



# OXNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *CHIEFS OF POLICE*

### 1903 to Present

NAME	TENURE	MISC. INFORMATION
1. Samuel P. Rowe	7-14-1903 to 1-5-1904	Previously served as city tax collector.
2. William C. Reno	1-15-04 to 4-13-1906	Served as Deputy Marshal when appointed City Marshal.
3. William E. Kelley	4-13-1906 to 1-20-1915	First served as City Marshal, resigned. Returned, served as City Constable. Killed in line of duty, 8-20-1921.
4. Arthur J. Murray	2-2-1915 to 2-9-1926	Before City Marshal, he was employed as city's tax collector.
5. George S. Welch	2-19-1926 to 5-01-1926	Terminated after two months.
6. Harry W. Johnson	5-4-1926 to 9-24-1929	Came from Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.
7. Joseph B. Kerrick	9-24-1929 to 2-3-1936	Former OPD captain; went to Santa Maria PD. Returned as Chief.
8. Lucias R. Orton	2-5-1936 to 11-2-1936	Came up through ranks. Resigned and became Ventura Co. Game & Fire Warden.
9. George Pryor	12-1-1936 to 6-1-1942	Hired in 1926; came up thru ranks.
10. Glen Waggener	6-1-1942 to 1-15-1943	Oxnard native; joined Santa Barbara PD 1929. Resigned to work for the government.
11. Jack Ryan	1-22-43 to 7-12-1946	Deputy with Ventura Co. Sheriff. Graduated #1 in FBI Academy Class #28.
12. Donald McFarland	8-14-1946 to 6-17-1947	Worked for N.Y. State Police when hired.
13. William P. Clark	9-1-1947 to 9-25-1950	Hired as superintendent of Broome Ranch near Pt. Mugu.
14. Robert Hinostro	9-26-1950 to 11-30-1950	Oxnard PD captain appointed to the position of interim chief of police.
15. Carl T. Hartmeyer	12-1-1950 to 3-1-1957	Lieutenant with Burbank PD. Resigned at age 43 to open a real estate business in Oxnard. Died Feb. 1969.
16. Albert E. Jewell	7-15-1957 to 1-31-1970	Joined OPD 5-1-48. After 9 years, at age 47, selected as Chief. Elected to Oxnard City Council. Died 1982.
17. Robert P. Owens	2-1970 to 6-12-1992	Came from San Fernando PD. Longest tenure of any chief.
18. Harold L. Hurtt	7-7-1992 to 4-28-1998	Hired from the Phoenix Police Department. Returned to Phoenix as its chief of police.

19. Art L. Lopez	11-2-1998 to 2-4-2005	Hired from Los Angeles Police Department.
20. John Crombach	3-15-2005 to 11-05-2010	Hired from Port Hueneme Police Department as a police officer in 1985.
21. Jeri Williams	01-31-2011 to present	Hired from the Phoenix Police Department. Oxnard's first female police chief.

### **Historical Note**

During the early years after city incorporation, the position of *police chief* was commonly referred to as *city marshal*. It wasn't until the 1930's that the name *police chief* became commonplace in police departments across the country.

Originally, *police officers* were commonly referred to as *nightwatchmen*. They were also called *constables* and *deputy city marshals*. Again, it wasn't until years later that they were referred as simply *policeman*.

When women first entered patrol ranks in the 1970s, police agencies everywhere dropped the *policeman* name and called everyone *police officers*.

*Compiled by Gary Amar, Retired Oxnard Police commander*