



25th Navajo Nation Council

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 3, 2024**

### **Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty joins community rally calling for justice and accountability at Tuba City Boarding School**



**Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty speaks to rally attendees about MMDR's commitment to child safety.**

**TUBA CITY, Ariz.** – Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty joined concerned community members at a rally that was held in response to the alleged inappropriate behavior of a Tuba City Boarding School teacher.

The rally took place at the Tuba City Police Department parking lot on Sept. 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, which recognizes the atrocious impacts that residential boarding schools have had on Indigenous People.

Chair Crotty delivered a speech, demanding systemic reform and support for the affected students and families.

“We cannot allow our children to continue being silenced or harmed within institutions meant to protect them,” Crotty stated. “The safety of our children is our top priority, and those responsible must be held accountable for their actions—or their inaction.”

The rally was organized in response to a recent alarming incident reported by students who also recorded video evidence of inappropriate sexual behavior by a teacher. Although the teacher was apprehended, parents and community members were outraged by the school administration’s slow response and lack of communication.

During her speech, Chair Crotty expressed deep concern for the students impacted by the incident and called for swift accountability. She scrutinized the school's delayed response and emphasized the need for transparency and stronger protections within educational institutions.

The incident at the Tuba City Boarding School reinforces the broader historical trauma experienced by Diné people in boarding schools. Crotty highlighted the systemic violence and abuse that has been normalized in these institutions and its impact on generations of Diné families.

"This is not an isolated incident," Chair Crotty emphasized. "The violence and silencing of victims, particularly within boarding schools, have been part of our history for far too long. We must break this cycle."

The rally concluded with several clear demands from community members addressing accountability, mental health support, and student protection.

Parents and leaders demanded immediate answers from the school administration regarding its slow response and failure to notify families. They called for the prosecution of those who neglected their duties as mandatory reporters.

The community urged the provision of trauma-informed mental health resources for affected students and their families. They specifically requested behavioral health counselors to offer ongoing support.

Attendees stressed the need for comprehensive safety plans for students, along with transparent communication between the school and parents to prevent future incidents.

Sergeant Roland Dash of the Navajo Nation Police Department provided an update on the investigation, confirming FBI involvement. However, no arrests had been made at the time of the rally.

Delegate Crotty reassured the community that the Navajo Nation would not tolerate further harm to our children. Rally participants reaffirmed their commitment to advocating for justice and preventing future harm to their children.

"Today, we stand together for justice and healing," Crotty concluded. "Our children deserve to feel safe, and we will not stop until every child in our community is protected."

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