



An informational presentation
to the
New Mexico Legislative Indian Affairs Committee

August 11, 2023

Gallup, New Mexico

In deference to the New Mexico legislative Indian Affairs Committee, thank you for inviting this update from the Navajo Code Talkers Museum.

I am Regan Hawthorne, my father was a Navajo Code Talker, and served the former Navajo Code Talker Association as both President and Vice-President. At the time of his death in 2018 Roy Hawthorne was counted among the remaining five Navajo Code Talkers. Today we are privileged to have three of these men yet with us. It is my honor to carry the mantle of their legacy as I serve as one of seven members on the Board of Directors for the Navajo Code Talkers Museum.

Since our introductory remarks and presentation to this Committee in July of last year we have seen challenge, progress, and opportunity. My mission today is two-fold; I am to provide a concise informational update for the Museum efforts, to validate the trust shown in the overall legislative confidence in financially endorsing a Navajo Code Talkers Museum, and I am to guarantee your confidence in me, and the Board of Directors, that we may continue on this mutually agreed upon vision.

The outline provided shall equip our conversation this morning.

CHALLENGE

- IGA #609-19-D2594; original award of \$1.05M
- Conflicts arising out of intra-agency oversight of funds; process,
 - ✓ Ownership issue; NM Constitution, Article IX, Section XIV
 - ✓ Previous contractual award; NDOT
- NCT(M) inclusive voice by previous Navajo Administration
 - ✓ Initially relegated to spectator
 - ✓ Identity crisis; dissolved NCTA, new NCTM
- Capacity and resource development
 - ✓ Corporate staff
 - ✓ Administrative presence

PROGRESS:

- Successful reauthorization of SB 365;
 - ✓ NM MVAC October 2022
 - ✓ Navajo Administration change; January 2023
 - ✓ Eighty percent expenditure deadline; December 2022
 - ✓ Fund Reversion date; June 2023
- Negotiating land contract with Navajo Nation; favors anti-donation restrictions.

- Engaged Project management team; JackRabbit, Ltd

OPPORTUNITY:

- HB 505
 - ✓ \$6.4 M additional investment
- Bureau of Reclamation ROW and gate valve construction
- Proposed land contract with Navajo EPA
- Preliminary negotiations with Blackstreak Holdings, Page, Arizona for Hotel/Conference Center
- Navajo Nation Administration vision

Presented in this narrative and discussion are observations and intentions necessary to the continued progress of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum. Through intergovernmental approaches and cooperation such historical and cultural institutions can be realized. The constituent-based partnership of the entire New Mexico legislative assembly benefits when initiatives are mutually planted and cultivated.

The Navajo Code Talkers Museum Board of Directors again extends gratitude to the New Mexico legislative assembly.