“WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING SANTA ROSA A SAFE 
PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY.”

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Website: www.santarosapd.com
“THE CITY DESIGNED FOR LIVING”

Santa Rosa lies within the region of the last Spanish mission - San Francisco Solano de Sonoma, founded by Padre Jose Altimira, on July 4, 1823. The area’s first English speaking settler was an Irish immigrant by the name of John L. Read in 1827, but Read only remained here for a short period.

On August 30, 1829, Father Juan Amoroso performed the act of confirmation upon a young Indian woman beside a stream and it being the day on which the church celebrated the feast of Santa Rosa de Lima, Father Amoroso named the stream Santa Rosa and the surrounding valley came to be called after the stream, the Valley of Santa Rosa.

Four years later, in 1833, the City of Santa Rosa was founded by General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. The first permanent settler was Señora Maria Ygnacia Lopez de Carrillo in 1838.

The County of Sonoma was organized in 1850, Santa Rosa being proclaimed by vote as the County seat. The township of Santa Rosa and the incorporated City of Santa Rosa came on February 23, 1867. During the City’s first 107 year history, she was headed by 53 mayors and 3 presidents of the early day Boards of Trustees.

The City did not have a regular base of operations until 1883 when property was purchased for the construction of the City Hall in the location now occupied by the Eureka Savings and Loan Building. The earthquake of 1906 damaged the 1883 City Hall beyond repair and temporary offices were constructed at Fifth Street and Mendocino Avenue.

The new City Hall, constructed in the same general area, was completed in 1913 and functioned as the seat of City government for the following 56 years. On June 7, 1969, the present Civic Center (City Hall) was dedicated.

Santa Rosa’s climate and ideal location - 52 miles North of San Francisco, 100 miles West of Sacramento, and 21 miles from the Pacific Ocean, at an altitude of 167 feet above sea level - have been instrumental in the City’s growth. The current population as of the 2010 Census was 167,816, in an area of over 42 square miles.
April 1, 1867, denotes the birth of the Santa Rosa Police Department. On February 23, 1867, the trustees of the newly formed City of Santa Rosa passed a Resolution forming the Police Department (Chapter 1, Sections 1-21). The Department consisted of a City Marshal and a Pound Keeper.

H.G. Parks received the post as City Marshal, and John Taylor was appointed as Pound Keeper on May 13, 1867. Records indicate that individuals served as night watchmen at the discretion of the Marshal. They were paid a flat sum of $2 per night. The Marshal was first paid a sum per service performed of .25 (cents). These services included “summoning witness”, “every entry in registrar of arrest”, “every entry of any nuisance or the violation of any law of said city”. For “arresting an individual charged with an offense”, he received $1.

In 1868, the City passed a Resolution establishing a regular salary for the Marshal at $75 per month.

On April 19, 1872, H.H. Fredson was appointed as the first Deputy Marshal serving under the City’s fifth Marshal, W.H. Mead. Various individuals were being used as night watchmen until 1876 when a Mr. Fuller and Robert Dyer were appointed on April 21, 1876, as regular night watchmen under Marshal J.M. White and Deputy Marshal A.C. Rainey. The men were required to wear uniforms of either blue or grey, worked 12-hour shifts, 7-days a week, and were paid $50 a month.

The Marshal was charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order, serving official papers, pound keeper, City tax collector, and health officer. Members of the force were subject to reappointment on an annual basis. An election was held by the Board of Trustees on the first Tuesday of each April.

By 1884, the Force had regulated into the ward system. Each of the City’s three wards had an appointed officer. When the officers reported to duty, they would sign the “pay book” which showed the ward they were working in and the hours worked.

The night hours were established as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April - October</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 4:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October - April</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The City, at this time, recalled all badges and cancelled all appointments for police, special police, and night watchmen and then re-established a permanent regular police force.

