



PUEBLO OF ISLETA

P.O. BOX 1270
ISLETA, NM 87022

To: Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Membership

From: Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Council

Re: Governor Jiron and Juan Rey Abeita

Greetings All,

The Tribal Council has found it necessary to put a statement out to our Tribal Community to address the ongoing controversy with Governor Jiron's decision to remove Juan Rey Abeita as his second Lieutenant Governor. First and foremost, this action was wholly the decision of Governor Eugene Jiron and the Tribal Council did not have any part in the Governor's decision to remove his second lieutenant.

The Tribal Council Members have been receiving inquiries since the removal from Tribal Members as to why Mr. Abeita is not being provided "**Due Process**". The formal process for removal is detailed in the Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Constitution, Article VII – Removal and Recall, Section 2. *Any elected or appointed officer of the pueblo who, during the term for which he is elected or appointed, is found guilty of in any court of a misdemeanor involving misconduct reflecting on the dignity and integrity of the tribal government, or found guilty by the council of malfeasance in office, or gross neglect of duty, shall be removed or recalled from office in the following manner: The council shall present the accused elected or appointed officer with a written statement of the charges against him and, within ten (10) days thereafter, the council shall hold a hearing at which time the accused shall be provided an opportunity to appear and be heard in his own defense.*

As stated at the beginning, the Tribal Council did not have any part in the removal of Mr. Abeita and the Tribal Council has not taken any formal action against Mr. Abeita for his removal from his position as second lieutenant; the decision for his removal was solely the decision of the Governor elected by the People. The Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Constitution also details the Executive Office's Chain of Command in **Article IV – Executive Branch, Section 1**. The Executive Branch of the Pueblo of Isleta shall consist of the following named executive officers.

a) Governor b) First Lieutenant Governor c) Second Lieutenant Governor d) Sheriff e) Undersheriff.

Also detailed in Article IV – Executive Branch, Section 6. ***The first and second lieutenant governors shall function under the direction of the governor and shall assist him in the performance of his duties.***

Lastly, the removal of a Lieutenant Governor by the Governor elect has been done on at least two separate occasions in the past. The last removal having been done in 2014 when the second Lieutenant Governor was removed by the then Governor elect, without Tribal Council involvement and in which Mr. Juan Rey Abeita was a seated Councilman at the time.