



**Chief James A Thomas 1913-1929 and 1942-1944**

James A. Thomas was the first Chief of Police when the town of Winston and the town of Salem merged in 1913. Prior to this he was the Chief of Police in the Town of Winston from 1907-1913. He was the first officer to move through all the ranks to become Chief of Police. On June 8, 1895 he was elected to serve as a police officer. In 1905, he was listed as regular policeman #4, and was promoted to Police Sergeant the following year. On March 7, 1907 he was elected as Chief in the town of Winston. Every two years he was re-elected and was then named Chief of the newly merged city. In 1929, Thomas retired. However, in 1942, after the resignation of Chief Anderson, Thomas was appointed again as Chief. He stated that would only be Chief until a permanent one could be found. He served as Chief until 1944.

Under Chief Thomas:

- The first police car was purchased for the department in 1915
- Salaries were raised for the police officers. The lowest paid officers received a raise of \$11.50 per month
- Twenty-Five Winchester Riot guns were purchased on February 7, 1919 in response the riot that had broken out in November of 1918
- The first motorcycle was authorized for use in June of 1913. The authorization for a second one would come in August of the same year.

- On July 11, 1919 a Police telephone and telegraph system was purchased and installed
- On August 23, 1919 traffic booths were installed, and in October three more were purchased. These were for the Traffic Officers to sit in and observe the traffic flow and switch the signals, as needed.
- Harold Hayes was hired on November 14, 1919 as the first Probation Officer.
- The rank of Captain was first used in 1920. J.J. Cofer was elected as the Captain and was in charge of all police in uniform.
- In 1920, the Bertillion System was adopted into the department, as was finger printing. The Bertillion method identified people by the using precise measurements of the skull.
- Pistols were purchased for the police department on February 25, 1921. Previously policemen had used their own handguns, or those that had been confiscated.
- In September of 1921, a training school for the police officers was established. A training manual was also produced and printed for all officers.
- The use of mug shots began on August 17, 1921.
- In 1926, a new City Hall was built. This would be the location of the Police Departments Headquarters for 60 years.
- In 1928, the “Boy Patrol” was established. Officers were placed at traffic crossings at schools to keep students safe.



**Chief J.G. Wooten 1929-1934**

After Chief Thomas retired, J.G. Wooten was elected Chief of Police on September 6, 1929. He had been one of the eight patrolmen under Thomas in 1913. At the time of his election, he was a World War I veteran and uniform division Captain. In 1934, Wooten died of a heart attack and was succeeded by Walter F. Anderson.

Under Chief Wooten:

- On February 6, 1930, the police department was authorized to purchase a new Ford Roadster for the traffic division
- In 1931, a group of detectives called themselves the “Spider Gang”. According to a 1931 news article, they were called the “Spider Gang” due to the ease with which they snuck up on gambling rings, and their proficiency in liquor raids.
- On November 3, 1933, the department was provided six vehicles equipped with radios. At the time, this was the most in the state. With this implementation of radios, the homicide rate decreased from 26 to 23.



**Chief Walter F. Anderson 1934-1944**

At the death of Chief Wooten, Walter F. Anderson was appointed Chief on February 1, 1934. At this time, Captain J.J. Cofer became the first Assistant Chief, and Bill Burke, a member of the Spider Gang, was promoted to Captain of Detectives. Chief Anderson resigned in September of 1942 to take the position of Police Chief in Charlotte. Retired Chief Thomas took the role until 1944.

Under Chief Anderson:

- A Traffic Squad was formed in 1940. They dealt, primarily, with parking violations and accident investigation.
- Two-way communication systems were placed in the seven radio cars.
- On October 1, 1941, John Joyce was hired as the first African American officer. However, he was not given a uniform and was given the title of “Plainclothes Special Duty Officer”. Prior to his hiring, he had been used a paid police informant.



**Chief John M. Gold 1944-1950**

In 1944, John M. Gold became Chief of Police. At the time, he was the youngest Chief at age 34. He was also the first “outsider”, but had served with the SBI and the FBI. On August 8, 1950, Chief Gold resigned to take the position of Prison Director of North Carolina. In less than a year, he returned to take the position of Winston-Salem’s second City Manager.

Under Chief Gold:

- First two African-Americans were hired as uniformed police. John Joyce and George Dillahunt were uniformed, but only had authority in the “black sections” of town. Within two years, four other African Americans would be added to the force.
- During the labor unrest that occurred in the Tobacco factories in 1946, Gold was quoted to have “acted quietly and undisturbed, but firmly and what could have been a prairie fire was soon quieted down.”
- The first sworn-in female officer, Gloria Robbins, was hired in 1947.



**Chief James I. Waller 1950-1963**

James I. Waller was named Chief of Police following the resignation of Chief Gold. Waller was 32 years old when he came into office, and was also an FBI Agent. Chief Waller was known for his eye for publicity. During his time as Chief, he made sure that the paper was aware of all of the positive aspects of the Department.

During the summer of 1963, Chief Waller was moved to the role of Director in the newly developed Department of Public Safety. Justus M. Tucker was then promoted to Chief of Police.

Under Chief Waller:

- The Traffic Division began using the Intoximeter, in 1951. This was a test to determine the level of alcohol intoxication.
- Six more African American officers were hired. This allowed for 24 hour operation of a cruiser in the “black sections”
- The first motorcycle with a two-way radio was purchased in November of 1951.
- The “Whammy”, a radar, was first used in 1952. Traffic arrest increased dramatically with the implementation of this device.