On December 5, 1901, the City Marshal, Charles C. Holmes, Jr., opened his office for twenty-hour service. The City served under fourteen City Marshals between the years of 1867 and 1901. On April 17, 1906, Fred Rushmore was appointed as the City’s first Chief of Police. On the following day, April 18, 1906, the City of Santa Rosa was struck with the devastating 1906 earthquake.

Information regarding the location and facilities of the police department between 1867 and 1883 is not clear. The City did have a “calaboose”, and records from the 1870s indicate repairs were made on it. The location appears to have been in the City Hall building.

The new 1913 City Hall police facilities consisted of two rooms - the Chief’s office and a room for the officers to assemble. There was also a jail which had eight cells.
The police force remained fairly constant in size between 1876 and the 1920s with four or five regular officers supplemented by special officers. Pay records reveal that the use of special police officers working regular shifts for several months at a time was a common practice. The force began to increase in size during the late 1920s. The steady encroachment of the automobile appeared to have played a vital role in the increase in the size of the force.

Officers regularly called upon the local taxi fleet to answer calls or transport prisoners with the City picking up the tab. The first police car was purchased in 1929. Bicycles were in common use for patrol. In 1935, the force consisted of twelve regular officers, one patrol car, the same two rooms, cell block, two desks, and one telephone. The officers were paid $160 per month in return for a six-day work week. After officers had completed one year probationary period, they were compensated at $5 per shift. Officers left the station unmanned while on street patrol. An incoming call for an officer would be intercepted by an operator who would signal the officer by a light upon a pole located on the roof of the building at Hinton and Fourth Streets. The officer would then phone in to receive the message.

On July 15, 1935, 77 year old Albert I. Chamberlain walked into the police station and shot Chief Charles O’Neal who was sitting at a table in the assembly room. Chief O’Neal was shot three times and died two days later.

As a direct result of this tragedy, a public counter was built across the room dividing it into two separate areas. It was at this counter that the public was met for the following 34 years.

To date, Chief O’Neal has been the only regular Santa Rosa Police Department officer killed in the line of duty. Two years earlier, in February of 1933, Special Officer Carlos R. “Bill” Carrick was shot and killed at Sixth and Adams Streets during his rounds as a merchant patrolman.

The station house changed slowly during the period following the bloody 1930s. The old courtroom next to the assembly room was taken over and remodeled into a squad room. The back portion of the old assembly room was converted into a dispatch office. The front portion became the Desk Sergeant’s area facing the public counter.

Mel Bruner constructed and installed the first two-way police communications system in Northern California. Bruner served as night dispatcher and repairman for the City between 1935 and 1958. His firm, M.L. Bruner Co. handled communication maintenance for the City.

On June 1, 1940, Melvin “Dutch” Flohr took command of the twelve man force, starting a 34 year reign that would take the Department through sweeping changes. The station expanded, taking over the old gas station building between the Police Department and the Sheriff’s Office. The lube room was at first a locker room for the officers, and the office portion was an Identification Bureau. The locker room was finally moved across the street in the basement area of the condemned County Courthouse around 1964. The force consisted of 39 men, a Captain, an Inspector, 2 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, 25 Officers and 5 Civilian Employees.

The needs of the force compelled the move on April 1, 1966, into the vacated Sheriff’s Office building. Three years passed and the force again moved. On June 10, 1969, the force moved to the newly constructed Civic Center (City Hall) at 100 Santa Rosa Avenue.
The force of 1974 would be a strange and foreign place to the “bobby hatted officer” of 1913. In 1973, the Department consisted of Chief, Assistant Chief, Administrative Aide, Criminal Technician, K-9 Corps, Special Task Force, 6 Lieutenants, 10 Sergeants, 42 Officers, 5 Dispatchers, 2 Cadets, and 7 Civilian Employees. Employees worked in a divisionalized department, consisting of an Administrative Section, Investigation Section, Juvenile Section, Records Section, Communications Section, Warrant Section, Community Relations Section, and the Traffic Bureau. All of these Sections were built around the Patrol Division and were supported by a 25 man reserve force with special support units which included the 2 K-9 units and a 25 man special response team. All were housed in the modern complex consisting of 10 offices, 2 squad rooms, records room, dispatch center, crime lab, dark room, armory, evidence storage, lunch room, indoor range, conference room, locker room, 5 restrooms, storage room, and public foyer. It contained 13 telephone lines, 2 teletype machines, a fleet of 16 radio units, and 2 motorcycles flowing in and out of the parking lot, responding to calls from a population presently in excess of 63,000 men, women, and children and covering an area of 23.5 square miles, divided into 7 beats.

