

CATAWBA NATION



TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT





the Catawba Nation

Office of Tribal Government

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Catawba Nation police officers can now enforce the law on Tribal Lands

ROCK HILL - The Catawba Nation is celebrating a historical day. On July 20, 2023, the Nation welcomed the York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO), York County Council, and citizens to the main government building on the Catawba Reservation in Rock Hill, South Carolina, to finalize an agreement between the tribe and the Sheriff's office that would allow the cross-deputization of three of the Catawba Nation Tribal Police Department officers, which would allow them to enforce York County and South Carolina law on tribal lands.

The partnership between York County was sealed with a signed agreement between Catawba Nation Chief William Harris, York County Sheriff Kevin Tolson, and York County Chairwoman Christi Cox. Following the signatures, the three Tribal Police officers were sworn in by Sheriff Tolson.

Catawba Nation Director of Public Safety and Tribal Police Department Chief, Shawn Butler, said it has been an incredible journey to get to this moment. "My team and I are proud to serve the community, and we want to build a safe environment for citizens and help them exercise their inherent right to sovereignty. And part of that is developing a justice system."

Sheriff Tolson said York County Sheriff's Office is excited to have a partnership with the Catawba Nation and the Tribal Police. "You [the Nation] have three of the finest police officers I know and I am excited to cross-deputize them. We [YCSO] are not leaving the reservation; we are going to work with the department and help them, and assist each other," Sheriff Tolson said. "We are excited about being able to do this. I am excited to see the Nation grow."

The formation of this Tribal Police Department has been a collective team effort and a dream in the making for several years that tribal leaders are happy to see come to fruition. Chief Harris said, it is a momentous moment on the timelines of this great Nation.

The **Catawba Nation** is the only federally recognized native Nation in South Carolina with trust lands in North and South Carolina. The Nation's government headquarters is located in Rock Hill, SC. The Nation has existed on its Aboriginal lands in the Piedmont area of NC, SC, and Virginia along the banks of the Catawba river since time immemorial with artifacts dating back at least 6,000 years. To learn more about the history, culture, and current government services of the Catawba Nation, please visit catawba.com.

