

Did you know . . . ?

1600's

"Law Enforcement in the early 1600s and was influenced from the British model of policing."



A Night Watchman was first used in Boston in 1630 followed by New York City in 1650. The Night Watch were volunteers who worked for a night's worth of work. Other times it was used as a community service for a crime previously committed.

"We walked the streets, called out the hour and kept a lookout for fires. We protected property, provided public safety and kept the streets free from drunks."



1700's

As the population grew businesses and trade increased the need for more law-enforcement to curtail social problems.



"Public drunkenness, brawls and prostitution became more common place. To curtail this more Night Watchmen were enlisted and sometimes paid."

Slave patrols were created in the south in 1704 in response to the the economics of slavery. Their purpose was to help deter or stop runaway slaves and eventually gave way to the Ku Klux Klan.



1800's

The Political Era



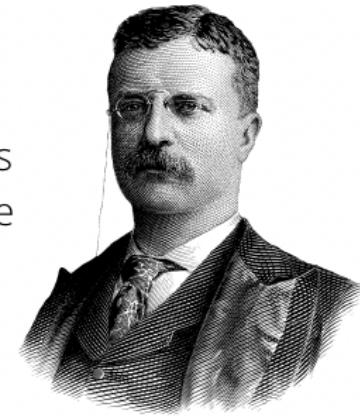
Boston was a large commercial center and was the first to create a publicly funded police force in 1838.

Because merchants wanted protection for their property they designed a strategy to get the public to pay the cost of maintaining a police force arguing for the “collective good.”

“Jim Crow laws and ‘separate but equal’ Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), fears of labor-union organizers, and an increased number of immigrants fueled the perceived need for greater police protection.”



Police were recruited based on their political leanings and were often tied to political leaders or ward leaders. The precinct maps corresponded with the political wards resulting in police forces reporting to a single political figure in exchange for compensation. As Time magazine reported, this “led to corrupt politicians and corrupt police officers.”



Teddy Roosevelt became the police commissioner in New York City 1895. He was appointed to clean up New York City and investigate police corruption.

And is best remembered for his unpopular idea of shutting down saloons on Sunday. With a 6-day work week, Sunday was the only day many people could meet and socialize.

1900's

The Reform Era



"Policing and Law enforcement experienced restructuring and reform. August Vollmer called "the father of modern policing" was instrumental in changing the image of police to an organized professional organization."

Technical advancements of the police car, two-way radio, and telephone were important. Police departments became more militarized reflecting the experiences of veterans joining police departments.

Prohibition, the separation of police precincts from political wards and the Civil Rights Movement brought renewed attention on law enforcement.



Controversial legislation included NYC's "Stop and Frisk" (1964), Terry stop (1968 Supreme Court case Terry v. Ohio), "broken windows" policing (1980s NYC), an approach to law enforcement based on the theory that cracking down on minor crimes helps to prevent major ones.

Extensive training required of recruits. More emphasis was placed on community policing efforts.



2000's

Mass shootings beginning with the Columbine shooting in 1999 led to a rapid response strategy during active shooter situations called Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training or ALERRT.



"In 2001, after 9/11, policing shifted their focus to counterterrorism using science and technology particularly related to citizen surveillance."

Technological Advancements - DNA database, Robotics (Drones, UAVs, Cameras), Social Media (communication, facial recognition), Safety (less lethal devices, wrap around body armor, First aid response and equipment)



H.R.1280 - George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021

"The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act aimed to set up a national registry of police misconduct, ban racial and religious profiling by law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels, and overhaul qualified immunity, which protects law enforcement from accountability."