HISTORY OF THE PATCH/UNIFORM

Santa Rosa Police Officers did not wear patches until after WWII. Around 1947 - 1948 a black and gold patch was worn. This patch was modeled from the one that was worn by the Berkeley Police Department.

Around 1949, a new city seal was designed. By 1952, patches bearing the new design were worn.

Around 1976, a new patch was being worn. Dark blue uniforms were officially worn on February 20, 1978.

POLICE FORCE

1880s

Four policemen were hired during this time:

- S.R. Yoho
- William Jones
- E. Gardner
- J.H. Hatch

They earned a monthly salary of $50 a month and wore clerical-cut coats with brass buttons.

FIRST AND ONLY OFFICIAL HANGING

March 23, 1866
Michael Ryan was hung for killing his wife.

BIKE PATROL

1901

Officers were given a raise of $15 per month but they had to buy their own bicycle.

PATROL

1902

Officers received a $10 a month raise (total of $75 per month).
CITY MARSHAL 1901
Phone No. RED 21
Budget - $1,227.56
Protection to Person & Property - 1917

Police Department:
Salaries $5,551.00
Extra Police 271.50
Phone Service 1.35
Supplies 11.55
Printed Supplies 12.75
Publishing Notices 9.51
Use of Taxi Ambulance 24.00
Cartage 1.00
Painting for Traffic Regulation 48.95
Chief’s expense to police convention 12.00
Police Pension 111.00
TOTAL $6,070.61

CITY POPULATION GROWTH
1890 - 5,220
1900 - 6,673
1910 - 7,817
1920 - 8,758
1930 - 10,636
1940 - 12,605
1950 - 17,902
1960 - 31,027
1970 - 50,006
1980 - est. 82,026

CITY CHARTER 1905
Marshal George Severson was called officially “Chief of Police”; however, on April 16, 1906, Mayor Overton appointed Fred E. Rushmore Chief of Police. Officers at the time were: Herman Hankel, John Boyes, Donald McIntosh, and Isaac Lindley. On April 17, 1906, a devastating earthquake hit Santa Rosa.

ESTIMATED POLICE BUDGET 1908
Fred J. Rushmore, Chief of Police; J.M. Boyes, I.N. Lindley, N.G. Yeager and G.W. Matthews

Salaries $4,161.00
Police Relief 216.00
Special Police 63.00
Police Patrol 77.05
Batteries 17.65
Misc. Police Patrol 7.85
Saving wood, office 4.50
TOTAL: $4,547.00

POLICE BUDGET 1909
Salary $1,200.00
Stamps 7.00
Telephone 8.43
Rubber stamps 5.00
Chair 7.50
TOTAL: $1,227.93

CITY HALL
Santa Rosa, July 1, 1909

“To His Honor the Mayor and the Council of the City of Santa Rosa, California. I beg leave to submit the following report for fiscal year ending June 30, 1901:

FINES COLLECTED $784.50

 Arrest 291
 Fined 100
 Jailed 78
 Dismissed 93
 Justice Court 20
 Dogs Impounded & Killed 123
 Dogs found dead 76
 Dogs buried 199
 Dogs licensed 796
 Dogs tagged 173
 Stock impounded 27
 Ambulance fees 54
 City taxes collected $77,039
 Total collections for year $92,200

Have collected all City Taxes for year 1909.”

