

1977 POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

City of Bellevue, Washington

D.P. Van Blaricom

Chief of Police



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Chief's Message

Mr. R. C. Cushing, Acting City Manager
City of Bellevue, Washington

Dear Mr. Cushing:

The 1977 Annual report of the Bellevue Police Department is submitted herewith and I wish to begin by expressing my appreciation to the City Council for actively supporting their police in our endeavors to maintain high quality service in the City of Bellevue.

After a long period of low administrative priority, in which the police department was allowed to fall farther and farther behind the concurrent growth of our rapidly expanding community, the City Council acted to reverse that trend. Accordingly and after independently examining the fact of the public's demand for police services versus the department's capacity to adequately respond, the City Council authorized a greatly needed personnel increase as a start toward providing resources commensurate with our responsibilities. As a result, the citizens of Bellevue will be better served and that is what we all want!

Although serious crime did increase in 1977 by 1% over the preceding year (as I had previously advised we should expect, because of our diminished ability to respond with too few personnel), there were several gratifying successes that should be noted. First, was that we significantly impacted the priority crimes against persons and the overall crime increase was primarily attributed to crimes against property, for which we had necessarily assigned a lower priority. Second, was that an independent evaluation of our response to juvenile crime over the period of 1974 - 1976 showed a marked increase in positive attitudes toward the police by both arrested juveniles and their parents beginning in 1976 - that fact is consistent with our first full year of operation under the service philosophy of neighborhood/team policing and was described by the evaluator as "... attest(ing) to the highly professional bearing and quality of Bellevue Police Officers". Third, we used the personnel increase that we were granted to further expand our hiring of minority officers and in the 3 years of pursuing an aggressive affirmative action employment policy, the Bellevue Police Department has progressed from no minorities in-service to 21% of our total force. Fourth, and perhaps most significant of all, another year passed without a Bellevue police officer ever having found it necessary to shoot a person in the performance of his or her duties and this in spite of two well-publicized armed confrontations in 1977 that were settled with professional restraint instead of gunfire.

The men and women of the Bellevue Police Department will continue to do their best to enhance public safety in the City of Bellevue during 1978 and they join me in again expressing our thanks to the City Council for their insight into the proven needs of the police to be adequately funded, if they are to perform as expected - I am sure that the public appreciates that too!

