

A Brief History of THE BEXLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law enforcement in Bexley dates back to 1908 when Bexley officially became a village. At that time the laws of the village were enforced by one Village Marshall. In 1931 Bexley became a city and the police department had grown to six officers. Today the department has twenty-eight sworn officers consisting of one Chief of Police, one Captain, four Patrol Sergeants, one Detective Sergeant, eighteen Patrol Officers, two Detectives and one Juvenile Officer. All totaled there are over 400 years of law enforcement experience among all the officers. The department also employs four Radio Dispatchers, an Animal Control Officer, a Parking Control Officer, and an Administrative Assistant.

In the early days police officers patrolled Bexley on horseback, by bicycle, motorcycle and automobile. At present the department has eight marked patrol vehicles, four marked patrol bicycles, one animal control van, one parking control vehicle and four unmarked vehicles. All marked patrol vehicles are equipped to handle a variety of emergency situations.

Over the years the department operated out of various buildings including a white wood frame building located at 2242 E. Main St. In April 1952 the new Bexley City Hall was completed on that site and the department moved into the rear portion of the building. The department occupied two rooms on the first floor with two cells in the basement. In the late 1960's the department moved into the City Hall Annex and occupied six rooms and one holding cell. The offices of the Chief and Lieutenant remained in City Hall and the basement cells saw continued use. In 1983 the City Hall Annex was remodeled and the department's current facilities include a Reception Lobby, Communications Room, Records and Supply Room, Sergeant's Office, Officer's Work Area, separate male and female locker rooms, a lunch room, the Captain's Office, Conference Room, Data Entry Room, Detective Bureau, Prisoner Processing and Detention Area, Firing Range and separate offices for the Chief of Police and his Administrative Assistant..

On February 25, 1997, John R. Carruthers, Ph.D. was sworn in as the eighth Chief of Police, following the retirement of Thomas W. Tobin in 1996. Chief Carruthers spent the previous twenty-four years with the Columbus Police Department where he rose to the rank of Commander. Thomas Tobin had served as a Bexley officer for over 44 years, the last 20 of which he had been Chief of Police.

On March 2, 1998 the Bexley Civil Service Commission abolished the rank of Lieutenant and replaced it with the rank of Captain. On May 27, 1998, Sergeant Robert L. Buty was promoted to the rank of Captain.

On March 22, 2003 the Bexley Police Department was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This was in response to a thorough on-site assessment of the department's policies, procedures and practices. The department received recognition again in March of 2006 following another on-site assessment by CALEA.

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On April 30, 2007, Lawrence L. Rinehart became the ninth Chief of the Bexley Police Department. Chief Rinehart had served previously with the Gahanna Police Department for thirteen years, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police.

Plans for the department include a new facility, continued training, up-dating of equipment, and furtherance of input from the officers. This will all serve to improve the quality of life for our employees and citizens, and provide a modern means of professional law enforcement services for the City of Bexley for years to come.

The Bexley Police Department can be found on the World Wide Web at www.bexley.org

E-mail can be sent to police@bexley.org