Respectfully submitted
F.J. RUSHMORE
Chief of Police
THE SANTA ROSA RED LIGHT DISTRICT REVISITED BY NOEL C. STEVENSON

The practice of prostitution in California has been illegal since the Gold Rush times, so it may surprise some of the present residents of Santa Rosa to learn that our prim and proper city permitted the operation of a thriving red light district in the vicinity of First and Second Streets between Main Street (now Santa Rosa Avenue) and E Street, until the 1920s.

This vignette of Sonoma County history was discovered while reading some decisions of the District Court of Appeal and out of all of those thousands of prosaic opinions of the Court, was the Santa Rosa Red Light case. This discovery led to a search of court records and the old files of the Press Democrat for additional facts.

On September 4, 1907, the Press Democrat printed this item: “In the Superior Court yesterday morning was commenced the first of a number of suits which it is understood are to follow, to close up the red light district on First Street between E and Main Streets and on D Street between Second and First Streets.”

The red light district in Santa Rosa had been tolerated for years. It was considered a necessary evil. Local business people insisted it be there as laborers from the farms, ranches and logging operations came to Santa Rosa to spend their money for food, lodging, clothing, getting drunk, and enjoying the embraces of the girls in the sporting houses. Without the added attraction of the red light district, the men would go elsewhere to spend their money - Petaluma for instance - where the same type of accommodations were offered.

The city fathers of Santa Rosa indirectly recognized the presence of the red light district by adopting a resolution for its regulation. The resolution applied only to lodging and boarding houses “…between the southerly line of Second Street and Santa Rosa Creek, or that portion of First Street between D and E Streets.” This was, of course, precisely where the red light district was located.

Chief George Matthews and Staff

Officer John Burton Mays
This condition might have continued unchecked for many years if it hadn’t been for a school teacher named Miss Lou Farmer who lived next to these establishments. Miss Farmer claimed that conditions in the red light district constituted a nuisance and obtained counsel to file the lawsuit to obtain an injunction to prohibit the operation of one of the most notorious houses of prostitution in the district.

The trial of the action commenced on October 29, 1907. Miss Farmer testified that she lived 182 feet from the house of prostitution she claimed as a nuisance. She said the women inmates wore kimonos but not in the conventional manner respectable women would wear them. She heard women call to men and boys and try to entice them into the house. She and her mother were disturbed by the revelry, lascivious conduct and profanity of men and women which kept her awake at night. Automobiles were driven up to the house and she had heard coarse greetings exchanged between the female inmates and the male arrivals.

The newspaper account of the trial stated that “Miss Farmer was spared the distasteful experience of relating the exact vulgarity of the language she had heard on a number of occasions. She wrote the worst of it down and handed it to the court reporter so that it could go into the record.”

On the night of August 11, 1907, Miss Farmer said there were 50 men waiting for admission into the house. On August 28, she counted 25 men callers who entered it. On the first Monday night in September, she testified that a woman stood in front of a window in the house while the blind was still up and removed her clothes. She was followed by a man who did likewise. Then the couple took a drink together and disappeared.

“Miss Farmer had armed herself with the names of a number of male visitors at the house on numerous occasions. She was willing to announce them in open court if desired. Some of them, she said, ‘Were prominent too.’ It was decided by counsel for the parties and the judge that mention of the names was not necessary.”

Miss Farmer ended her testimony by stating that due to the conduct of the house the enjoyment of her home had been destroyed.

Counsel for Miss Farmer subpoenaed one of the girls whose testimony was one reason why the courtroom was packed by spectators. After testimony that she roomed and boarded at the house, these questions and answers concluded her testimony:

Q. (By counsel for Miss Farmer) What is your business?
A. I am a sporting girl.
Q. In other words, you mean to say that you are what is commonly known as a prostitute?
A. Yes.

She further testified that prostitution was practiced in the house where she stayed and that it was a house of ill fame. The testimony was corroborated by another girl who lived there.

Apparently, the evidence was sufficient to satisfy the trial judge that the place was being operated as a house of prostitution, was a nuisance to Miss Farmer and its operation should be prohibited. The defendant appealed and the District Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the trial judge.

