



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
Office of the Speaker

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## Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton responds to Budget Cuts & Funding for Criminal Investigators

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PHOTO: Madam Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton addresses graduating class of Navajo Police Officers.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Madam Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) for the Law & Order Committee responded to line-item veto action by Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez cutting \$818,000 dollars from the Office of Criminal Investigations. Last week, similar concerns were shared by members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council on funding shortfalls impacting Navajo veteran services and potential cuts that would delay court cases that are processed by the Office of the Prosecutor.

“Our Navajo Criminal Investigators were short-changed by this line-item veto from President Nez. In order to address federal cases that are declined, this critical program must be funded completely and be given more. Currently, what is budgeted to Criminal Investigations is not enough to move cases forward,” said Madame Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton. “One cannot respond to criminal acts without detailed investigations to prosecute criminals in court. This is a mistake that offers minimum assistance to victims - many of whom are our Navajo women and children.”

The FY2022 Comprehensive Budget was signed into Navajo law yesterday allocating \$177 million in General Funds for the three branches of government. The 24th Navajo Nation Council passed the budget (Legislation No. 0182-21) with eight amendments by 18 in favor and 3 opposed, on September 10, 2021. The budget goes into effect immediately on October 1.

Members of the Diné Sáanii for Justice marched two weeks ago to the Navajo Nation Council Chambers to speak on the unfair treatment and violence experienced by Indigenous women. Concerns shared by community leaders addressed potential budget cuts to the Office of the Prosecutor, leading to a backlog in court cases being processed for victims and their families.

“Fund our public safety, police department, and the investigators. We need advocates to help families and survivors with their healing journey, and for them to be provided wrap-around services,” said Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tsé’á’náoozt’í’í, Sheepsprings, Beclabito, Gad’ii’áhí/Tó Ko’i) during the march.

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