

OUR HISTORY



Marshal Chris Miller 1908 - 1912

When Ocean View was a newly formed city, the City Trustees had several important administrative responsibilities. Naturally, general law enforcement was at the top of the list, but taxes also had to be collected, city streets needed maintenance, and nuisance animals had to be

rounded up. The trustees decided that the position of Marshal should be created and set the salary at \$100 per month.

On September 23, 1908, Christian "Chris" Miller, a trustee of the school board and a volunteer fireman, was elected to serve as the city's first Marshal.

Miller's duties included sprinkling water on San Pablo Avenue each Sunday to keep the dust down; resolving matters of public nuisance; acting as pound master (dog catcher); and enforcing the 10 mph speed limit on San Pablo Ave.

In September 1909 Ocean View was renamed "Albany" and the community petitioned for a deputy to assist Marshal Miller with his law enforcement duties.

Albany resident Andrew Lindquist, who had only recently emigrated three years earlier from Gavle, Sweden, was selected to assist Miller. Lindquist was then appointed Special Deputy by Alameda County Sheriff Frank Barnet, to be paid by the citizens of Albany and work under the direction of Marshal Miller (These types of appointments were common during this time).

On the night of January 12, 1910 Deputy Lindquist was murdered near the completion of his evening rounds when he tried to stop a robbery at Moore's Saloon in Albany. Lindquist, who was unarmed, was shot twice by the highwayman before he fled. Special Deputy Andrew Lindquist's murder was recorded as the first major crime in the city of Albany.



Chief John Glavinovich 1912 - 1938

John Glavinovich was elected City Marshal on April 15, 1912. Later that year the City Jail moved from its location on San Pablo near Cerrito Creek to the City Corporation Yard at San Pablo and Washington Aves.

On August 1, 1915 Charles Hardie was appointed Deputy Marshal. Six years

later, he was joined by Deputy George Davis on March 28, 1921 (Deputy Davis used a bicycle to assist in his night watchman duties). Later that year, Glavinovich received authorization to purchase a Ford "touring car" (with electric starter!) and outfit it with accessories necessary for his use in patrolling the community. This is believed to be the department's first City owned patrol vehicle. By 1924 the police department had two motorcycles, but reimbursed officers \$30 extra pay per month if they used their private car for patrol.

In the spring of 1927, voters approved the Albany City Charter and on May 24, 1927 the Albany Police Department was formally established with John Glavinovich elected to serve as Chief of Police with a staff of three officers.

As a new city Albany experienced rapid growth, bringing many challenges to the APD. Traffic concerns such as heavy trucks using Marin Ave., speeding vehicles, parking issues and dangerous school crossings all became more prevalent as congestion increased. Prohibition and gambling also presented many problems for the community and its young police department.





Glavinovich, Williams with confiscated wine barrel

By the end of 1937 the police force had grown from a single non-uniformed Marshal to a full-fledged police department with a Chief and seven officers. Other notable changes included:

- The department had assumed 24 hour patrol coverage on December 1, 1924



Courtesy of the Albany Library Historical Collection

- Police call boxes were installed at four locations around town in 1926 including Brighton/San Pablo, Marin/San Pablo, Solano/Santa Fe, and Sonoma/Ordway
- The APD's first Rules and Regulations were issued in 1928



**Chief Lloyd Jester
1938 - 1943**

Lloyd Jester, at age 33, was the youngest Police Chief in California when elected to lead the Albany Police Department on April 11, 1938.

Another police officer was added to the force in 1938 and Sergeant Hardie, after 24 years on the force, was appointed the APD's first

Inspector. The Inspector was in charge of investigations and considered to be the department's second-in-command.

In July 1939, the Police Clerk position was created and Albany's first civilian employee, Robert A. Biddison, was hired.

In May, 1940, the police department moved in to a new facility, a converted bungalow at 803 San Pablo Ave. at the corner of San Pablo and Washington Aves (near where Mechanics Bank now stands).

When the Golden Gate Turf Club (Golden Gate Fields) opened in December of 1940, it brought new challenges to the police department. The APD was responsible for hiring and firing of the track's 35 special police officers.

In 1941, as national tensions were increasing, the police chief was named Director of Civilian Defense and put in charge of air raid drills which began in Albany in November 1941 and continued throughout World War II.

On February 15, 1943 Chief Jester was granted a Military Leave of Absence to join the war effort. Jester rejoined the US Navy with the rank of Lieutenant and Inspector Stanley Williams became Acting Chief of Police in his absence.



