

Lt. Deborah Hodge Becomes First Woman Appointed Chief of Police in St. Thomas-St. John District

Lt. Deborah Hodge has been appointed Chief of Police for the St. Thomas-St. John District, becoming the first woman in Virgin Islands history to hold the role. The announcement came on the final day of Virgin Islands History and Women's History Month.

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VIPD Police Chief for the St. Thomas-St. John District. By. GOV'T HOUSE

In a historic move that coincides with the conclusion of both Virgin Islands History Month and Women's History Month, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. has appointed Lieutenant Deborah Hodge as Chief of Police for the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD) in the St. Thomas-St. John District. The announcement marks a significant milestone for the territory, as Hodge becomes the

first woman in Virgin Islands history to hold the position of Chief of Police.

Governor Bryan described the appointment as both “well-earned and long overdue,” emphasizing Hodge’s dedication and leadership throughout her two-decade career in law enforcement.

“Lieutenant Hodge is a dedicated and proven leader,” the governor said. “She has spent her career building trust, serving with distinction, and setting the standard for what it means to protect and serve. Her appointment is well-earned and long overdue. I’m proud to see her take this step and confident she’ll make the territory proud.”

Hodge, who has been with VIPD for over 20 years, has served in a variety of leadership roles and has earned respect within both the department and the wider community. As Chief of Police, she will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the department in the St. Thomas-St. John District. Her role supports the VIPD’s overarching mission to enhance public safety and foster stronger community relationships.

While the Commissioner of Police is responsible for the department’s leadership across the territory, the Chief of Police manages local command operations, ensuring effective coordination and performance at the district level.

Hodge responded to the appointment with words of humility and purpose. “I accept this appointment with humility and gratitude. I stand on the shoulders of those who came before me and hope to inspire those who come next. I am committed to serving with strength, compassion, and integrity,” she said.

Police Commissioner Mario Brooks echoed the governor’s sentiments and affirmed his support for Hodge’s promotion.

“Chief Hodge has the experience and the heart for this job,” said Commissioner Brooks. “She knows the community, she understands the work, and she leads by example. I’m proud to have her on the leadership team, and I look forward to continuing our work together to move the department forward.”

Governor Bryan further noted that this appointment is consistent with his administration’s focus on promoting individuals who have earned the trust of their peers and the communities they serve.

“Chief Hodge has broken a barrier,” the governor stated. “And she did it by showing up every day and doing the work with integrity. This is a moment to celebrate her achievements and to recognize how far we’ve come as a community.”