D. P. Van Blaricom



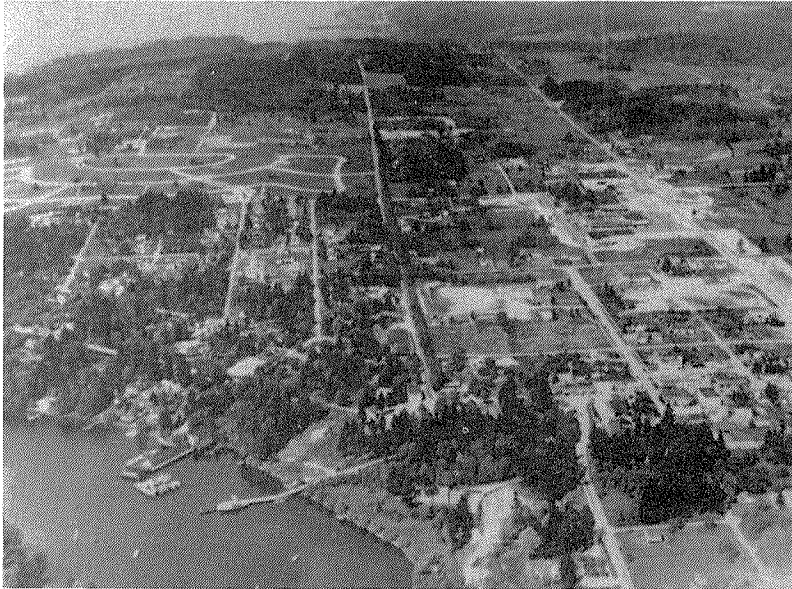
Chief of Police



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Bellevue in 1950



Bellevue in 1976



Introduction

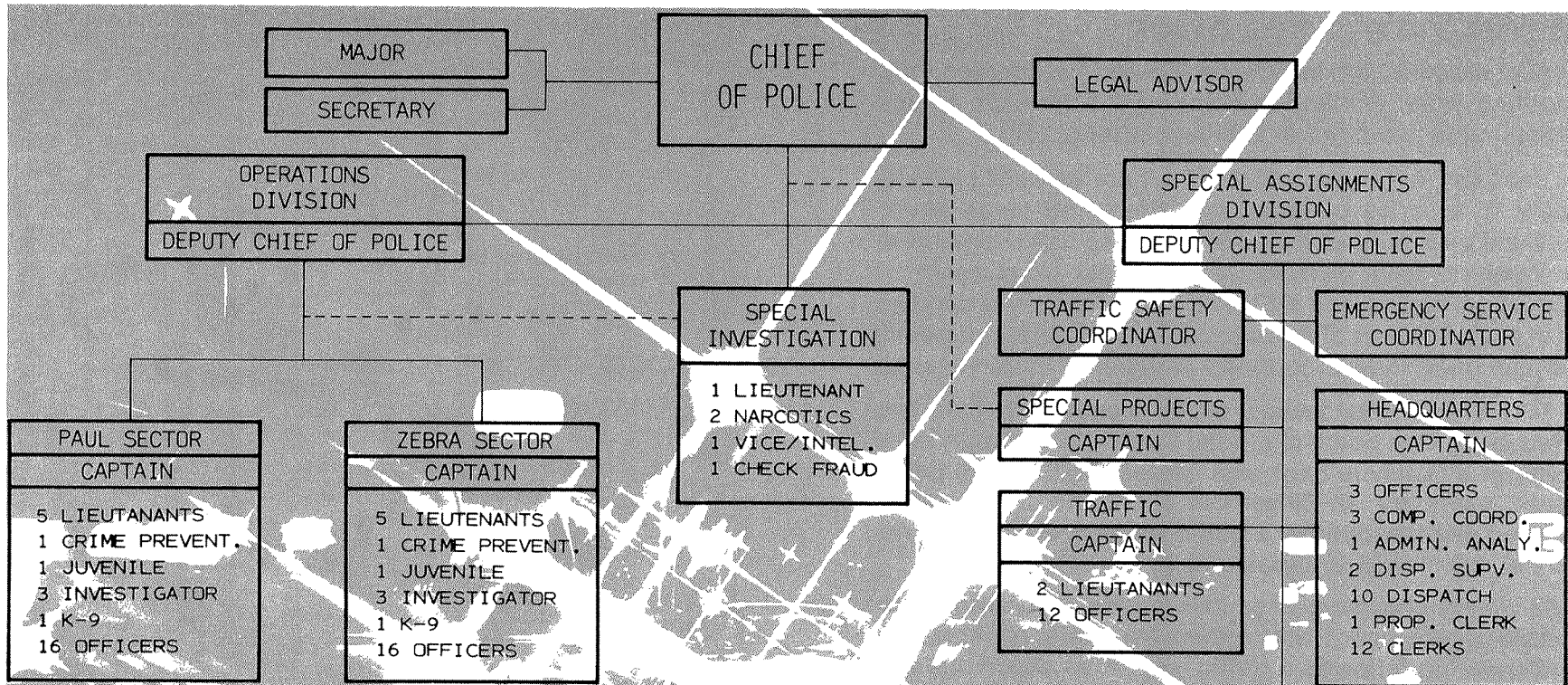
Aaron Mercer became the first known resident of what has since become the State's fourth largest city when he moved to present-day Bellevue in 1863. He built his cabin on Mercer Slough near today's City Hall site but never suspected that some 114 years later, his great-great-grandson D. P. Van Blaricom would be the Chief of Police in the same area that he had pioneered.

From a modest beginning Bellevue has grown into a major metropolitan area and one of the most desirable cities in the Northwest in which to live and work. It seems that in the early 1900's Bellevue was largely a lumber producing community in which three large logging camps were established employing several hundred men. As the land was cleared, farms producing strawberries emerged. By 1938, small businesses were open in Bellevue and business lots on 104th Avenue NE were selling for \$1,000.

Bellevue was incorporated on March 31, 1953 with a population of 5,950 and an assessed valuation of \$5,600,000. In 1977 the city had a population of 68,500 and an assessed valuation of \$1,302,321,121.

The Police Department has grown with the city and due to a progressive administration we have changed with the community. The department's neighborhood/team policing program and a proactive crime prevention program have had a direct impact on crime, however, we are still at the lowest number of police per population and at the lowest per capita cost for police service of any city in the metropolitan area. The city council acted on the department's request to add five officers in 1978 and the community will be better served with this addition.

It is hoped that this report will prove informative in depicting the department's efforts to combat crime during 1977 and thereby make Bellevue a more liveable city for its citizens.



BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT 1977

D.P. VanBlaricom
CHIEF OF POLICE

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| LEGAL ADVISOR..... | 1 |
| ADMINISTRATION ANALYST.... | 1 |
| DISPATCH SUPERVISOR..... | 2 |
| DISPATCHER..... | 10 |
| SECRETARY..... | 1 |
| PROPERTY CLERK..... | 1 |
| CLERK..... | 12 |
| | 28 |

TOTAL
PERSONNEL
118

POLICE (LEFF) PERSONNEL

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| CHIEF OF POLICE..... | 1 |
| DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE.. | 2 |
| MAJOR..... | 1 |
| CAPTAIN..... | 5 |
| LIEUTENANT..... | 14 |
| POLICE OFFICER..... | 64 |
| COMPLAINT COORDINATOR... | 3 |
| | 90 |

Major Crimes Make News

Sexual assaults, terrorist bombings and a deadly street shooting were included in some of the dramatic crimes which made headlines in Bellevue during 1977.

In February a 17 year old high school student pleaded guilty to a series of rapes and attempted rapes which involved over nine victims. He has since been sentenced to Western State Hospital as a sexual psychopath. In August police arrested a 43 year old man who was suspected in up to 50 cases of sexual assault on six children. He too pleaded guilty and is confined at Western State Hospital.

