

RESOLUTION OF THE
LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE; DIRECTING THE NAVAJO
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH A DZIL YIJIIN
POLICE DISTRICT

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee (LOC) is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has legislative oversight over law enforcement to enhance the operations and coordination of all departments within the Navajo Division of Public Safety (NDPS) in order to increase the availability, quality, and effectiveness of public safety services; and to enable the Navajo Nation to more effectively provide efficient public safety services on the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600 (A), 600 (C), 600 (C)(5)-(6), and 1355.
- B. The LOC of the Navajo Nation Council reviews and makes recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Code and exercises oversight over the NDPS. 2 N.N.C. § 601 (C)(1).
- C. Committee directives shall be limited to matters under such Committee's direct oversight and shall be approved by a simple majority vote of all Committee members. 2 N.N.C. § 189 (B).
- D. All approved directives shall be memorialized in writing and signed by the presiding officer and provided to the Office of the President and the affected Division Director within three (3) calendar days of Committee approval. 2 N.N.C. § 189 (B).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. Diné Customary Law declares and teaches that, "[i]t is the right and freedom of the people that every child and every elder be respected, honored and protected with a healthy physical and mental environment, free from all abuse. See 1 N.N.C. § 203 (D).

- B. The purpose of the NDPS is to exercise control and authority over all law enforcement and public safety activities within the Navajo Nation and adjoining Indian Country as designated under Navajo, federal and other applicable laws where the Navajo Nation exercises jurisdiction; the Department of Law Enforcement is a department within the Navajo Division of Public Safety. 2 N.N.C. § 1352 (A)(2).
- C. The objective of the NDPS is to maintain law and order by the enforcement of applicable criminal laws and safeguarding of the lives and properties of the Navajo People. See 2 N.N.C. § 1352 (B)(1).
- D. On June 29, 2010, the LOC received a report from the Dził Yijiin chapter officials and concerned community members regarding public safety issues. See <http://www.navajonnsn.gov>.
- E. The Dził Yijiin community is experiencing high rates of crime and shootings stemming from gang activities, leading to a disruption within the community's local businesses, schools, government offices and private residences. *Id.*
- F. In 2014, there were 7,767 emergency calls made to the Chinle Police District; in 2015, the total number increased to 8,185; in 2016, there have been 3,666 calls within the first half of the year. *Id.*
- G. The Chinle Police District employs twenty-two (22) police officers and it takes more than an hour to respond to an emergency call made from Dził Yijiin and there is one (1) police officer stationed in Dził Yijiin. *Id.*
- H. In an effort to reduce the number of crimes in the community of Dził Yijiin, the LOC is directing the NDPS to immediately establish a Dził Yijiin Police District.
- I. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to direct the NDPS to immediately establish a Dził Yijiin Police District, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Navajo People.

SECTION THREE. DIRECTIVE TO NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. The Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee hereby directs the Navajo Department of Public Safety to establish a Dził Yijiin

Police District, to be effective Fiscal Year 2019, October 1, 2018.

- B. The Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee hereby requests the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, and their designees to advocate for the pressing need to immediately establish a Dził Yijiin Police District.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Law and Order 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 2 in favor and 0 oppose, this 30th day of April 2018.



Edmund Yazzie, Chairperson
Law and Order Committee
of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Second: Honorable Herman M. Daniels