



OFFICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation Human Rights Commissioner to Sit on Interview Team that will hire the next Farmington Chief of Police

ST. MICHAELS, A.Z. – In their continued efforts to address and improve race relations between Navajos and non-Navajos, the City of Farmington and Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC) agreed to have Navajo Nation Human Rights Commissioner Frank Bradley III, a former police officer, sit on the interviewing team that will select the next Chief of Police for the City of Farmington.

The NNHRC proposed the idea to Farmington's Assistant City Manager, Bob Campbell, to consider Commissioner Bradley, who is a retired police officer of 24 years and served the communities of the Navajo Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Hualapai Tribe and Apache County Sheriff Office, be on the interviewing team.

Applicants for the next police chief include current police chiefs of smaller police departments across the country and high-ranking officers from larger police departments such as Chicago and Denver, federal agents, National Security Agency and military personnel, and employees of businesses that have contracted for national security work overseas.

Campbell believes the police chief selection process is a perfect opportunity for the Navajo Nation and the City of Farmington to work collaboratively.

“We look to the Navajo Nation as part of our greater community. We appreciate the Navajo Nation's willingness to participate in this selection process. We value and respect their input into this decision that has an effect on all of us,” Campbell said.

The City of Farmington and NNHRC have been committed to building a better partnership by strengthening communication and coordinating services that promote healthy, positive community relations, as agreed upon in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Farmington Mayor Tommy Roberts and former-NNHRC Chairperson Duane H. Yazzie on November 17, 2010.

The MOU states, “the Navajo Nation and [City of Farmington] are neighbors and that they rely on each other for many goods and services including the treasures of Navajo culture and the economic benefit that are realized by the collective communities.”

The NNHRC Executive Director Leonard Gorman thinks being involved at the point of engagement with interviewing and selecting a staff in a prominent position is the seed of creating the best working relationship for the city and Navajo Nation.

“The input from the NNHRC, as an invited participant on the interviewing team, represents the commitment to communication between the city and Navajo Nation. The NNHRC represents the realization that there is uniqueness when interfacing with the Navajo people and the border towns need to understand that interface,” said Gorman.

Farmington is one of seven border town communities surrounding the Navajo Nation to have signed a MOU and committed to improving race relations between Navajos and non-Navajos.

The City of Farmington plans to start interviewing qualified candidates for the new police chief Thursday, January 9, 2014. For more information please contact Bob Campbell, assistant city manager, at (505) 599-1100 or Leonard Gorman, executive director, at (928) 871-7436.

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