



the Catawba Nation

Office of Tribal Government

996 Avenue of the Nations • Rock Hill, SC 29730

p: (803) 366-4792 • f: (803) 327-4853 • e: info@catawba.com

Contact: Tylee Anderson

E: Tylee.Anderson@Catawba.Com

Catawba Nation Hosts Multi-Law Enforcement Agency Training

ROCK HILL, SC- This week, the Catawba Nation hosted a two-day training for law enforcement agencies and other supportive-service agencies to help build sustainable public safety partnerships with the tribe. This is the first training of its kind to help these agencies collaborate and understand the cultural dynamics of the Catawba Nation and its people.

Lydia Locklear, Catawba Nation Deputy Tribal Attorney, said that through the collaboration of the Catawba Nation's Legal Department and Tribal Police Department, the *Nation* made history this week by hosting this training for the first time.

"The training focused on Catawba law, history, and culture, restorative justice, missing or murdered Indigenous Peoples, and the importance of partnerships between the Nation and outside agencies," said Locklear. "This training has been a goal for years and to finally have North Carolina, South Carolina, local, and federal agencies in one room to learn about the importance of the Catawba community and the justice issues we face; as well as the importance of partnerships between agencies and the *Nation*, was a dream come true."

Locklear said the training was important because most outside agencies know very little about Indian tribes and the complexities of jurisdiction and policing in Indian Country, but yet still serve tribes such as Catawba with little to no knowledge of the community. "Through the relationships the Nation has built over the last several years, we were able to reach out to several agencies to inform them of the training, which was attended by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and York County Sheriff's Office to name a few," added Locklear.

Catawba Nation Executive Director of Public Safety, Shawn Butler, said "As Nelson Mandela said, "Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment."

Butler invited local, state, and federal partners to participate in the Catawba centric training opportunity to help build trust, understanding, and a collaborative spirit with the justice community, who all serve the Catawba citizens. "Building sustainable partnerships allows for long-term solutions tailored to the unique needs of our tribal community, addressing both immediate concerns and underlying challenges like addiction," said Butler.

The agencies that attended the training were the City of York Police Department, York County 911, York County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, United States Marshal's Service, South Carolina Highway Patrol, Kings Mountain Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Columbia Police Department, York County Department of Social Services, Rock Hill Police Department, and the United State Attorney's Office.

##