


**BEFORE THE ETHICS AND RULES COMMITTEE
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

The Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office,)	
<i>Ex Rel.</i> , Corraine Johnson,)	
Complainant,)	No. <u>C-01-2007</u>
)	
vs.)	
)	
John N. Begay,)	ORDER
)	
Respondent.)	

The Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office on September 13, 2007 filed an ethics complaint against Mr. John N. Begay, Chapter President of the White Rock Chapter (Eastern Navajo Agency).

The complaint, filed pursuant to the Navajo Nation *Ethics in Government Law*, charged Mr. Begay, the Respondent, with violating *Conflict of Interest* and *Anti-Nepotism* provisions of the code. 2 N.N.C. §§3745(A)&(B) and 3755, respectively. Provisions of the Navajo *Local Governance Act* (26 N.N.C. §§1001 and 2003 were further cited in the complaint filed.

Concerning the complaint against the Respondent, the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council convened a hearing on October 29, 2007 in Window Rock, Navajo Nation. Both parties appeared, with the Navajo Nation represented by Ethics and Rules Office and the Respondent appearing *pro se*, although assisted by an interpreter of his choosing. Witnesses testified on behalf of each party and documents were submitted, and accepted, as evidence.

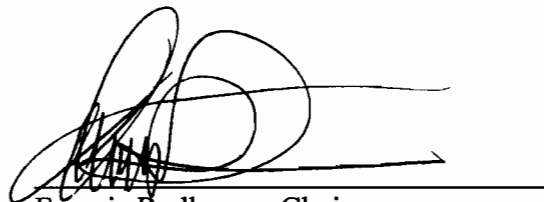
Upon consideration of evidence presented, the Ethics and Rules Committee holds that:

1. The case presented was unclear as to the Respondent's role as to the charges filed, *i.e.*, *nepotism* and *conflict of interest*.
2. The Respondent's role is unclear as to his role in the allegations of illegal hiring.

3. Concerning the *conflict of interest* allegations, the facts are unclear as to the elements of *personal benefit* by the Respondent.
4. Finally, adding to the uncertainty, the Ethics and Rules Office suggested in its arguments that the responsible party was the Community Services Coordinator.

Based on a motion to dismiss the complaint, a second and a Committee vote of 5 in favor and none opposing, the complaint filed against the Respondent is hereby DISMISSED.

SO ORDERED this 29th day of October, 2007.

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Francis Redhouse, Chairman
Ethics and Rules Committee
Navajo Nation Council