

A Brief overview of Chief William Copelan.

Listed below is the list of Cincinnati Police Chiefs during the 1900's. William Copeland is listed as the 4th Police Chief.

OUR LEADERSHIP HERITAGE CINCINNATI POLICE CHIEFS DURING THE 1900'S

Myron J. Leistler	1976 -
Carl V. Goodin	1971 - 1976
Jacob W. Schott	1967 - 1971
Stanley R. Schrotel	1951 - 1967
Eugene T. Weatherly	1935 - 1951
William Copelan	1912 - 1935
William H. Jackson	1910 - 1912
Paul M. Milliken	1903 - 1910
Phillip P. Dietsch	1886 - 1903

COL. WILLIAM COPELAN

COL. William Copelan brings to the office of Chief of Police the rich experience of more than twenty-five years of active service, during which time he served in every grade, rank and capacity of the department. He entered the department March 12, 1887, and, after a record of four years' diligent work under the

ization of the department were made. The character of the man for efficiency and thoroughness is shown by the fact that in order to qualify as supervising officer of automobile patrols, he prepared himself by taking a complete course as chauffeur on his own time and at his own expense. This incident is typical of him, it being one of



COL. WILLIAM COPELAN
Chief of Police
Cincinnati, Ohio
Chairman Entertainment Committee

most difficult and discouraging conditions, finally won his promotion as sergeant. Another long struggle against the kind of opposition that always meets impartial enforcement of law and order resulted in victory when he was appointed lieutenant October 24, 1904. During the latter portion of his lieutenantancy he was made superintendent of patrol service, and it was due to his energy and far-sightedness that the first steps looking toward the motor-

his rules never to ask or expect of his subordinates anything that he could or would not do himself. In the brief two years that he has been Chief of the department he has increased its efficiency in every branch of the service, has won the complete confidence of the public and made Cincinnati the most uncomfortable city in the country for evil-doers. Thanks to his untiring, vigilant efforts the Cincinnati police force ranks second to no other in the United States.



This is a photo of William Copelan when he held the rank of sergeant. The Morgan Medal is to the left of the badge. In October of 1890 Chief Copelan won the award for having the best record for the year and the best examination for knowledge of police business. The style of the badge indicates that this photo was taken prior to 1904.



William Copelan was the recipient of the Morgan Medal in 1890.



A photo of Chief Copelan taken during the Police Inspection of 1928.



Chief Copelan riding his horse during the 1913 Cincinnati Railway Strike.



The City of Cincinnati, Ohio.



all to Whom these Presents shall come,
Greeting:

Know Ye that I,

Henry T. Hunt,
Mayor

of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, by virtue of
the authority vested in me by the provisions of

The General Code of Ohio

Do hereby appoint

William Copelan

as

Chief of the Police Department

of the City of Cincinnati, and he is hereby authorized and
empowered, during his good behavior, to execute and discharge
all and singular the duties appertaining to said office,
and to enjoy all the privileges and immunities thereof.

In Testimony Whereof, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
seal of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, to be
affixed this 29th, day of March 1912.

Henry T. Hunt



F. A. Neubauer, Artist
Cincinnati

This is The Certificate of Appointment for Chief Copelan. This item was donated on 7-24-2010 to the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society by the family of along with the Gold Chief's Badge which is shown at the end of this document.



This is the retirement badge of Chief William Copelan given to him in 1935; this badge is in the possession of the Chief Copelan's family.



This badge was given to the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society on 7-24-2010 by the family. Chief Copelan had told the family that this was his spare badge that he sometimes wore.
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