

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The board of Trustees of East Syracuse appointed the first fulltime police constable, J. E. Richardson, on April 17, 1885. Soon after, funds were set aside for full and part time policemen and “supplies for lock up.” At one time, it was reported that the village did not need law enforcement officers as there was no crime here.

There have been two special citizens of East Syracuse, well known and loved, who were almost synonymous with law enforcement in the village. They were Mickey Wrenn and Fred Ray.

Michael Wrenn was one of our most respected law enforcement officers and citizens of this community. He was born in Ireland and came here at the age of 16. He joined the police force in 1923 and was appointed Chief of Police in 1930, retiring in 1945.

Mickey Wrenn was a member of the East Syracuse Fire Department and received an award for bravery in 1928, when he rescued a woman from a burning building.

Chief Wrenn was instrumental in the organization of the Boys Band in the early 30's. In 1932 a triple celebration took place in the village: the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington, the Onondaga American Legion Convention and the 50th birthday of the village. Mr. Wrenn was deeply involved with the planning of the parade, the games and overall festivities of the celebration.

In 1937, lead by Chief Wrenn and Mayor Fogus, a safety record was set, with no traffic deaths in the village. At that time, there were 4, 600 people including 1,650 children living in the village. These children walked to the 3 schools each day and traffic safety

was an important aspect of life. Railroad track crossings were a very serious part of safety in those days.

Fred Ray, native son of East Syracuse, born in 1904, attended schools here and worked for various merchants before joining the police force. He was appointed patrolman of the village Police Force on July 1, 1929 and spent 42 years in the department. He was Fire Chief from 1932 until 1946. Fred was a member of the Board of Education, the Lions Club, a director of the RRYMCA, and active in various law enforcement agencies throughout the county.

Fred became Chief of Police in 1945 after Mickey Wrenn retired. He was chief for 26 years. In 1973 Fred Ray was elected Mayor of East Syracuse. For 50 years he was a well known public official of this village and he did much to further the progress of the community. He died in 1979.

A retirement dinner was given in June of 1981 in honor of one of our longest serving patrolmen. Edward L. King, Sr., served in the East Syracuse Police Department from December 1951 until the spring of 1981.

Sergeant Barber served as Acting Chief from 1980 through February 14, 1981. Officer William Barber began his police career with the Village of Manlius Police on June 1st, 1970. He transferred to the East Syracuse Police Department in April 1972 as a patrolman. Officer Barber was promoted to sergeant under Chief Joe Hymes in 1979. While assigned as Acting Chief, William Barber hire additional full time officers to the police force during his administration. William Peverly was appointed Chief of Police and William Barber remained with the ESPD as an administrative Sergeant until 1983. William Barber served on the Onondaga County Major Felony Unit, the 911 Organizational Committee, as PBA President and as Detective Sergeant. He received US Congress Letter of Commendation for police service with the ESPD. William Barber retired in April of 1991 with a total service of 20yrs 8 mos.

The Police Department grew from 1971 to 1981. The Department acquired new equipment. It operated two marked patrol vehicles and one

youth officer/investigator unmarked vehicle. Each patrol unit was equipped with first aid, fire and other emergency equipment. Specialized equipment included a breathalyzer and two CMI speed gun 8 radar units. Uniformed officers were on patrol 24 hours daily in marked patrol cars. A youth officer/investigator is on duty daily Monday through Friday and available on call weekends and evenings. The Police Department headquarters was located on the north side of the Municipal building at 204 North Center Street. The office was staffed 24 hours daily for walk-in service, complaints and receipt of telephone calls. The department became a member of the Onondaga Law Enforcement Mobile Radio District, making it possible to communicate directly with other village, town, and sheriff's law enforcement personnel. Through the teletype system patrols can make record, warrant, or motor vehicle checks and receive replies in seconds. This system provides local, state and national information and records.

William Peverly was named Police Chief on February 14, 1981.

Chief Peverly was one of several law enforcement executives responsible for beginning the Criminal History and Incident Reporting System (CHAIRS) that police agencies still utilize in Onondaga County. Chief Peverly continuously updated the department's computer needs and advanced the operational needs of the department by obtaining the best equipment and information technology available. Chief Peverly ensured that the department always maintained a high level of professionalism. Chief Peverly retired from the Department in 1996.

Robert Briggs was named Police Chief on February 10, 1996

Chief Briggs began his full-time law enforcement career with the East Syracuse Police department in February 1985. He held the position of Investigator, Juvenile Officer and Sergeant. He was appointed as Chief in 1996. Chief Briggs was dedicated to the community and instilled community policing. Chief Briggs was also an active member of the East Syracuse Fire Department and was Chief of the volunteer fire department from 1989 to 1991. Chief Briggs retired in 2000.

Daniel Boyle was named Police Chief on September 14, 2001

Chief Boyle was the First Deputy Chief for the Syracuse Police Department prior to his appointment with the East Syracuse Police Department. He was instrumental in obtaining New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation through the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. The initial phases of accreditation process had started with Chiefs Peverly and Chief Briggs. Chief Boyle completed the physical and operational changes necessary for the department to achieve accreditation. Chief Boyle retired on May 09, 2002. The Police Department received their initial Accreditation Assessment in June of 2002.

Douglas Robertson was named Police Chief on May 29, 2002.

Chief Robertson was the Chief of Police for the Village of Dryden prior to his appointment with the East Syracuse Police Department. He was a strong supporter of the Accreditation program. He was an Accreditation Assessor for the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. He changed the format of the department's accreditation manual and managed the program. He was also a strong advocate and Board Member of the Governors Traffic Safety Committee. He also was a New York State Police Instructor at the Central New York Police Academy.

Chief Robertson also assisted in the planning and construction of the police department portion of the new Municipal Building that the police department and Village Office is now located.

Chief Robertson retired on March 28, 2007. In June of 2007 the department was reaccredited by DCJS.

Eugene Conway was named Chief of Police on April 2, 2007.

Upon Chief Robertson's retirement, the Village of East Syracuse began a search for his replacement. The Town of DeWitt Chief of Police Eugene Conway assisted the Village with the administration of the Police Department from April 2, 2007 to July 13, 2007.

Peter Vasiloff was named Acting Chief of Police on July 13, 2007.

The Village then appointed East Syracuse Police Sergeant Peter Vasiloff as Acting Chief of Police while they continued their search for the next Chief of Police. Sergeant Vasiloff is a certified NYS Police Instructor

and a NYS Firearms instructor. Sergeant Vasiloff administered the Department until October 15, 2007.

Donald Morris was named Police Chief on October 15, 2007.

Chief Morris began his career on January 4, 1984 with the New York City Housing Authority Police. He graduated from the New York City Police Academy on June 5, 1984. He worked in Queens, Lower Manhattan and Harlem as a uniformed police officer and eventually in plain clothes as a member of the Anti-crime unit. He transferred to the Solvay Police Department on November 23, 1990. He held the rank of police officer, sergeant, lieutenant and captain in the Solvay Police Department. On March 15, 1999 he was appointed as Chief of Police for the Liverpool Police Department. Chief Morris has held the position of President of the Central New York Chiefs of Police Association and Chairman of the Onondaga County Chiefs of Police Association. Chief Morris retired from the Liverpool Police Department on October 14, 2007. He was appointed as Chief of Police for the Village of East Syracuse on October 15, 2007. Chief Morris has overseen the transition to the Glock handgun, patrol rifle and the Taser. He has also instituted a foot patrol program in the Village and he routinely patrols the Village in uniform.