The termination of this red light case did not solve the problem, as it closed down only one of the houses of prostitution. Thus, it wasn’t a surprise when Miss Farmer’s attorneys appeared before the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on January 13, 1908, and requested that the Board direct the District Attorney to prosecute the operators of houses of prostitution in the City of Santa Rosa. Their request was denied, the Board members were of the opinion that they would not interfere - that the “City should manage its own affairs” and did not instruct the District Attorney to proceed against the red light district.

City Hall and Police Department after 1906 Earthquake
Santa Rosa City Council members were also subject to demands of the citizenry demanding that the red light district be controlled and limited to its recognized district. On August 4, 1908, the minutes of the City Council state that, “A protest against allowing houses of prostitution to exist west of the track of the Northwestern Pacific Railway Company, signed by 294 residents of that district was read. Mayor Gray stated that it was not the intention of the (City) Council to place them anywhere.”

Without any official interference, the red light district continued to flourish. However, the passage of time and change of conditions eventually solved the problem. Every year that passed resulted in the diminishment of California’s transient population. That, and the replacement of professionals by amateurs brought the red light era to a close. By 1930, the gay times of the district on First and Second Streets were forgotten by all but a few “old timers”. The last remnants of the system were destroyed when Santa Rosa Urban Renewal leveled the area and the new Santa Rosa City Hall was constructed on a portion of the old red light district.

SANTA ROSA POLICE MARSHALS AND CHIEFS

H.G. PARKS - MARSHAL: 1867 - 1868

Marshal Parks was the first marshal elected with the town incorporation in 1867. Marshal Parks headed a department of 2.

JOHN FARMER - MARSHAL: 1868 - 1869

JERRY CLAYPOOL - MARSHALL: 1869 - 1870

THEODORE PARK - MARSHAL: 1870 - 1872

WILLIAM MEAD - MARSHALL: 1872 - 1873

J.M. WHITE - MARSHALL: 1873 - 1878 and 1880 - 1884

W.S. BECKNER - MARSHALL: 1878 - 1880

J.B. DAVIS - MARSHALL: 1884 - 1886

J.J. LOWREY - MARSHALL: 1886 - 1890

ISAIAH CHARLES - MARSHAL: 1890 - 1892

LOUIS BREITENBACH - MARSHAL: 1892 - 1893

Marshal Breitenbach was one of a long line of town marshals elected to serve the citizens of Santa Rosa before there was an official city police department. He was arrested in 1893 for taking $1,164 of city money.

W.J. STEADMAN - MARSHAL: 1893 - 1898

CHARLES H. HOLMES, JR. – MARSHAL: 1898 & 1900 - 1902

Marshal Holmes was elected as Marshal in 1898, but he left office to serve in the E-Company in the Spanish-American War. When he returned from the War, he ran for Marshal and was appointed again in 1900.

GEORGE SEVERSON – MARSHAL: 1902 – 1906

Marshal Severson was the first “official” Chief of Police for Santa Rosa.

ALFRED E. RUSHMORE – CHIEF 1906 – 1910

Chief Rushmore was appointed the first Chief of Police on April 16, 1906. On his second day in office, the area suffered a great earthquake. City records seem to reveal that Chief Rushmore was not connected with the Department prior to his appointment, and his name does not appear on the records after the appointment of John M. Boyes, his successor.
JOHN M. BOYES – CHIEF
1910 – 1918

Chief Boyes was well recognized as one of the State’s best known and respected lawmen. He was born in Mendocino County and was a long time Santa Rosa resident. He entered the Police Department in 1896 as a patrolman and served for fourteen years prior to his appointment as Chief. His small but effective force enjoyed the confidence of the citizens of Santa Rosa. In December 1918, he resigned as Chief and served as Chief Criminal Deputy for Under Sheriff James Petray.

