NAVAJO NATION



JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

July 12, 2020

Hon. Seth Damon
Office of the Speaker
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: CJY-54-20, *An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Cancelling the Navajo Nation Fair, the Fourth of July Celebration, the Northern Navajo Nation Fair, and all the other fairs, rodeos and ropings held on the Navajo Nation during 2020*

Dear Speaker Damon,

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Navajo Nation President, I am signing CJY-54-20 into law.

The rising number of COVID-19 cases in surrounding States earlier this year caused the Navajo Nation to respond with our own emergency orders to protect our People. We are now in the same situation with a rise in COVID-19 cases in surrounding States; however, because Navajo leaders worked hard to protect our People we do not have the situation faced by the surrounding States. Our public health team continually monitors our COVID cases and the public health orders limiting large gatherings, a stay-at-home order, and curfews are helping keep our People safe. Working together we must do everything we can to keep ourselves healthy. Cancelling large and smaller local events on the Navajo Nation will help reduce the spread of this deadly virus. We must not back down on our message of wearing masks, washing our hands, and social distancing.

The surrounding States are also cancelling large events, such as New Mexico cancelling the annual Balloon Fiesta, and our Navajo Divisions took the initiative to cancel our Fourth of July Celebration. The message in CJY-54-20 will go out to all Navajo citizens that not only are large events cancelled but also smaller rodeo and roping events. Under Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003 and No. 2020-004 Navajo residents must avoid crowds, limit gatherings to household members, and restrict their travel. The Public Health Emergency Orders work with CJY-54-20 to also restrict local pow wows, fundraising bingo games, roadside sales, and other small gatherings. We must keep ourselves safe.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

A stylized handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CANCELLING THE NAVAJO NATION FAIR, THE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, THE NORTHERN NAVAJO NATION FAIR, AND ALL THE OTHER FAIRS, RODEOS AND ROPINGS HELD ON THE NAVAJO NATION DURING 2020

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee. Proposed resolutions requiring the final authority of the Navajo Nation Council are to be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (9).
- C. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is a Navajo Nation Council standing committee established to review and make recommendations regarding health. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (B) (6) (a).
- D. The Resources and Development Committee is the oversight committee of the Navajo Department of Agriculture which plans and puts on the Fourth of July Celebration and the Navajo Nation Fair, RDCJY-032-19; and the Resources and Development Committee, through RDCAU-81-12, by amending the Northern Navajo Fair Board Plan of Operation, "establish[ed], creat[ed], and confirm[ed] the existence of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board ... as an entity of the Navajo Nation and the Northern Navajo Nation Agency Council."

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management, with the concurrence of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation, approved Resolution CEM-20-03-11, "Declaring a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the Confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in

Regional Areas Surrounding the Navajo Nation," dated March 11, 2020.

- B. The Navajo Nation President issued Executive Order 003-20 on April 21, 2020 extending the Declaration of a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 virus on the Navajo Nation and extending the closure of Navajo Nation government offices and related entities.
- C. The Navajo Nation has taken strong, proactive measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including issuing stay at home orders as well as implementing evening and weekend curfews. Public Health Emergency Orders No. 2020-003 (issuing a Stay at Home order) and 2020-004 (extending the Stay at Home order and implementing a curfew).
- D. Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 also stated that "[a]ll indoor and outdoor public gatherings are limited to no more than 5 people[.]
- E. "The Navajo Department of Health recognized that "[e]very individual has a responsibility to themselves, to their families and relatives, and to their communities to act in accordance with this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004." See Public Health Emergency Order 2020-004, Paragraph VII.
- F. The Navajo Department of Health extended the weekend curfew in effect on the Navajo Nation and ordered the closure of certain essential businesses on the Navajo Nation. See Public Health Emergency Order Nos. 2020-005, 2020-006, and 2020-008.
- G. The Fourth of July Celebration which takes place during and around July Fourth of each year and the Navajo Nation Fair held in September both take place in Window Rock, Arizona and both have high attendance over multiple days.
- H. There are other Navajo fairs including the Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo, Eastern Navajo Fair (Crownpoint) held in July, the Ramah Navajo Fair and Rodeo (Pine Hill) held in August, Naatsis'áán E'eaniih Day Celebration (Navajo Mountain) held in August, Southwest Navajo Fair and Rodeo (Dilkon) held in August, Central Agency Fair (Chinle) held in August, Utah Navajo Fair and Rodeo (Bluff) held in September, Northern Navajo Fair (Shiprock) held in October, Alamo Indian Days held in October, and the Western Navajo Fair (Tuba City) held in October.

- I. There are also numerous smaller rodeos and roping events that would ordinarily be held on the Navajo Nation during the spring, summer and fall of 2020.
- J. Large numbers of the Navajo population attend these fairs, rodeos and roping events.
- K. The Navajo Nation Council finds that due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, Dikos Ntsaaígíí Náhást'éíts'áadah, and the need to prevent spread of the virus and to protect our Navajo people from being infected by this virus, it is necessary to cancel all the fairs, rodeos and roping events that would ordinarily be held on the Navajo Nation during 2020.

SECTION THREE. CANCELLING ALL FAIRS, RODEOS AND ROPING EVENTS THAT WOULD ORDINARILY BE HELD ON THE NAVAJO NATION IN 2020

The Navajo Nation hereby cancels the Fourth of July Celebration, the Navajo Nation Fair, the Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo, Eastern Navajo Fair, the Ramah Navajo Fair and Rodeo, Naatsis'áán E'eaniih Day Celebration, Southwest Navajo Fair and Rodeo, Central Agency Fair, Utah Navajo Fair and Rodeo, Northern Navajo Fair, Alamo Indian Days, the Western Navajo Fair, and any other fairs, rodeos and roping events that would ordinarily be held on the Navajo Nation during 2020.

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. The provisions of this action shall become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221 (B).
- B. The provisions of this action shall expire when Resolution CEM-20-03-11, "Declaring a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the Confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in Regional Areas Surrounding the Navajo Nation," dated March 11, 2020, is lifted or rescinded or until otherwise determined by resolution of the Navajo Nation Council.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by 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 02 Opposed, on this 1st day of July 2020.

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Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

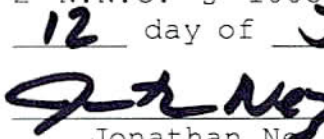
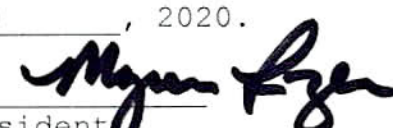
July 2, 2020
DATE

Motion: Honorable Jamie Henio
Second: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I, hereby, sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this 12 day of July, 2020.

 
Jonathan Nez, President
Navajo Nation

2. I, hereby, veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), on this _____ day of _____, 2020 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

Jonathan Nez, President
Navajo Nation

NAVAJO NATION

354

7/1/2020

Navajo Nation Council Special Session

03:22:58 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Consent Agenda: Legislation

PASSED

MOT Henio, J

0286-19 and Legislation 0119-20

SEC Yellowhair

Yeas : 19

Nays : 2

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 2

Yea : 19

Begay, E

Crotty

Nez, R

Walker, T

Begay, K

Daniels

Smith

Wauneka, E

Begay, P

Freeland, M

Tso

Yazzie

Brown

Halona, P

Tso, D

Yellowhair

Charles-Newton

Henio, J

Tso, E

Nay : 2

Stewart, W

Slater, C

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 2

James, V

Tso, C

Presiding Speaker: Damon