23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2016

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Media Advisory: Interim delegate to be sworn-in

WINDOW ROCK – On Aug. 31, 2016, Peterson B. Yazzie is scheduled to be sworn-in to serve on an interim basis as a member of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, representing the communities of Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, and Bahastl'a'a'.

Yazzie will temporarily fill the vacated seat of former delegate Mel R. Begay, who was removed from office in April. On June 28, the five chapters held a special election to determine who would fill the position. However, the results of the election have since been challenged, which has prevented a new delegate from being sworn-in to serve the rest of the remaining four-year term.

In accordance with provisions outlined in the Navajo Election Code, Speaker LoRenzo Bates submitted a letter to the Navajo Election Administration on Aug. 26, officially appointing Yazzie to serve in the interim role of delegate until the June 28 election grievance is resolved.

The Navajo Election Code states the following in regards to interim appointments to Council:

"Whenever there is a vacancy in a Council Delegate position during the first half of the term of Office, at the request of the affected Chapter or Chapters within a precinct, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council may select and appoint an interim Delegate from the precinct until the vacancy is filled by special election and the new Delegate takes office. Prior to appointment by the Speaker, the qualifications of the individual recommended shall be reviewed by the Navajo Election Administration and the individual shall be certified only if he or she is qualified."

WHO: Peterson B. Yazzie and current members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council including Speaker LoRenzo Bates. The oath of office will be administered by Judge Genevieve V. Benally.

WHAT: Swearing-in ceremony for Peterson B. Yazzie, who will serve as an interim member of the Navajo Nation Council to represent the communities of Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, and Bahastl'a'a'.

WHERE: Navajo Nation Council Chamber, 100 Parkway, Window Rock, Arizona, 86515

WHEN: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. (local time)

QUESTIONS: Jared Touchin, (928) 221-9253 or nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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