Dareall Thompson
Assistant Chief of Police
City of Meridian

For Dareall Thompson, policing has never been just a profession. It has always been a calling rooted in service, relationships and a deep love for the city he has always called home.

A proud graduate of Meridian High School, Thompson has dedicated more than 26 years to serving the people of Meridian through the Meridian Police Department. Today, as Assistant Chief of Police, he helps lead a department committed to protecting the community, supporting its officers and strengthening the partnership between law enforcement and the citizens they serve.

His journey began long before he pinned on a badge.

As a teenager, Thompson joined the department's Explorer Program, where he rode alongside officers and witnessed firsthand what public service truly meant. The experience confirmed what he already felt in his heart.

"I knew early on this was where I belonged," Thompson said. "I wanted to serve the community that helped raise me."

At just 21 years old, he became a reserve officer before joining the department full time in 2002. Throughout his career, he has served in patrol, juvenile investigations, and homicide investigations before being promoted to his current role in August 2025.

Each assignment shaped him as a leader, but none affected him more deeply than his years investigating homicides.

"Those cases stay with you," Thompson said. "I grew up here. I knew many of the victims and their families. That made me even more determined to find answers and bring justice to the people who were hurting."

Today his mission extends beyond solving crimes.

As a member of the department’s lead team, Thompson believes one of his greatest responsibilities is taking care of the men and women who wear the badge.

"Police work is already hard enough," he said. "My responsibility is to make sure every officer knows they're part of a family. We support one another. We train together. We stand together. When our officers know they're valued, they're better prepared to serve our community."

That same philosophy reaches beyond the walls of the police department.

Thompson believes one of the most effective policing strategies is also one of the oldest: building genuine relationships.

"There was a time when officers knew the people in every neighborhood by name," he said. "They knew who belonged there, who didn't, and what normal looked like. That's where trust begins, and that's where effective policing begins."

He believes Meridian is returning to those fundamentals.

"One of my goals every day is getting back to the basics," Thompson said. "Getting out of the patrol car. Talking with people. Listening. Being present. Building relationships. That's how you create safer neighborhoods."

Those efforts are already producing results.

Since Mayor Percy Bland took office in July 2025, crime has declined significantly, officer recruitment has increased, and stronger partnerships between residents and law enforcement continue to help prevent crime and solve cases. Thompson credits that progress to collaboration between city leadership, the police department, and an engaged community.

"We're moving in the right direction," he said. "Technology is improving. We're adding great people to this department. Our officers are receiving better tools and training, and we're building something that's going to serve Meridian for generations."

Away from work, Thompson is a devoted husband, father and man of faith. He and his wife, Kimberly, recently celebrated 21 years of marriage. Together they have three children: an adult son, a daughter attending college, and a 14-year-old son whose basketball games fill much of his free time.

"My faith reminds me every day that leadership begins with serving others," Thompson said. "It keeps me grounded, gives me perspective, and reminds me why this work matters."

When asked what he loves most about Meridian, Thompson doesn't hesitate.

"This isn't just the city where I work. It's the city that raised me."

He pauses before adding one final thought.

"When you grow up serving the people you know, protecting this city becomes personal. Meridian isn't just where we wear the badge. It's our home. We care about our neighbors because they're our family. Every day we put on this uniform, our goal is simple: leave Meridian safer, stronger, and better than we found it."