**Chief Stanley Williams
1943 - 1954**

World War II brought changes to the working conditions, technology and staffing of the department: due to a shortage of police officers, the Chief requested officers work overtime 4 hours per day at a rate of \$1.00 per hour; two-way radios were purchased for

police cars in 1943; a direct telephone line to the Berkeley Police Department was installed. Wartime also changed the city's growth rate, congestion levels and demographics. Codornices Village (now the University Village) was built as a wartime public housing project to aid with the migration of shipyard workers and others engaged in supporting the war effort. By 1945 the department had experienced a doubling of "miscellaneous" (non-criminal) reports/calls for service. As the war drew to a close, the department had grown from 11 to 16 personnel (12 officers and 4 support staff).

Following the war's conclusion, with the 1946 vote for Police Chief approaching, Chief Jester (home on leave from the Navy) announced he would not be a candidate for reelection as he would become the Chief of the Fargo, ND Police Department. Acting Chief Williams was elected as Albany Chief.

In November 1949 the department deployed a 3-wheeled police car (believed to be a Harley-Davidson Servicar) and began issuing parking citations in the commercial district.

The department's first female police officer, Mrs. Sigrid Oakley, was appointed in June 1949. Oakley had been the department's Police Clerk since 1941 serving as secretary for the Chief. As an officer her duties were to include "looking after cases and complaints with a feminine angle" and managing personnel records.

Effective January 1, 1950, Wartime scheduling practices ceased and police officers began working a forty hour week: under the new agreement there would no longer be holiday or overtime pay.

In May 1953 the Police Department collaborated with the school district to sponsor our first bicycle rodeo.

In February 1954, the Police Department structure was reorganized from four Sergeants and one Inspector to three Sergeants and two Inspectors. The department had grown to 18 officers, deploying 6 patrol cars and a motorcycle. The part-time Juvenile Officer position had also become a full-time assignment.



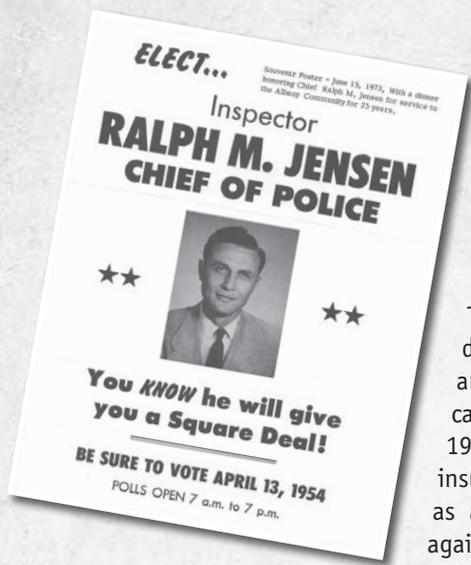
**Chief Ralph Jensen
1954 - 1973**

Chief Jensen had come to work for the APD in 1948 after answering a recruiting advertisement while living in the UC Village where he was studying to become a dentist. He was a WWII veteran Army-Air Corps B-17 pilot who'd been shot down on his 15th bombing

mission over Germany and had escaped from a German



San Pablo Avenue, circa 1950



prisoner of war camp. His experiences and leadership no doubt played a role in his fast rise through the ranks of the APD.

The influence of legal decisions, social change and increasing regulation can be seen in the years 1954-1959: false arrest insurance was purchased as a result of a suit filed against several officers; a curfew ordinance was passed

which not only regulated the presence of juveniles in public during certain times, but also defined the duties of parents and others in care of minors; an ordinance regulating the operation, registration, licensing, and sale of bicycles was passed; the department purchased its first bulletproof vests; an animal control officer was hired; and in 1959, the city jail was closed as a result of an adverse report from the state Fire Marshal.

By 1961 the department had grown to twenty police officers all of whom had to live within a seven mile radius of the city.

In the words of Chief Jensen, "increased lawlessness and decreased respect for the police" made it necessary to purchase helmets for all officers in the spring of 1965.

In 1966 the department moved to the new Civic Center at 1000 San Pablo Ave. which included a new police facility.

In 1972, charter amendments were passed outlining

qualifications for Police Chief, including a minimum age requirement and an education/experience requirement.



**Chief James Simmons
1973-1986**

James Simmons was named Acting Chief of Police on August 3 1973 and was elected Chief on April 9, 1974.

The 1970's brought many new challenges. By 1975 the department was averaging 200 calls for service each week and

within the next few years would be recording over 1,000 incidents per month and nearly 1,000 arrests per year. Four cars were assigned to patrol at all times and adult school crossing guards were now employed under the direction of the department.

