

PRESS RELEASE

To: All Media
From: City of Flandreau
Date: March 21, 2016

With the recent publication of the 2013 Division of Criminal Investigation report in the Argus Leader, the public has been given an opportunity to examine the workings of a community police department that can neither be justified nor defended. Indeed, upon our discovery of these systemic failures, a severe remedy was required, and a firm resolve to amend the errors of 2011 and 2012 was viewed as paramount. Moving swiftly, the City of Flandreau, in conjunction with the Executive Council of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, undertook the following corrective actions: 1) the City replaced the leadership of the Flandreau Police Department; 2) the City placed the position of the Chief of Police under the supervision of the City Administrator rather than allowing the Chief to continue to be accountable to a non-functioning public safety commission established under the Joint Powers Agreement; 3) the City established clear expectations for leadership within the Flandreau Police Department and for all officers within the department; 4) the City hired and instructed a new Chief of Police to implement protocols and safeguards in the handling, maintenance, and disposal of evidence; and 5) the City instructed the new Chief of Police to take such additional corrective actions as necessary to ensure the professional and proper running of the police department. In short, the City of Flandreau took its obligation to correct the matter very seriously when it discovered the problems outlined in the 2013 report, and through the hard work of the leadership within the City, and the diligent efforts of the officers on the police force, we have a Police Department that we can be truly proud of.

Mayor Mark Bonrud