

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE  
SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENT OF MR. STEVEN A. DARDEN TO FILL THE FOUR-  
YEAR MANDATED BUSINESS EXPERIENCE POSITION ON THE NAVAJO NATION  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 700.
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has the authority to approve appointments by the Speaker to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. 2 N.N.C. § 922 (A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC) members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and confirmed by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 922 (A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission shall consist of five commissioners with reputable and established backgrounds in the fields of education, business, law enforcement, and social services. 2 N.N.C. § 922 (A).
- C. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commissioners shall serve for a four-year term pursuant to the NNHRC Plan of Operation, as approved by *CJN-15-08*. When a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council appoints a new qualified member to serve the remainder of the term vacated. *Id.*, at section IV-B, *Organization/Term of Office*.
- D. Mr. Steven A. Darden, fulfills the requirements for appointment to fill the vacancy existing for the business experience position on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. See **Exhibit A**. The Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, has appointed Mr. Darden, to fill the vacant position. See **Exhibit B**

E. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation that Mr. Steven A. Darden be appointed to the vacant business experience position on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

**SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION**

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms the appointment of Mr. Steven A. Darden to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. He shall fill the business experience position on the Commission for the four-year term.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 22 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.



Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

10.20.2020  
Date

Motion: Honorable Pernell Halona  
Second: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

Steven A. Darden



Flagstaff, AZ 86004; Phone (928) .

; Email: stevenadarden8@g

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Speaker Seth Damon  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

432 Quar 15



Ya'at'eeh Honorable Speaker Damon,

Please accept this correspondence as I formally and respectfully submit my *Letter of Interest* to be reappointed to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission as the *Business Sector* representative. I still own and operate my business – S.A.D. Enterprises in Flagstaff. I will be completing my third term ending July 31, 2020. Attached is an updated copy of my resume.

There is a strong need for continuity in the composition of this Commission. I have served as Vice-Chair of this Commission the last four years. As you are aware, we as the Commission have accomplished much for our Dine' people, and we could not have accomplished this without your continuing support Sir, and the support of the Navajo Nation Council.

I look forward to continue working with you and the Council on matters relating to our Dine people, our K'e.

Respectfully,

Steven A. Darden

CC: File

Enclosure: Resume

# STEVEN A. DARDEN



Home 928/ ; Cell 928/  
stevenadarden8@gmail.com

## SUMMARY

Own/operate SAD Enterprises for the past 25 years. Served the past 12 years on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. Fifty years of experience in program administration/management. Experience entails work in public non-profit, tribal, municipal, education, and private for-profit sectors. Strong communications skills, bilingual in Navajo and English. Extensive public speaking, training, and consulting experience in diverse environments and communities both on-reservation and in metropolitan areas.

## EXPERIENCE

**02/95-Present: Owner, SAD Enterprises - operate three home-based businesses:**

1. *Success And Directions Consulting*: speaking and training-provide keynote, motivational and workshop presentations at numerous local, regional, national conferences, and graduations, and summits.

*Traditional and Spiritual Counseling*: provide traditionally based counseling and facilitate Dine' and NAC ceremonies and prayers.

2. *Heart of the Earth Properties*: build, purchase and renovate properties for conversion to rental properties, provide maintenance for the same.

3. *IDEAS*: create and sell various Native American fine arts and crafts for 46 years.

03/15/16-12/31/16 Traditional Healer, Native Americans for Community Action, Inc., Flagstaff, AZ Facilitated Talking Circles for Behavioral Health clients going through the DUI Drug Court.

10/11-02/12 Traditional Healer, Adolescent Care Unit, Ft. Defiance Indian Health Board, Inc. Note: this was a temporary "Emergency Assignment".

7/92-2/96: Executive Director, Northwest New Mexico Fighting Back, Inc., Gallup, NM. Oversaw the implementation of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded \$3 million, five year project. The mission was to reduce the demand for alcohol and other substances in the tri-county area in northwest NM. Garnered additional \$600,000+ in funding from tribal, state and private sources. Obtained the 501c-3 status, supervised a staff of nine, and three county area sub-offices. Provided numerous presentations to tribal, faith-based, educational, government and other non-profit entities in the region and nationally. Secured new legislation regarding the NM liquor industry, developed partnerships, and created interdependent and win/win/win interagency agreements (MOUs).

3/89-7/92: Associate, the Babb Group, Flagstaff, AZ. Provided various life insurance and financial planning products and employee benefits package to individuals and organizations. Elected President, 1990 Mass. Mutual Career School. 1991 Mass. Mutual Leadership Conference participant, an honor reserved for the top producers in the industry.

1/90-9/90: Magistrate Pro-tempore, Flagstaff, AZ. Presided over civil traffic hearings-arraignments, initial appearances, and jury trials. Special training at the National Judicial College in Reno, NV

8/83-5/84 and 1/87-5/88: Adjunct Faculty, Navajo Community College, off-campus-Flagstaff and Tuba City, AZ. Taught Navajo Tribal Government and Native American Music and Dance courses.

