Cincinnati Police Department History – 1900 to 1924

The Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

“Preserving the History of Law Enforcement in the Greater Cincinnati Area”

Cincinnati Police Department History – 1900 to 1924				
1900	–	–	Complement – 528	–
1900	–	–	Arrests: 13,291: 6,863 white and 2,720 black Americans, 1146 Irish, 1218 Germans, 416 English, 192 Italians, 146 Russians, 139 Scotts, 96 Swiss, 66 Polls, 65 Greeks, 74 Wales, 56 Canadians, 52 French, 19 Chinese, 13 Spanish: 9927 male, 3364 female	–
1900	–	–	Arrests: 13,291; 405 felony, 9554 misdemeanor, 2592 safekeeping, 58 Lunacy, 440 Suspicion, 33 fugitives from justice, 209 held for other authorities	–
1901	–	–	Personnel jackets made up for individual members	–

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1902	–	–	Police Department put under Civil Service rules	4
1903	3-Mar	Milliken, Col. Paul M.	Chief, to 1910, 7 years, 6 months	3
1903	–	–	Board of Public Safety formed by members of Board of Police and Board of Fire Commissioners and the rank of chief was re-established	–
1903	–	–	Police Department put in charge of Board of Public Safety, appointed by the mayor	4
1904	–	–	Fingerprint use adopted, shortly after introduction into this country	–
1904	–	McDermott, William H.	Mounted: First mounted officer to direct traffic. Promoted to Sergeant 1930. Retired 1942. Died 1964.	–
1909	–	–	Board of Public Safety abolished and Director of Public Safety appointed to assume charge of Police, Fire, and welfare of other safety functions	–
1909	–	–	Patrol Wagons: First motorized patrol wagon purchased	–
1910	15-Oct	Jackson, Col. William H.	Chief, to 1912, 1 year, 4 months	3
1910	–	–	City population – 363,581	–
1910	–	–	Civil Service Law, Board of Civil Service Commissioners, and Civil Service Examiner established reinforcing the merit system for appointments and promotions.	–
1910	–	–	Complement – 643, patrolled 49 square miles.	–

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1911	Jan	Corbin, Night Chief	Night Chief died at the great Chamber of Commerce fire	4
1911	–	–	Calls for service 1,081,922 handled by the Police Telephone and Signal Service	–
1911	–	–	Motorcycles: First purchased	–
1911	–	Krumpe, LT	Night Chief	4
1912	3-Sep	–	Ordinance passed to regulate traffic	–
1912	–	–	Complement – 627 – 1 chief, 3 inspectors, 21 lieutenants, 32 sergeants, 10 corporals, 457 patrolmen, 36 station house keepers, 30 drivers, 4 matrons, 7 detectives, 17 acting detectives, 9 court officers.	–
1912	29-Mar	Copeland, Col. William	Chief, to 1935, 22 years, 8 months	3
1912	–	–	Bureau of Identification established to replace Bertillon Department due to increasing use of fingerprints as a system of identification.	–
1912	–	–	Military drill and target practice required	–
1912	–	–	Military organization introduced, including ten regular and two provisional companies, a mounted troop, and a recruit squad, all organized in accordance with U.S. Army regulations.	–
1912	–	–	Patrol Cars: First 7 purchased with intent to replace the 10 horse patrols	–
1912	–	–	Pawn broker’ reports revised and a card-indexing of all articles pawn kept for ready reference	–
1912	–	–	Traffic Squad formed	–

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1913	–	–	Horse Drawn Vehicles: Last one discarded	–
1913	–	–	Motorcycles introduced (2nd report)	–
1914	–	–	Patrol Cars: Critical increase in mileage of the patrol service due to hospital ambulance service which caused concerns that an additional motorized patrol company may be necessary to meet the demand	–
1914	–	–	Substitute patrolmen formed into classes and drilled weekly in tactics and instructed in the rules and regulations of the department, laws of the state, and ordinances of the city	–
1915	Feb	Kane, Major Michael, Commander	Director of School of Instructions where personnel required to report at regular intervals for instructions.	–
1915	–	–	Ordinance passed abolishing position of Patrol Wagon Driver, these men becoming patrolman, increasing number of lieutenants, and allowing corporal rank to “die out” by attrition.	–
1916	–	–	Arrests: 26,066: 1706 felony, 20,087 misdemeanor, 4205 safekeeping, 68 Lunacy.	–
1916	–	–	Complement – 727	–
1916	–	–	Crime Reports: 373 Burglary, 3199 Larceny, 264 Housebreaking, 53 Murders/Homicides, 200 Robbery, 6 Rape, 211 Cut, 99 Shot, 10 Assault to Rape, 6 Assault to Kill, 24 assault to Rob.	–

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1916	–	–	Felony Arrests: 166 Felonious Assault, 98 Carrying Concealed Weapons, 9 Manslaughter, 54 Murder, 17 Pocket picking, 12 Rape, 45 Robbery, 56 Burglary, 9 Housebreaking, 712 Petit Larceny, 106 Grand Larceny, 2 Horse Stealing, 9 Forgery, 47 Embezzlement	–
1916	–	–	Misdemeanor Arrests: 119 Malicious Destruction of Property, 31 Participating in proceeds of Prostitution, 4205 Safekeeping, 2861 Auto law and traffic regulation, 189 Liquor License Laws, 2589 Miscellaneous.	–
1916	–	–	Misdemeanor Arrests: 870 Assault, 247 Abusing Family, 2075 Prostitution, 4735 Disorderly Conduct, 2485 Drunk, 463 Failure to Provide, 513 Fornication/Adultery, 746 Gaming, 162 Harboring Lewd Women and Renting Rooms for Immoral Purposes, 1392 Loitering	–
1916	–	–	Murders: 29 whites; 28 male, 1 female; 29 blacks; 24 male, 5 female	–
1916	–	–	Persons Assisted: 300 Cut and shot, 218 Assaulted, 92 Attempt Suicide, 18 Drowned, 285 Found Dead, 1956 Injured by accident, 1 rescued from drowning, 1694 Sick, 39 Suicide.	–
1918	13-Sep	–	Strike over wages and suspension of five patrolmen. Chief Copeland and Mayor Galvin. Cincinnati Home Guard called to patrol the city. Strike lasted 3 p.m. Friday to 3 p.m. Monday.	–
1920	–	–	City population – 401,247	–
1920	–	–	Complement – 696	–

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1924	–	–	Patrol Cars: Horses replaced by roadster-type vehicles	–

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