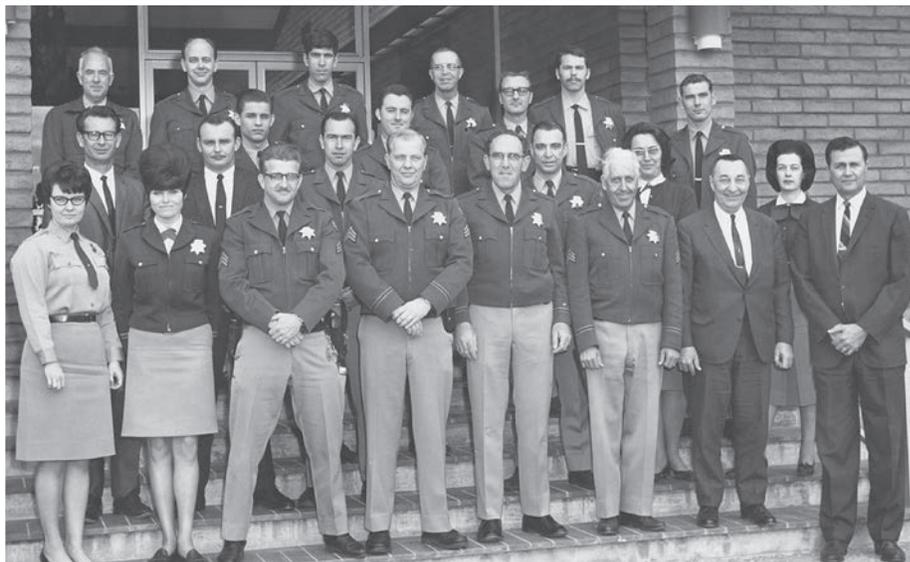
The Gateview Condominium project at 555 Pierce St. opened in 1976 and had a major impact on the department. Chief Simmons reported to the City Council that three additional officers would be necessary when all units were sold. In August 1976, a new radio system was installed that incorporated hand held "portable" radios in addition to patrol car radios. This new system enabled Albany Police to communicate directly with neighboring police units from Oakland to El Cerrito, including the California Highway Patrol.

In 1980 department staffing increased to 25 officers and discussions began to consider placing the city ambulance service solely under the command of the fire department instead of police.

In June 1981 Albany Police and Kensington Police entered an agreement wherein Albany would provide communication services for the Kensington police force.

In 1985 an additional detective position was added.

Chief Simmons retired on February 28, 1986 and Captain Melvin Boyd was placed in operational control of the day-to-day activities of the department until the election of a new Police Chief in April.



Albany Police Department 1968



**Chief Larry Murdo
1986 - 2002**

Larry Murdo was elected Chief on April 8, 1986.

Larry Murdo was elected Chief of Police on April 8, 1986. One of his first acts was to have modern light bars installed on top of the patrol cars, replacing the traditional "Mickey Mouse" lights, and installation of cage separators between the front and rear seats.

In August 1986, an Administrative Sergeant position was added to the department in order to deal with efficiency and modernization of the property and evidence functions and to handle the ever increasing regulatory requirements affecting police agencies.

In January 1987 the department began use of the Tasertron electronic control device.

In August 1987, Rene Boyes became Albany's first female police officer assigned to patrol. Boyes came to Albany with 13 years prior policing experience, including three years at the UC Berkeley Police Department.

The hiring of Boyes and the changing nature of police work highlighted several deficiencies in the design and function of the police facility and resulted in renovation of various areas within the building including the evidence room and women's locker room.

In 1988 several changes to the organizational structure of the department took place: the parking enforcement position was changed from one full-time employee to two permanent part-time employees; the position of Captain was removed from city ordinances and the department instead employed an additional Lieutenant. There were also changes in the staffing of clerical positions and a review of record keeping and operations was completed. At full staff, the police department would have 29 sworn officers (including Police Officer Clerk positions).

In 1993 the APD received the first of several grants from the California Office of Traffic Safety. The focus of the grant was to ensure that all teens buckle up in a vehicle, drive safely, obey all traffic laws and never drink and drive. Music was the vehicle used to effectively reach that particular age group. Albany Sergeants William Palmmini Jr. and Art Clemons performed as "Elvis and the Lawman"



to deliver the message. The program was very successful and received awards and recognitions including the prestigious J. Stannard Baker Award for Highway Safety from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

During the summer of 1996 APD installed and began using its first computer assisted dispatch and records management system (CAD/RMS), replacing handwritten dispatch logs and 1930's era typed 3x5 card files for police incidents.

In 1996 the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (DARE) was implemented in the Albany Schools. The Albany Police Activities League (APAL) was formed in 1997 to provide both athletic and non-athletic activities for the youth of the community. An officer was then assigned full-time to conduct APAL and DARE duties.

