

LOWER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY APPOINTS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR TO LEAD POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Veteran Tribal Police Officer Returns to Lower Sioux to Reshape Community Policing

The Lower Sioux Community Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Vince Merrick, Sr. to lead the Lower Sioux Indian Community Police Department. Merrick has over 30 years' experience in Tribal law enforcement, including 5 years as Chief of the Lower Sioux Police Department.

"We have no greater responsibility than providing a safe Community for our members and guests, and our Police Department must play a central role in fulfilling that obligation," said Lower Sioux Community President Robert Larsen. "Vince is committed to community policing, and his connection to this Community make him the right person to lead and reshape the department."

As Public Safety Director, Merrick will oversee the 12-member Tribal Police Department, which included a Chief of Police, Assistant Chief and eight licensed police officers.

"Returning to Lower Sioux is like coming home to a Community that I consider to be family and a region that my family and I remember fondly," said Merrick. "I have many personal and professional connections that I look forward to renewing. It's good to be back."

Merrick will oversee the process of reorganizing the Department with a goal of renewing a commitment to the Department's original mission of protecting Community members and guests under its jurisdiction, engaging Community members in its efforts and activities, and preserving the peace and protecting of life and property.

"I've been a cop serving Indian Country my whole career. It's in my blood," said Merrick. "I'm eager to work with the Community and the Police Department to reshape our law enforcement efforts with a stronger commitment to community policing and community engagement, and a focus on meeting Community members' needs and proactive crime prevention."

Merrick began his law enforcement career in 1974, working for his Tribe - the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska - for 14 years, becoming the Captain of Police. He served another 14 years as an officer of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as Chief of Police at Standing Rock, Winnebago, and Yankton Reservations. Merrick served as Chief of the Police at Lower Sioux from 2002-2007.