

NORTHEASTERN ARIZONA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION



March 9th, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northeastern Arizona Fire Chief's Association (NAFCA) represents all fire agencies in Navajo and Apache Counties. These fire agencies range from small combination type organizations to fulltime all hazard organizations. Each agency values and places an extremely high importance on training. Training resources are limited in the region primarily due to funding constraints.

The Northeast Arizona Training Center (NATC) is an integral asset to region. NATC serves as the only regional training center in Navajo and Apache counties. Many of the fire and police agencies throughout both counties utilized and depend on the center to be fully functioning to ensure the various training requirements can be accomplished.

The benefit of having access to a regional training center has a direct financial impact. Several of the NAFCA partnered agencies have utilized NATC for their recruit training programs. Having access to NATC has provided the ability to reduce travel and overtime expenses. The cost to all agencies would be much greater without NATC serving the regional need.

The training opportunities that NATC has and will continue to provide has greatly improved the skills necessary to serve the residents and visitors of Navajo and Apache Counties.

NAFCA is in full support of the \$2.6 million dollar appropriations requested made by NATC. The funding is necessary to complete the next phase (additional classrooms and expansion of existing training buildings) of the overall master plan for the training center.

Thank you for your consideration on this critical regional need.

Sincerely,

Randy Chevalier
President
Northeastern Arizona Fire Chief's Association

Northern Arizona Police Association



March 9, 2023

Senator Kyrsten Sinema
3333 E Camelback Rd, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Senator Sinema:

As President of the Northeast Arizona Police Association (NAPA), I write this letter on behalf of police and county sheriff offices from Apache and Navajo Counties. These agencies provide law enforcement and serve as public safety answering points to approximately 180,000 Apache and Navajo Counties citizens.

This letter is being provided to support the Northeast Arizona Training Centers (NATC) application for the USDA Rural Development- Community Facilities Grant.

NATC is a regional training facility that benefits the first responder community, both Fire and Police. All agencies in Navajo County and Apache County participate in the benefits of the training facility and provide instructors and staff for its operations. Agencies in our two Counties depend on the training facility for most of our recruits, along with the Hopi and White Mountain Apache tribes. NATC provides excellent, dependable training for our new fire and police recruits at a lower cost than sending them to the Phoenix area academies.

NATC needs upgrades and expansions for new classrooms as the academy continues to increase in demands from surrounding agencies.

If you have questions or would like to schedule a meeting with our Association, please do not hesitate to contact me at KArend@winslowaz.gov.

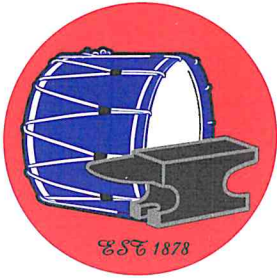
Respectfully,



Chief Kenneth W. Arend
Winslow Police Department
President of the Northern Arizona Police Association

On behalf of the following Agencies of the Northern Arizona Police Association

Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department
Show Low Police Department
White Mountain Apache Tribal Police
Navajo County Sheriff's Office
Apache County Sheriff's Office
St. Johns Police Department
Eager Police Department
Snowflake-Taylor Police Department
Springerville Police Department
Holbrook Police Department
Winslow Police Department



Town of Taylor

PO Box 158, 425 W. Papermill RD
Taylor Arizona 85939
Phone (928) 536-7366 fax (928) 536-7027
www.tayloraz.org

March 10, 2023

Senator Mark Kelly
2201 E. Camelback Rd. Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Senator Kelly:

I am writing this letter to express my support for a critical capital improvement project at the NATC facility in Taylor, Arizona. The Town of Taylor was one of the principal partners in the creation of the facility, and we are proud of what the organization has grown to become and honored that it resides in our Town.

I fully support the proposed build-out of the existing classroom facility, from 3,925 square feet to 9,789 square feet, with the understanding that the 5,864 square-foot addition will include administrative space, new centralized classrooms and staff offices, as well as resources for recruits from partner NATC public service agencies who are living on site, such as kitchen services, break room, and shower facilities.

This project is part of the master facilities plan, which was developed and approved by the NATC board and partners in 2020. Completion of the master facilities plan is crucial to meeting our current public safety training needs, and to building capacity for all NATC members. Since the plan was approved, construction costs have skyrocketed, making its completion prohibitively expensive.

Our own municipal public safety departments participate in the programs offered at NATC. Were it not for this facility in our own back yard, we would need to send recruits and working professionals over 200 miles away for education and training at great expense police and fire department budgets which are solely funded from our Town's general fund. This project is warranted and much needed to continue to help small towns like ours around our region.

Respectfully,

Shawn Palmer
Mayor



Northland Pioneer College

March 10, 2023

Senator Mark Kelly
2201 E. Camelback Rd. Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Senator Kelly:

In January when you spoke with the group from Arizona attending the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) I appreciated your commitment to both public safety and rural Arizona. As President of the Northland Pioneer College (NPC) I am writing to express my support for a critical capital improvement project at the Northeast Arizona Training Center (NATC) facility in Taylor that meets public safety needs and is an economic driver in the poorest, most rural areas of Arizona. Through our partnership with NATC, NPC provides law enforcement, fire science, and other programs which support our communities, move students into living-wage jobs, and ensure the health and safety of the residents in the over 23,000 square miles NPC serves.

For far too long our future law enforcement officers, fire personnel and others have had to make do with facilities that are not up to the standards of their professions. Despite these challenges, we are the primary provider of safety and security professionals in this area of Arizona, serving everyone from local city law enforcement to members of law enforcement on the three tribal nations we serve, the Navajo, White Mountain Apache, and Hopi. Not only do we provide education for entry-level officers and professionals, we also provide ongoing training and educational opportunities, and departments use the NATC facility for their own training programs.

This expansion of the existing classroom facility, from 3,925 square feet to 9,789 square feet builds on an existing Facilities Master Plan and leverages significant recent investment by the State of Arizona and NPC. Partnering with our Construction Program, we constructed tiny homes that serve as barracks for recruits, and we recently constructed a new firearms training building. The 5,864 square-foot addition to the existing classroom facility will include administrative space, new centralized classrooms and staff offices, as well as resources for recruits from partner NATC public service agencies who are living on site, such as kitchen services, break room, and shower facilities.

This is a critical project for our community that is ready to go if we can secure the funding needed. We have a desperate need for these professionals and we also have a desperate need for living wage jobs in our region. Funding this project will meet both needs. I hope you will consider this in your many priorities.

For questions, please contact me at chato.hazelbaker@npc.edu and (928) 297-8267.

Sincerely,

Chato Hazelbaker, Ed.D
President
Northland Pioneer College

EXPANDING MINDS • TRANSFORMING LIVESSM

Navajo County Community College District • P.O. Box 610, Holbrook, AZ 86025-0610 • (800) 266-7845 • www.npc.edu