4/86-2/89: Support Services Director/School Board Liaison/Cultural Enrichment Coordinator, Tuba City High School Board, Inc., Tuba City, AZ. Supervised staff of 24 including the Food Services and Personnel Departments. Oversaw \$490,000 budget. Established student run enterprises-hotel and fast food operations. Provided Navajo cultural and educational activities for the students and staff. Provided training and interpretation services for the school board. Secured two Dine' foster grandparents to work with the students. Represented the school at chapter meetings, meetings with the BIA, AZ state educational agents, and assisted the superintendent, and attorney with budget negotiations.

12/79-2/86 Executive Director, Fiscal Officer, Youth Program Director, Native Americans for Community Action, Inc. Flagstaff, AZ. Supervised staff of 27 including various Program Directors. Oversaw budget of \$1.2 million, wrote grant applications and prepared reports. Tribal Economic Development Grant Proposals Reviewer for Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

4/84-4/88 Councilman, City of Flagstaff, AZ. First Native American to seek and be elected to the Council. Oversaw/approved annual municipal budget, supervised city manager, and city attorney, and commissions.

**EDUCATION**

94-96: Graduate, Mastery University, Robbins Research International, San Diego, CA  
5/80: BSBA-Creative Arts Management, Dual Majors in Business Administration-Management and Cultural Anthropology  
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

06/08-present: Commissioner, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, Chair, 2012-2016, Vice-Chair 2017-2020  
10/17-present: American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Elders Council  
98/00: Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, National Cultural Committee  
94-96: Dine' Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, President, Policy Steering Committee  
89-94: Navajo Way, Inc. Board President, Treasurer, Campaign Co-chair  
88-94: AZ Resource Center for the Humanities, Speakers Bureau  
91-92: Coconino County JTPA Private Industry Council  
87-92: AZ Board of Education, Indian Education Advisory Committee  
85-88: Northern AZ Hospice Advisory Board  
84-86: Office of Navajo Urban Affairs Advisory Board  
82-86: Affiliation of AZ Indian Centers, Inc. Board President  
83-86: Flagstaff Schools, Academic Curriculum Development Committee  
85-86: Coconino Center for the Arts, Advisory Board  
85-86: NAU Minority Biological Sciences Advisory Board  
82-85: Flagstaff Prime Housing Authority Advisory Board  
82-84: National Urban Indian Council, Region 9 Representative

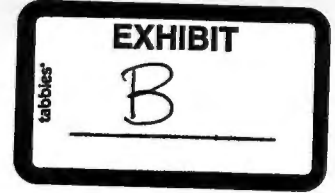


**HONORS/AWARDS**

2000 National Native American Hall of Fame  
1995 Indian Child Welfare Act Conference Award  
1994 Save the Children Ambassador of the Year Award  
1993 Navajo Area HIS "Community Education" Award  
1992 Eli "Bojack" Blackfeather Foundation "Humanitarian of the Year" Award  
1985 Coconino County Sheriff's Award of Merit  
1984 NAU Indian Honor Society, Honorary Membership  
1984 NAU AISES Honorary Membership  
1984 "Outstanding Young Men of America" Award  
1978 Museum of Northern AZ Summer Internship  
1985 AZ State University School of Social Work "Centennial Community Leadership" Award

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request



# 24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**HONORABLE SETH DAMON**  
*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

September 8, 2020

Steven A. Darden,

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

**RE: NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Dear Mr. Darden,

It is my sincere honor to notify you of your selection for appointment to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission ("NNHRC") representing the Business Sector. Your appointment is subject to confirmation by the Naabik'iyáti Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commissioners shall serve a four-year term pursuant to the NNHRC Plan of Operation.

In the materials you submitted for consideration and in your interview, you conveyed a deep sense of purpose for your work and your expertise to qualify for the business commissioner position. We believe that your skills and experience will be an ideal fit to meet the needs of the organization. We would like to thank you for your interest and leadership. We are certain you will become a strong asset to the NNHRC.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso (928) 871-7160 | [lrts@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:lrts@navajo-nsn.gov).

Best regards,

Seth Damon, Speaker  
**24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Office of the Speaker • Post Office Box 3390 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515 • Ph: (928) 871-7160 • Fax: (928) 871-7255

NAVAJO NATION

708

10/16/2020

Naabikiyati Committee Special Meeting

02:43:37 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0245-20: Confirming	PASSED
MOT Halona, P	the Speaker's Appointment for	
SEC Yellowhair	Mr. Steven A. Darden to Fill the	
	Unexpired Term for the....	

**Yeas : 22      Nays : 0      Excused : 0      Not Voting : 1**

**Yea : 22**

Begay, E	Freeland, M	Smith	Tso, O
Begay, K	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Walker, T
Begay, P	Henio, J	Tso, C	Wauneka, E
Charles-Newton	James, V	Tso, D	Yazzie
Crotty	Nez, R	Tso, E	Yellowhair
Daniels	Slater, C		

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 1**

Brown

**Presiding Speaker: Damon**