

Cindy Pierce



Cindy Pierce worked with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff where she began her involvement working with tribal communities, focusing on community oriented policing. One of her last assignments, prior to retiring from the Sheriff's Department, was the Tribal Liaison Unit. Providing inter-departmental training was a prioritized objective for the Tribal Liaison Unit, along with facilitating educational orientations for the tribal communities that focused. While working with this team, Cindy helped develop an eight hour block of instruction that was submitted to, and approved by the California Peace Officer Training and Standards Commission (P.O.S.T.), a curriculum in which she is a P.O.S.T. certified trainer. Working in the Tribal Liaison Unit provided many opportunities to interact with tribal communities and their governments. Cindy has additionally served as a trainer with the Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc. and consulted for the Western Oregon University — Western Community Policing Institute.

Cindy co-authored a resource guide specifically targeted to tribal and non-tribal public safety and service providers, "*A User-friendly PL 280 Resource Guide.*" This resource guide details the legislative history of Public Law 83-280 and outlines the historic path of criminal jurisdiction on tribal lands. Cindy was asked to return to the Sheriff's Department, Tribal Liaison Unit on a part-time basis in 2012. In this position she continued to work with the tribal communities and the department in building partnerships, and to provide updated training and resources as needed. She continued in the position until the summer of 2014. During this tenure, Cindy, along with the team she worked with, was honored with two awards. The first award, the James Q. Wilson Award, in 2012. This is a prestigious law enforcement award that acknowledges those who institutionalize the Community Policing philosophy and empower their communities for greatness. It is presented by the Regional Community Policing Institute — California (RCOI-CA), American Military University in association with the California Police Chiefs' Association and the Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice. The second award she received was the Medal of Merit Award, accepted at the Riverside County Sheriff's Award Ceremony in 2012.

Cindy developed a 16-hour block of instruction, "Understanding Jurisdiction on Tribal Lands; A User-friendly PL 280", is presented through California State University — San Marcos, California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC). Cindy is currently the co-presenter of this P.O.S.T. certified course. In 2014, she was asked to work with the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe to assist with developing their Legislative Committee. She has served the Tribe in this capacity, working closely with Alex Tortes, a Torres-Martinez Tribal Member who serves as the Legislative Committee Chairman. Additionally, in 2014, Cindy was asked by the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians to serve on their Gaming Commission Board. She continues to serve part-time in this capacity as a commissioner.