HISTORY OF POLICING

1. **Post-revolution**
   After the American Revolution, the U.S. adopted the English version of the watch system, which eventually became an unorganized American watch system. Shire-reeves became sheriffs, towns had constables who organized groups of watchmen who in turn helped organize citizen volunteers, and mayors usually had a high constable or marshal as their right-hand man. This was referred to as a "parish constable system". Generally they were older men who could not find work, people who had lived in the city their entire lives, and those who had ownership of their community

2. **1800's - British Policing System**

   It was in the 1800s that the next major change in British policing happened. First, the community changed from a rural one to an urban one. The parish constable system that had existed for centuries failed because it was best suited to small, stable, rural communities of the past. Secondly, British population grew dramatically and outstripped the amount of work. This development caused widespread poverty and widespread social unrest.

   - 600,000 British population by 1701
   - 900,000 British population by 1801
   - 2.5 million British population by 1851
   - Britain was the largest 'city' in the world, with more urban than rural inhabitants.

   Finally, the coming of the railways brought increased mobility for people. The result was a structure of society that called for a different approach to law enforcement – professional policemen. So in 1829, Sir Robert Peel established the London Metro Police Department, which became the first modern paid organized police force.

3. **1800's (American Policing)**
   - 1833 – Philadelphia tried to start a police force with private funds, which only lasted until 1836.
   - 1845 – New York started the first paid police force
   - 1846 – Boston started a paid police force.
   - 1880 – Most major US cities had developed a full-time paid police force.

   There were many similarities to the British policing model – but some important differences. London's model was based on community reliance and citizen participation.

HISTORY OF POLICING

American police were loyal to the politicians who hired them. Police were chosen from lists of candidates provided by the local jurisdiction's tax collector. Eventually, only those officers that would help with the politician's re-election were hired. Police were deliberately incorporated into the political system. Police were hired as political favors – which were expected to be returned. The American public had a distrust of the military at the time.

American Policing – The Good

- Officers were acquainted with their neighborhoods.
- They often lived in their beat.
- Foot patrol
- Personal relationships with merchants
- Crime prevention was a priority.
- Police mirrored the socioeconomic characteristics of their communities.

American Policing – The Bad

- Jobs were given as political favors.
- No training or recruiting
- Kick-backs and corruption were common.
- Beat cops ate and drank for free.
- Street justice was common.
- Very little communication between officers.

4. **Early 1900's (Reform Movement)**

The early 1900's saw an increase in government control. Illustrations of these changes can be found in the passage of the Harrison Narcotics Act (restricting the availability of drugs), the Mann Act (making it illegal to take women across state lines for immoral purposes), and the prohibition of alcohol through the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. At the local level, thousands or ordinances and state laws were passed to regulate a wide variety of behaviors, including such things as the length of women's skirts.

At the same time that government controls were expanding, there was a corresponding increase in public concerns about police behavior. Public concerns about the police were often the result of widespread corruption and conduct by the police that would be illegal today. This was well before such famous cases as Miranda and Escobedo, and there were far fewer legal limits on police behavior.

By the 1930's, concerns about police behavior led to efforts to regulate police practices and talk of "professionalizing" the police. One visible sign of this concern was the Wickersham Commission, which made a number of

recommendations, including (a) training for police, (b) mechanisms for receiving citizen complaints, (c) police codes of conduct, and (d) the use of progressive management practices. These recommendations led to a more bureaucratic structure for the police and the rise of such things as specialized units within municipal police departments. Throughout this period the primary emphasis was on policing as crime fighting.

5.   **1968**

The year 1968 was significant in incidents that helped to shape the public's view of the police and government in general. These events included:

- The assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were followed by riots and fires in most major cities across the United States

- The National Democratic Convention in Chicago disintegrated into a disorderly and confrontational event, changing the image of our nation's leaders.

- The formation of the Students for a Democratic Society, the Black Panthers, and other dissident groups foretold social unrest.

- The Tet Offensive took place at the height of the highly unpopular Vietnam War.

- The #1 television show was *Laugh-In*. President Richard Nixon said to the viewing American public, "Sock it to me, baby!"

