

**STATEMENT
OF
VAL R. PANTEAH, SR., GOVERNOR OF THE PUEBLO OF ZUNI
BEFORE THE
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE**

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017 – ZUNI, NM

Keshi, good morning and welcome to Zuni. I would like to thank Co-Chair, Senator John Pinto, Co-chair Clahchischilliage, and esteemed members of the Committee for allowing the Zuni Tribe to host this meeting. The Zuni people are honored and we hope the facility meets your needs. I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on our State Funded Projects and some of the other projects that we have going within our community.

As the Governor of the Zuni Tribe, our goal is to work with the State of New Mexico and the Indian Affairs Department to provide resources that will allow our people to succeed and provide for their families. Our people have endured many challenges to our language and culture, but with collaboration and prayer, we continue to practice our traditions and preserve our heritage. Through your assistance, we continue to realize projects that sustain these efforts.

One such project is the construction of our **New Zuni Senior Center**. This project was funded by the NM Aging and Long Term Services Department in the amount of \$2.6 million dollars. Our share in this project was over \$347,000. The new facility would replace the previous Senior Center due which was condemned due to structural and health concerns as a result of flooding. The immediate need for a replacement was supported by NM IAD and we are happy to announce that our elders will be moving into this new facility in the coming months.

The Pueblo of Zuni has established the **Zuni Veterans Memorial Park** to recognize Zuni Veterans and their families. This park was established through funding from NM IAD and Capital Outlay funding in the amount of \$250,000. The Zuni Veterans Memorial Park is a unique memorial park with monuments that represents the values, cultural, traditions, and

acknowledges all Zuni Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, especially those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. Phase I was completed by the end of September 2016 with an additional two phases to develop the area for Zuni Veterans.

For economic development, Zuni continues to develop an area set aside as the **Zuni Commercial Development Area**. NM IAD through the Tribal Infrastructure Fund provided \$1.4 million, NM Environmental Department provided \$370,000, and the pueblo provided a \$100,000 match. The Zuni Commercial Development Area Infrastructure Improvements, Water and Wastewater Improvements was separated into phases due to funding outlays. **Phase 1** included the construction of close to 20,000 linear feet of pipe and all associated work to extend the water line from the existing elevated storage tank at Black Rock, along Zuni Route 25 to just east of Zuni Route 4. Phase 1 construction was completed in July of 2016. **Phase 2** is funded by NM IAD through TIF funds in the amount of over \$1.6 million with a tribal match of \$150,000. Phase 2 will complete the water system with the construction of the remainder of a transmission line to the ground storage tank, construction of the booster station, and the completion of the distribution lines within the Zuni Commercial Development Area. The water system will be functional with the completion of Phase 2, tentatively scheduled for fall of 2017.

The new construction of the **Zuni Teen and Family Wellness Center** Ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for September 12, 2017. NM IAD through TIF funds supported the construction with over \$1.1 million with an additional tribal match of \$504,944.00. The Zuni Teen Health Center continues to expand its services to address the needs of our youth and their families. The Zuni Teen and Family Wellness Center is the culmination of a 5-year strategic plan organized by the Pueblo of Zuni and the community.

The **Zuni MainStreet Project** is the only MainStreet program designated and implemented on Federal Indian land. The following is a list of the programs accomplishments.

- Zuni Pueblo MainStreet is designated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit program.
- The Program hired Mr. Wells Mahkee, Jr. as a full-time executive director, Executive Director. He is currently going through the necessary trainings and compliance

requirements for state accreditation for both the Executive Director and the Mainstreet organization. Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet is currently designated as a NM MainStreet/Main Street America "Affiliate" organization.

- Zuni Mainstreet developed a partnership with the University of New Mexico, Indigenous Design and Planning Institute (iD+Pi) on a \$200,000 ArtPlace America Grant for the development of an economic strategy, resources for Zuni artisans and professional and technical resources to Zuni Pueblo MainStreet.
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet worked in partnership with iD+Pi and Fall CAPSTONE studio class (law students) to revise/update business and taxation codes along with a proposed HEARTH Act legislation for Zuni Pueblo.
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet held the annual MainStreet Festival event on May 6-7, 2017. Event included over 120 vendors and included an art competition where over \$2,000 in prize money was awarded. New Zuni Pueblo MainStreet logo was also revealed at this time.
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet ArtWalk project debut planned for October 14th, 2017 at the Visitor Centers Fall Festival. The ArtWalk will include a group of Zuni artists who have volunteered to open their homes to tourists for demonstrations and increase their market presence.
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet establishment of a regional partnership with Gallup and Grants MainStreet and tourism programs for regional cross-promotion and collaborative marketing to increase advertising and economic impact.
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet established a local partnership with the Pueblo of Zuni and the state Mainstreet organization through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet established a partnership with local/area partners, tribal programs and businesses to catalog businesses, tribal programs and other services in the Zuni Community.
- Stipend payouts to Zuni artists who regularly contribute input and attend training sessions as part of the ArtPlace America grant project.
- Zuni Pueblo MainStreet developed online Zuni artist contact database.
- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet assisted artists with business, tax and marketing training to become better entrepreneurs.

- Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet has developed the first Keep America Beautiful Affiliate Program on Federal Indian land in partnership with Zuni Environmental Protection Program.

In closing, the office of the Governor, the Zuni Tribal Council, our programs and partners are dedicated to improving the lives of our community members, Zuni and non-Zuni alike. Centers such as the Senior and Teen Center are social structures that improve the lives of our elders and youth. By providing support services for our elders and youth, we will continue to preserve our heritage, our language, and our way of life. By providing economic opportunities, we will provide our people the chance to support and sustain their families with expanding career and business opportunities currently found off the reservation.

We are thankful and encouraged by the support of the State of New Mexico and the Indian Affairs Department in these endeavors. We will continue to collaborate with NM IAD and other departments to work on a greater New Mexico. Elahkwa!