In December 1920, Sheriff Petray, two San Francisco detectives, Lieutenant John Matthews, and other Sonoma County officers, gathered at 6th and Adams Streets. They were looking for men wanted for several robberies in the Bay Area. The task resulted in the deaths of Sheriff Petray and the two San Francisco detectives. Three men were arrested. It was Chief Boyes who commanded the defense of the Sonoma County Jail which was stormed by the hooded mob that seized and hanged the three accused men. Chief Boyes was Sheriff of Sonoma County from 1920 – 1924. He was active in many fraternal orders in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.

GEORGE W. MATTHEWS – CHIEF
1918 – 1928

Chief Matthews was born on his father’s farm in the immediate vicinity of Santa Rosa. He is one of five children born to early pioneer settlers of this area. Reared and educated in local schools, he learned the family trade of blacksmithing and worked for several years at that trade until he entered the Police Department as a patrolman in May 1909.

Chief Matthews was a person prone to effectiveness and attention to duty. He was appointed as Chief of Police in December 1918, and had an efficient six-man department. His sudden death, while in office, was deeply felt by the community and fellow members of the Department. He was active in fraternal orders.

CHARLES B. O’NEAL – CHIEF
1928 – 1935

Chief O’Neal was a native of Montana and came to Santa Rosa via Spokane, Washington. He joined the Police Department in March 1925, during the term of Chief George Matthews.

Upon the sudden death of Chief Matthews in 1928, the City Council looked first to Captain Herman Hankel, a 37 year veteran of the Department, as the logical successor. Captain Hankel elected not to accept the position. The Council then looked to 33 year old Charles O’Neal. Though with the Department for only 3 years, Chief O’Neal had proven his ability as a police officer. He was appointed Chief of Police in May 1928.

Chief O’Neal holds the tragic place in the Department’s history as being the first Santa Rosa officer killed in the line of duty. Chief O’Neal was gunned down in his office by Al Chamberlain on July 15, 1935, for retaliatory reasons. He died at the age of 39, ending a promising and productive career.

EMIL BIAVASCHI – CHIEF
1935 – 1939

Chief Biavaschi, a naturalized citizen from the northern part of Italy, moved to Santa Rosa from Montana in 1915. He entered the Santa Rosa Police Department in 1924 as a specialized officer and was placed in regular service in 1926 as a patrolman. He was promoted to sergeant in 1929 and made captain in 1930. He was appointed as Chief of Police in August 1935. He had been with the Department for eleven years prior to his appointment. In February 1939, Chief Biavaschi elected to step down to patrolman and served in that capacity until his retirement in November 1953. His 30 years of service with the Santa Rosa Police Department earned him the warmest respect and friendship of the men of the Department and the community.
WATSON B. MAXWELL – CHIEF
1939 – 1940

Chief Maxwell, a Lake County native, moved to Santa Rosa as a young man and worked as a teamster for a local hauling and storage firm. He joined the Police Department in January 1931, under Chief Charles B. O’Neal. He was promoted to sergeant in 1935 and made captain in 1937. He was appointed as Chief in February 1939, and remained in that position until June 1940. He continued to serve the community until his retirement in January 1959.

MELVIN F. FLOHR – CHIEF
1940 – 1974

Chief Flohr (also known as “Dutch”) was a native of Petaluma and graduated from Santa Clara University. He entered police work in 1974 when he became Chief Criminal Deputy in the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office under Sheriff Harry Patteson (a former Santa Rosa police officer). He later worked several months for Fred Young investigating coroner cases in the Healdsburg area. Chief Flohr’s uncle, Marcus (Mike) Flohr, was the Chief of Police for Petaluma for 17 years and was also the Sonoma County Sheriff for 4 years in the early 1930s.

Chief Flohr was appointed as Chief in June 1940 and was responsible for a 12 man Department. In 1942, the Federal Bureau of Investigation selected him to train in Washington for an appointment as a special agent. Just prior to his departure for training, he declined the appointment and remained the Chief of Police. He retired in April 1974. Chief Flohr’s police career spanned 40 years. During his 34 years as Chief, he served under ten City Managers and saw the Department through a number of changes.