- The number one movie was *The Graduate*. Lyrics from the movie song sung by Simon and Garfunkel, "Where have you gone Joe Dimagio, the nation casts its lonely eyes to you," captured the national mood of absent leadership.

- ERA did not stand for *Earned Run Average.* The legislation proposing the Equal Rights Amendment divided the country as it struggled to redefine the roles of women in American society.

- The *Pueblo* incident off the coast of Korea raised anxiety regarding enemies other then the North Vietnamese.

- Campus unrest in the form of sit-ins, demonstrations, and protests culminated in the deaths of several students at Kent State University.

6.   **Police Research in the 1970's**

In the 1970's, researchers also began to examine the role of the police and their effectiveness in society. Several new strategies came out of these studies.

a.   <u>Random Patrol</u> – Criminals would never know where the police were.

The **Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment** in 1974 showed that there was no significant statistical difference in the amount of crime regardless if patrol efforts were increased decreased or kept the same. This study lead to the sayings "random patrol produces random results" and "it makes about as much sense to have the police patrol randomly in patrol cars to fight crime as it does to have fire-fighters patrol randomly in fire trucks to fight fires."

b.   <u>Rapid Response</u> – Officers in cars with radios

The **Kansas City Response Time Study** assessed the value of rapid response to calls for service. Police make on-scene arrests in less than 3% of the serious crimes reported to them. We learned that citizens delay reporting crime to the police, and that suspects were seldom found at the scene of a crime. If they traveled faster than the speed of light to all reported crimes, this on-scene arrest rate would rise to no higher than 5%. Citizens were willing to support longer response times given reasonable circumstances or an assured response to their problem.

There were implications for another form of policing in the finding that citizens tell the police more information about suspects on their beats. Police beliefs did not necessarily match citizens regarding service expectations. The research also prompted a rethinking of the value of shift rotation to permanent beat assignments.

c.   <u>Investigative Follow-ups</u> – Fingerprints, polygraphs, and other scientific methods.

The **Rand Corporation** conducted a study to examine the work of detectives (1977). The research recommended several ways to improve the efficiency of investigative work. One of the primary recommendations highlighted the need to allow patrol officers more chances to conduct follow-up investigations and recommend early case closures where appropriate.   Detectives could then spend more time on serious and complex investigations.

7.   1980's (Professional Police Model)

During the 1980's, the idea of professionalizing police had become widely accepted as an end in itself. As a result, there was a growing emphasis on technical training and accountability to the organization. While this emphasis on professionalism may have been an improvement over earlier ways of doing things, professionalism did not end corruption and misbehavior by police. Most importantly, professionalism did little to bridge the gap between the public and the police. An atmosphere of mutual mistrust was as strong as ever.

a.   Characteristics

- Refinement of management and control of the police
- To help eliminate political favors, officers were forbidden from living in their beat.
- Officer's discretion was limited.
- Training programs were started.
- With better training, civil service, and new technology, the police developed professional autonomy.
- Police became experts who could dictate to communities what was needed.
- Police moved apart from communities and relied instead upon: Training, Policy & Procedure manuals, Professionalism of officers, and Civil service and hiring standards.

b.   Shifts in Thinking

Since too much public interaction before led to corruption:
- Less foot patrol
- Bigger patrol areas were possible with the automobile.
- Alternating shifts
- Alternating beats
- Led to an "us vs. them" mentality

8.   1900's (Evolution of Policing)

During the 1900's the concept of Community Policing was implemented. Policing strategies that worked in the past had become ineffective. The desired goal, an enhanced sense of safety, security, and well-being, had not been achieved.

The movement toward community policing has gained momentum in recent years as police and community leaders search for more effective ways to promote public safety and to enhance the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

HISTORY OF POLICING

Chiefs, sheriffs, and other policing officials are currently assessing what changes in orientation, organization, and operations will allow them to benefit the communities they serve by improving the quality of the services they provide.

Community policing encompasses a variety of philosophical and practical approaches and is still evolving rapidly. Community policing strategies vary depending on the needs and responses of the communities involved; however, certain basic principles and considerations are common to all community policing efforts.