After much discussion and public input, the department applied for and received a COPS in Schools grant to fund a School Resource Officer (SRO) beginning in 1999. The SRO was a uniformed officer working at Albany High School.

During the summer of 1999 the APD was charged with responsibility for enforcing a recently adopted ordinance that prohibited "camping" on the Albany Bulb portion of the old Albany Landfill. Following a series of operations that lasted several months, a large encampment of homeless people was removed from the Bulb and adjoining parkland.

In November 2001, after Chief Murdo announced his plans to retire in the fall of 2002, the citizens voted to approve a Charter Amendment to change the practice of electing a police chief to a police chief appointed by the City Council. The change would take effect upon Chief Murdo's retirement. This change would leave the City of Santa Clara as the last municipality in the state of California to elect its Chief of Police.

In April 2002, the position of Police Services Technician was established in the department.



**Chief Greg Bone
2002 - 2006**

Following an extensive search for a new chief, conducted by an outside executive recruitment firm, internal candidate Albany Police Lieutenant Greg Bone was selected to become the department's first appointed Chief of Police, effective October 7, 2002.

An internal focus on improving departmental efficiency and professionalism was undertaken with patrol sergeants being tasked with considerably more responsibility to insure compliance with training and legal standards, to meet the complex challenges of modern policing. Under the

appointed Chief, staff members began attending community meetings and interacting with city boards, commissions and committees in lieu of the department head.

In July, 2002, the Police Services Technician II position was established as an expansion of duties and responsibilities of the already established PST I position within the department. PST II's would be assigned to work in dispatch, parking enforcement and the property room for 6-month rotational assignments.

In 2003 all departmental Rules and Regulations, General Orders and Policy Memos were reviewed, updated and combined into a single APD Policy Manual.

On July 7, 2003 the department implemented a 12-hour shift schedule for all patrol officers.

With the cessation of the DARE program in Albany schools and the bulk of APAL work being done by community volunteers, the DARE/PAL officer position was reintegrated into the patrol force in 2004.

In the fall of 2004 the department began use of the Taser brand electronic control device, while simultaneously phasing out the Tasertron device that had been in use since 1987.

By the end of 2004 initial planning had begun for a possible seismic retrofit of the Civic Center complex, including the police department. Police staff noted that any retrofit would present an opportunity to address ongoing concerns about the function and safety of the existing building layout and that this should be a priority in planning.

In January 2005, dispatcher Martha King was selected to promote to the recently created position of Police Administrative Services Supervisor, thereby becoming the APD's first appointed female supervisor.



**Chief Mike McQuiston
2006 - Present**

**Mike McQuiston was
appointed Chief of Police
July 1, 2006.**

In August 2006 the department hosted its first National Night Out event, a community night-out against crime. The event took place on the grounds of Albany High School and Memorial Park and was

attended by hundreds of residents.

In 2007 the department initiated a computerized personnel complaint, traffic accident, pursuit, and use of force tracking system.

Annual presentations by APD to the incoming freshman

classes at Albany High School concerning interacting with the police were institutionalized in 2007.

In April 2008, the department revised its mission statement and adopted its five core values: service, professionalism, pride, teamwork and dedication.

In August 2008, following nearly 2 years of planning, the police department was relocated in a single afternoon from its location at 1000 San Pablo Ave. to a temporary public safety facility (including the Fire Dept.) that had been constructed at 1051 Monroe St. inside the University Village property. City Hall/Administration was moved to 401 Kains Ave. while the Community Development Department moved to the second floor of 979 San Pablo Ave. This move facilitated the seismic retrofit and renovations to the entire civic center facility.

During the fall of 2008 (in conjunction with APAL) the department conducted its first Police Youth Academy program as a means to improve police-youth relations and understanding.

In December 2008 the department began employing a civilian Community Engagement Specialist to assist with community outreach, education and crime prevention. This position initiated the department's Neighborhood Watch program and several other successful community engagement initiatives, including Coffee with the Cops, Safety Palooza and Shop with a Cop.

In 2009 a secure, high-speed wireless mobile computer system was installed in all patrol cars, giving officers access to the CAD/RMS system.

In February 2010, after 18 months of construction, the department moved back to its permanent headquarters at 1000 San Pablo Ave. Each department move took place without any interruption of services to the community.

In December 2012 all police radio communications were moved to the East Bay Regional Communications System.

With a focus on professional development during the years 2008-2014, the department recorded its first graduates from the POST Command College, POST Supervisory Leadership Institute, the LAPD West Point Leadership program, the Local Government Leadership Academy, and the POST Inner Perspectives Leadership Development program.

In January 2015, department members adopted the Mission, Vision and Values presented on page 2 of this report.