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## Tribal Police of Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi sign mutual law enforcement agreement with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office



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on August 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM, updated August 20, 2013 at 10:02 AM

### CALHOUN COUNTY, MI --

The Tribal Council of the [Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi](#) authorized an agreement late last week for cross-deputization between the NHBP Tribal Police and the [Calhoun County Sheriff's Office](#).

The agreement gives responding law enforcement officers legal jurisdiction to take action as situations warrant.

It is applicable to all [Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi](#) land, including the tribe's Pine Creek Reservation in Fulton (Athens Township in Calhoun County) and its [FireKeepers Casino Hotel](#) property in Battle Creek.



Calhoun County Undersheriff Timothy Hurtt, left, Calhoun County Sheriff Matthew Saxton, and NHBP Tribal Police Chief Duane Sprague, are sworn in at a cross-deputization ceremony Friday in Fulton.

*Courtesy Photo*

Tribal Chairman Homer A. Mandoka said the agreement allows sheriff's deputies to enforce laws on land the tribe has in federal trust and it allows tribal police to enforce laws on about 250 acres of land that the tribe owns -- that is state jurisdiction and not under federal trust -- in Athens Township, as well as another 50 acres of state jurisdiction land adjacent to the casino property.

Prior to the agreement, there was a legal question of who had enforcement powers. The agreement is intended to eliminate that question.

“Our community has been made safer though this cross-deputization agreement, which allows the Tribal Police to provide police service to all of our residents,” NHPB Chief Duane Sprague said in a press release. “My thanks go to Sheriff (Matthew) Saxton for the vision that he has shown and we look forward to a positive relationship with the Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office.”



Signing the mutual law-enforcement agreement, from left to right, are: Tribal Council Treasurer Christine Lanning, Vice Chairman Jamie Stuck, Calhoun County Sheriff Saxton, Tribal Chairman Homer A. Mandoka, NHPB Tribal Police Chief Duane Sprague, Tribal Council Secretary Dorie Rios, and Tribal Council Sergeant at Arms Tony Day.

*Courtesy Photo*

Immediately after the passage of the agreement, Saxton and Sprague administered oaths to counter-personnel, validating the cross-deputization authority.

“The Reservation is a part of Calhoun County and I know the Tribal Police Department has been moving for this agreement for quite some time,” Sheriff Saxton said in the release. “We look forward to working together for many years to come to protect and serve all the members of Calhoun County.”

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