



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Navajo Nation Council shares condolences with the victims and families of the Aztec High School shooting**

**AZTEC, N.M.** – Members of the Navajo Nation Council offered condolences to the victims and families of a school shooting that occurred on Thursday morning at Aztec High School in Aztec, N.M., a community that is located approximately 20-miles from the northeastern portion of the Navajo Nation. According to local authorities, two high school students and the alleged shooter died as a result of the incident.

“It is very unfortunate that school shootings have become more common across our country, but today’s shooting hits closer to home,” said Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland). “The Navajo Nation Council offers our thoughts and prayers to all of those affected by this tragedy.”

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi’i’áhi/To’Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnaóz’t’l’í) stated that two of her children, who attend a separate school in the region, were among the many students who were placed on lockdown as the situation unfolded.

“As parents in these uncertain times, our worst nightmare is to receive news of an active shooter at our children’s school. The helplessness we feel in not being able to protect our children is frustrating. We entrust our children to public schools with the expectation of safety and protection, and this pattern of senseless violence has become a serious concern that we must begin to address,” Delegate Crotty stated.

She also shared her concerns for other Navajo parents and families that have children who attend Aztec High School, where many Navajo students reside in a nearby dormitory.

“My heart is with those families who are affected by this preventable tragedy, and my appreciation goes out to the local authorities. As public officials and community leaders, we are here for you all,” added Delegate Crotty.

Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock), who represents the nearby community of Shiprock and spent over 20 years teaching and coaching at several local schools, said he is very saddened by the school shooting and grieves for the families.

“As a former educator and a parent, I sympathize with the families, students, school administrators, and first responders who are enduring such heartache at this time. Together, we must remain strong through our prayers to help our young people get through this tragic situation,” said Delegate Chee.

Speaker Bates said he is thankful to Albuquerque Public Schools representatives for their support and for offering their resources, which includes crisis counseling, to the community. He added that the Council will remain vigilant and keep the victims in their prayers as the situation unfolds.

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