



**NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
*OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Navajo Nation Hosts First Public Safety Summit in 15 Years**

WINDOW ROCK, NAVAJO NATION (AZ)—This past week the 2017 Navajo Nation Public Safety Summit took place at the Twin Arrows Casino on the Navajo Nation. Core public safety entities as well as supporting departments attended the conference. The Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services provided tremendous support for the event, including planning staff, conference space, and food and beverages.

Participants included the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Navajo Nation Police Department, Ramah Navajo Police Department, Navajo Nation Department of Corrections, Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, Navajo Nation Peacemaking, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, Office of the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation Office of Prosecutor & Juvenile Justice, Navajo Nation Office of Public Defenders, Navajo Nation Department of Social Services, Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Epidemiology Center, Navajo Nation Department of Natural Resources, Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology, and Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission.

The mission of the week-long summit was to ensure safety and protection for Navajo families and communities. On days 1 and 2, participants undertook philosophical exercise of Nitsáhákees (Thinking) by identifying the current crime and resource statistics on the Nation. On days 2 and 3, they participated in Nahat'á (Planning) as they attended presentations on public safety best practices in Indian country (including response, prevention, restorative justice, and victim services), that provided Sihasín (points of hope) for the team. The team also identified the modern monsters afflicting the Navajo people—such as addiction, violence, erosion of the family unit as the foundation for social health—that threaten the safety and security of Navajo families and communities. On days 3, 4 and 5 the team continued Nahat'á by identifying a clear vision (Sihasín) for the ideal Navajo Nation public safety system. They also developed a strategy for taking on the Nation's modern monsters, and created specific plans of action to meet their mission. Additionally, the departments committed to work together to maximize effectiveness, engage with the community and focus on the youth, communicate across districts, and fill all vacant positions as quickly as possible. Now the team will go forth to Iiná, bringing life to their hope by executing their specific plans of action.

Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Jesse Delmar, said “I feel that the

2017 Navajo Nation Public Safety Summit held at the Twin Arrows Casino this past week was quite a success. I was certainly encouraged by the large group who showed up from all relevant entities of our justice system with a sincere heart and attitude on improving the Navajo Nation Criminal Justice System. The hard work this group did is certainly a step forward in our mission on having better and a more efficient justice system for the Navajo people.”

Attorney General Ethel Branch stated, “It has been 16 years since this type of summit occurred. It has been a long time coming for this sort of collaborative and coordinated thinking, planning, and living process to take place. By drawing on the wisdom of our elders, who led us through incredible adversities and protected our people for the future, we have come together with a spirit of protection to leverage our collective strength and energy to slay these monsters that are tormenting our people. The level of crime cannot continue to rise in our communities. Our families deserve to be safe. Our team of dedicated and talented judges, peacemakers, officers, attorneys, service providers, and staff will focus our energy to bring that about for the Navajo people.”

Chief Prosecutor Gertrude Lee, who attended the entire summit, commented that “The summit was a positive work session. Our understanding of how we can improve the public safety system is more clear. The Office of the Prosecutor is excited to see how all the participating stakeholders respond to achieve our shared vision. The Office of the Prosecutor looks forward to accomplishing our primary goal of filling open positions.”

Ramah Chief of Police, Darren Soland, observed that “The Navajo Nation Public Safety Summit created a week long environment where conversation and collaboration amongst public safety departments and the courts brought about both short and long term vision and goals, where citizens and employees alike, will benefit from services to improve safety, quality of life, and preserve culture.”

Guests commented on how meaningful the event was, and especially loved the location. Guests caught breathtaking views of and drew strength from Doko’ooslííd, one of the mountains sacred to the Navajo people, as they entered the event space.

A document will be made available to the Navajo people in the next few weeks summarizing important content from the Summit.

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