

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Supporting and Authorizing the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to Continue to provide Administrative Support to the Former Navajo Nation Human Rights Commissioner Steven A. Darden to Complete the Luce Foundation Fellowship when Studying Dine Traditional Burial

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §920 and §921, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) is established within the Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation government to operate as a clearinghouse to address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation; and to interface with the local, state, federal governments and with national and international human rights organizations in accordance with the Commission’s plan of operation and applicable laws and regulations of the Navajo Nation; and
2. With the support of the Commission in 2021, Commissioner Steven A. Darden was awarded the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship to support the Commission’s written report entitled “Mortuary Services and Funeral Planning: Advocating for the Return of Navajo Traditional Burial.” Commissioner Darden conducted numerous interviews with Navajo individuals that have knowledge of Dine traditional burial on the Navajo Nation. However, the fellowship was interrupted by the pandemic in 2021 and 2022. Henry Luce Foundation extended Commissioner Darden’s fellowship for two more years starting in December 2024; and
3. The Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship complements the work of the Commission to preserve the Dine traditional burial practices. In Resolution NNHRCOCT-12-22, the Commission noted that “[e]very Navajo citizen has the human right to be informed and knowledgeable about respect and proper practice to prepare for the end of life based up on the teachings of our ancestors.”; and
4. The Commission believes that it is important to continue the work that was started in 2021 and see to it that the study afforded Commissioner Darden is fulfilled.

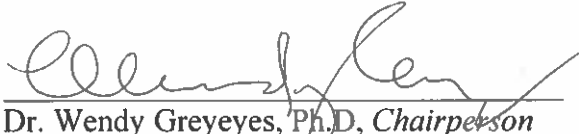
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission hereby supports and authorizing the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to provide the necessary administrative support such as arranging meetings, locating experts, and media support to the completion the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship awarded to former Commissioner Steven A. Darden.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission as a duly called meeting at St. Michaels Navajo Nation (AZ), at

which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of ___ in favor and ___ opposed, this ___th day of November 2024.



Dr. Wendy Greeyes, Ph.D, *Chairperson*
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission