



# Cibola County Sheriff's Office

*Sheriff Tony Mace*

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April 10, 2020

To: Officer in Charge  
Ramah Navajo Police Department

I know that we are all working toward the same goal of slowing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health and future of our communities. We must work together to accomplish this difficult task.

My office is aware of Navajo Nation Police Chief Francisco's 8pm-5am curfew order (#2020-004) and the intended stay at home order for April 10, 2020 at 8:00pm thru April 13, 2020 at 5:00am.

I recognize the right of the Navajo Nation and Ramah Navajo to limit access to reservation lands, more specifically interior reservation and reservation cities. However, State Road 53, State Road 36 and portions of private land with private inholdings are checkered through the Ramah Navajo Chapter area. Non-natives travelling from state jurisdiction land to state land or private inholding lands are permitted to travel for essential functions (groceries, livestock, food and agriculture production work etc.) by the New Mexico Governor and moreover the United States Constitution.

I ask that although the Nation has the right to civilly fine non-natives without arrest for the curfew violation that you refrain from doing so based on the understanding that, if travelling for essential business allowed by the New Mexico Governor, they are not in violation of orders from the government that has full jurisdiction to make such orders.

When I am asked by our non-native citizens about the effect of a civil fine from the Navajo Nation, which I'm already getting with phone calls of concern I will simply recommend they talk to their private attorney to explain the US Supreme Court "Oliphant" case.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Professionally,

Tony Mace  
Cibola County Sheriff  
President New Mexico Sheriffs Association  
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