SALVATORE V. ROSANO – CHIEF
1974 - 1996

Chief Rosano was born in Brooklyn, New York. He was raised and educated in the San Francisco area. He entered the criminal justice system at the age of 19 and served as a correctional officer at San Quentin Prison. Shortly thereafter, he joined the South San Francisco Police Department. His assignments included dispatching, patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, watch commander, and investigation division commander. He was appointed Chief of Police in South San Francisco in 1972.

Chief Rosano was appointed as Chief of Police for Santa Rosa in June 1974. The Department continued to grow under his direction to meet the growing needs of the community.

MICHAEL A. DUNBAUGH – CHIEF
1996 – 2004

Chief Dunbaugh’s law enforcement career began in 1974 with the City of Santa Cruz. He worked as a patrol officer and promoted through the ranks. In 1992, he was appointed as Chief of Police for the City of Chico. In 1996, he was appointed as Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa.

Chief Dunbaugh completed his undergraduate work through California State University, Sacramento, and received a Bachelor’s with Honors in Criminal Justice. Graduate work was completed through Cal Poly Pomona where a Master’s Degree in Science in Management was earned and through Monterey College of Law where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. Chief Dunbaugh has also completed the FBI National Academy and the California Command College.

EDWIN F. FLINT – CHIEF
2004 – 2008

Chief Flint was hired as the Chief of Police for the Santa Rosa Police Department on January 20, 2004. Chief Flint began his law enforcement career with the California Highway Patrol. After working in Los Angeles and the Bay Area, Chief Flint was hired by the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department where he promoted through the ranks to Captain. He served as the first Assistant Chief of Police for the newly incorporated City of Citrus Heights, commanded the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, and the Sheriff’s North Patrol Division before being selected as Elk Grove’s first Police Chief.
Chief Flint attended numerous law enforcement schools and received specialized training in narcotics investigations, SWAT operations, and civil emergency management. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the POST Command College. Chief Flint holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from California State University, Sacramento, and was completing his graduate studies at California State University, Long Beach.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Chief Flint was a Colonel in the United States Army Reserves and was branch qualified as an Infantry and Military Police Officer. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and was selected for the U.S. Army War College. He was transferred to the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) on January 1, 2004.

THOMAS H. SIMMS - CHIEF
2008 - 2009

Chief Simms was the Interim Chief of Police in Santa Rosa from August 2008 to March 2009. Chief Simms retired as the Roseville Chief of Police in 1999. He was then Interim Chief for San Rafael, Petaluma, Rocklin and Jackson Police Departments in California. He has an MS in Management from Cal Poly, Pomona, a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from St. Mary's College, and he is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the P.O.S.T. Command College.

THOMAS E. SCHWEDHELM – CHIEF
2009 - 2013

Chief Schwedhelm started as a police officer for the Santa Rosa Police Department in 1983. He promoted up through the ranks until 2009 when he was appointed as the official Chief of Police on May 3, 2009 until his retirement in 2013.

Chief Schwedhelm received his Associate of Science degree from Santa Rosa Junior College in Administration of Justice in 1993, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s College in Business Management in 1997. He received his Master of Arts degree in Psychology (focusing on Organizational Development) from Sonoma State University in 2005.

Chief Schwedhelm is a graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, class 109, and Leadership Santa Rosa, class 19. He is a past president of the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chief’s Association. He also holds a Lifetime Limited Services Teaching credential.

ROBERT L. “HANK” SCHREEDER - ACTING CHIEF
2013 - Present

Chief Schreeder was hired as a police officer with the Santa Rosa Police Department in 1991. He has promoted up through the ranks and in 2009 was promoted to Captain. As a Captain, he supervised both the Field Services Division and the Special Services Division. He also managed the department’s involvement in the Federal Drug Enforcement and FBI Safe Streets Task Force, and helped develop the Family Justice Center Sonoma County which is a regional response to domestic violence. In December 2013 he was appointed as the Acting Chief of Police.