In May a Northwest radical group planted bombs in two area banks. One bomb exploded in a neighboring city but a bomb in a Bellevue bank was defused by Bellevue bomb squad members. In November the same organization claimed responsibility for a bomb which damaged several cars at a Bellevue auto dealership.

A 62 year old business executive was shot to death in the middle of rush hour traffic during the month of February. The shooting followed a traffic dispute in which one car swerved in front of another. Bellevue Police arrested a 45 year old man in connection with the case. He was found guilty of manslaughter but is appealing the decision.

In December three youths burglarized a hardware store and stole numerous guns and ammunition. The Bellevue Tactical Arms Group, under the personal direction of Chief Van Blaricom, surrounded a house where they had barricaded themselves. After five hours the three were taken into custody without a shot being fired.

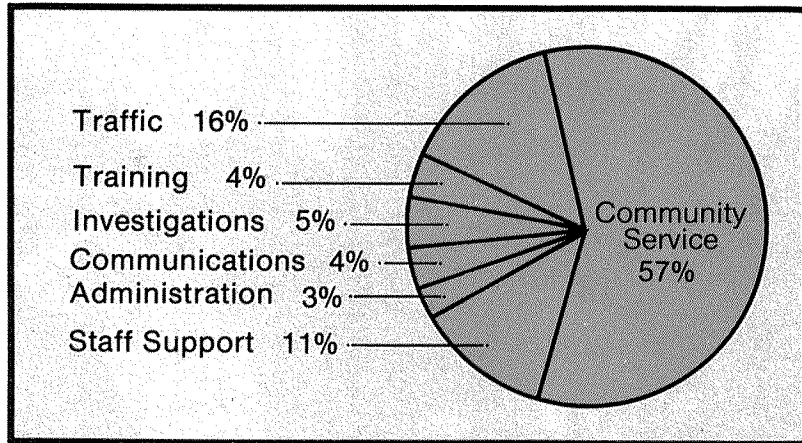
The same month two armed youths were arrested following a stakeout and highspeed chase. During the stakeout a suitcase containing a fake bomb was found. Both had planned on robbing a department store in a neighboring city.



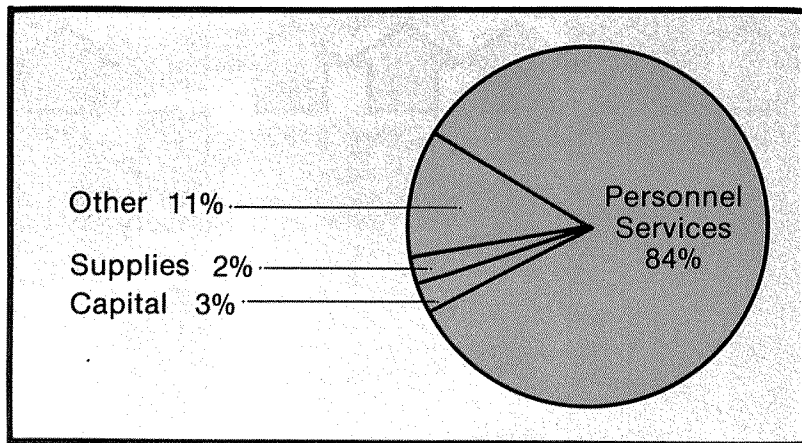
City of Bellevue
Police Department
1977 Budget

\$2,678,582

Allocations

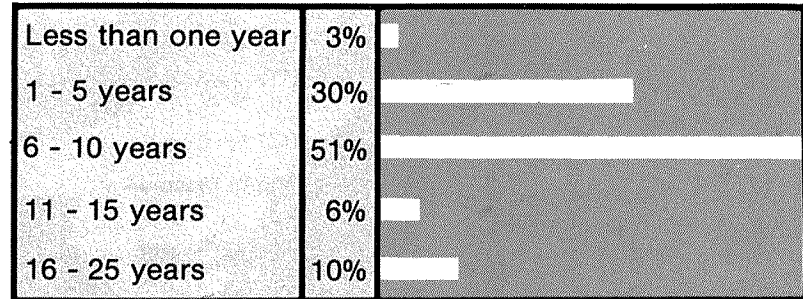


Expenditures

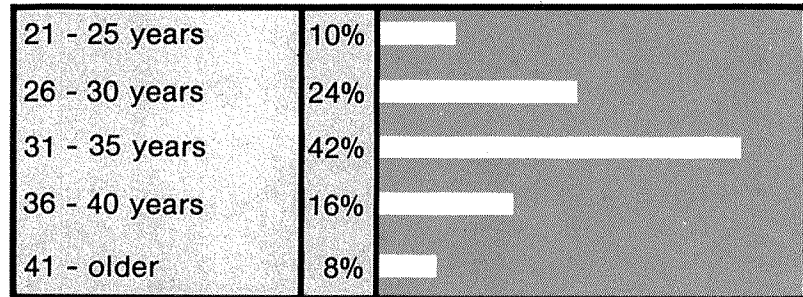


City of Bellevue
Police Department
Personnel

Years of Service



Age Distribution



College Education

