



**NAVAJO NATION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN A JUNE 5, 2023
 ALTERCATION DURING A LEUPP CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING;
 INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING**

LEUPP, NAVAJO NATION (AZ), 07/21/2023 – Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch and Navajo Nation Chief Prosecutor Vernon L. Jackson, Sr., announced today that criminal charges have been filed against three individuals involved in a physical altercation that occurred on June 5, 2023, at the Leupp Chapter House in Leupp, Navajo Nation (Arizona). On that day, Navajo Nation police officers responded to the Chapter House after it was reported that individuals involved in a Planning Meeting were “losing control of themselves.” The criminal charges filed in the Dilkon District Court are as follows:

VIOLET WHITE		
Charge	Citation	Law
Battery	17 NNC § 316A	Criminal Code
Unlawful Imprisonment	17 NNC § 311A	Criminal Code
CARLOTTA WHITE		
Charge	Citation	Law
Tampering with Evidence	17 NNC § 476A2	Criminal Code
Battery	17 NNC § 316A	Criminal Code
Disorderly Conduct	17 NNC § 483A1	Criminal Code
MARJORIE SANGSTER		
Charge	Citation	Law
Disorderly Conduct	17 NNC § 483A1	Criminal Code
Conduct in Conformity with Applicable Rules and Laws	2 NNC § 3744	Ethics in Government Code

“It is imperative that the public understand that public safety is a top priority for this Administration and that we will hold individuals accountable for misconduct in our public spaces

where our elders and families convene and expect to be able to engage in a civil manner in a safe space” said Attorney General Ethel Branch.

Chief Prosecutor Jackson added, “Violence at official meetings involving Navajo chapter government offices will not be tolerated, and persons committing violence will be prosecuted. The Navajo people should feel safe when participating in government-sponsored public meetings at their local Chapter House.”

The Navajo Police out of Dilkon Police District is handling the investigation. The Office of the Prosecutor in Dilkon is handling the prosecution. The Attorney General and Chief Prosecutor extend their appreciation to the Navajo Police officers and Emergency Medical Services personnel who responded to this incident.

The filing of criminal charges is an allegation of criminal conduct, not evidence. An individual is presumed innocent until evidence is presented to a court that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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