- In 1952, six more women were hired to check parking violations. They were given the name “meter maids”. One of these six, Lillian Bonner, was the first African American female officer.
- In 1954, the use of color still photography was implemented at crime scenes and evidence gathering.
- A new radio room with a new switchboard and compact radio set was built in 1955.
- In 1958, Police were required to wear white gloves when directing traffic, escorting funerals, and attending athletic events.
- Since Winston-Salem had won the “All-American City” Award in 1960, the All-American City patch became part of the police uniform as a shoulder patch.
- In 1959, the Breathalyzer was purchased to assist and then replace the blood tests.
- A Canine Unit was established on August 20, 1962. These officers began patrol in March of 1963.
- A color photo printing lab was established for Police Department use on January 21, 1963.
- The new police shoulder patch was incorporated into police uniform. It had the city seal in the center, with the founding date of Salem, the founding date of Winston, and the consolidation date of 1913. The design was produced by the future Chief Justus Tucker.
- The Department of Public Safety was established in June of 1963.



**Chief Justus M. Tucker 1963-1973**

Justus M. Tucker was promoted to Chief in 1963. During his time as Chief, the department saw a push for better training so that the officers would be more educated and equipped than any of the previous officers.

On February 5, 1973, Tucker was given the position of Public Safety Director, and Police Major Tom Surratt was promoted to Chief of Police. Tucker retired after one year.

Under Chief Tucker:

- J.A Landon and N.W. Smith were the first African American Detectives hired in December of 1964
- In 1964, the Services Division was created. This combined records with the complaint desk, jail, training, and property control. Also a Youth Unit was created to officially handle all cases involving juveniles.
- In 1965, an Internal Affairs and Intelligence Unit was established, as well as, a Community Services Unit.
- A new jail was built in 1966

- On September 27, 1970, Attorney George Cleland was hired as Police Attorney. He was to advise the department on legal matters, defend police officers in court, and teach basic law to recruits.
- A pistol range was purchased on September 7, 1971.



**Chief Thomas A Surratt 1973-1977**

Thomas A. Surratt became Chief of Police in 1973. On August 15, 1977, a state retirement plan was approved for sworn officers. If an officer had served for thirty or more years, they were considered eligible. This included Chief Surratt. After six months, L.A. Powell, Assistant Chief of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was named Chief of Police.

Under Chief Surratt:

- The Public Safety Career Development Center was established in February of 1974 to train firemen and policemen for the new Public Safety Officer concept.
- The “Neighborhood Team Policing” was implemented in January of 1975.
- Television and video tape equipment was purchased for training and for crime scene documentation.



**Chief L.A. Powell 1978-1984**

L.A. Powell became Chief in January of 1978. He immediately restructured the department into three divisions with a Major over each division. These three divisions were services, detectives, and patrol. Each Major rotated jobs annually.

Powell resigned on August 20, 1984. Major Joseph E. Maston was chosen as Chief of Police on November 21, 1984.

Under Chief Powell:

- The CrimeStoppers program was developed in 1982.



**Chief Joseph E. Masten 1984-1986**

In November of 1984, the 37 year veteran Joseph E. Masten became Chief of Police. In 1986, Masten resigned as Chief.

Under Chief Masten:

- In February of 1986, the Victim Services Unit was established. This included victim assistance and trauma training
- Established downtown foot patrol and neighborhood patrols



**Chief George L. Sweat 1987-1999**

After the resignation of Chief Masten, George L. Sweat was promoted to Chief of Police on March 9, 1987. Sweat was 39 years old and had been the Department's Rookie of the Year in 1971. In 1975, he was promoted to Sergeant, and then to a Lieutenant in 1978. He was promoted to Captain in 1982.

In 1999, Chief Sweat resigned to become head of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retired Assistant Chief Linda G. Davis was appointed as Chief of Police following Sweat's resignation.

Under Chief Sweat:

- Implemented the Community Oriented Policing program in 1988. Once again the city was divided under uniformed Captains, and an emphasis was placed on getting to know the citizens. Officers performed more foot patrol and attended neighborhood meetings to hear the concerns of the public.
- On August 20, 1990, the D.A.R.E program was approved to begin in Schools.

- New automatic handguns were ordered for departmental use on October 21, 1991.
- A new Canine Unit was developed. The first had been phased out after the riots in the '60s. This Canine Unit would be used for criminal apprehension and illegal drug related uses, rather than controlling crowds.
- On June 19, 1995, Police cars were equipped with personal computers.



**Chief Linda Davis 1999-2004**

In 1999, Linda Davis was asked to be interim Chief of Police. Prior to this, she had been Assistant Chief and had retired from that position in 1998. She had joined the Department in 1966 as a secretary for then Major Thomas Surratt. After eighteen months, she transferred to the patrol division and completed the police rookie school. Though she began as interim Chief, the position became permanent. She retired on February 28, 2004. Patricia Norris then took her place as Chief of Police.

Under Chief Davis:

- Advanced the use of computer terminals in cars
- In September of 2000, the Citizen's Police Academy was developed. This was a ten week course where citizens could apply and learn about the inner workings of the department.

- On September 18, 2000 a Digital Photo System was implemented. This replaced the old photo processor that was used for mug shots and crime scene photography.



**Chief Patricia Norris 2004-2008**

Patricia Norris was appointed Chief of Police in February of 2004. At the time of her appointment she held the position of Assistant Chief. Not only was she the second female Chief of Police, but she was also the first African American to be appointed. After joining the department in 1977, she had worked her way up through the ranks. In November of 2007, Norris announced that she was retiring, but would stay on until a new Chief of Police was appointed. She officially retired in June of 2008 to become Chief of Police at Winston-Salem University in August of the same year.

Under Chief Norris:

- Implemented a series of reforms to rebuild the trust in the police department
- Changed the way in which photo lineups were presented and the video taping of all interviews
- Installed video cameras in the police patrol vehicles.