

TPD History in 1920's



Continued growth led to the City's incorporation May 12, 1921 with a population of 1,800. On May 23, 1921, the City Trustees appointed Ben Olsen as City Marshall and shortly thereafter hired Byron M. Anderson to serve as Night Watchman. Less than a year after his appointment, Chief Olsen resigned and Byron Anderson was appointed Chief. A garage rented for \$2.50 a month served as the City's first jail. Early police activities included arresting thieves, "tagging" speeders, destroying distilleries and confiscating liquor. In 1923, a combination police headquarters, fire station and city hall was built on Cravens Avenue.

Due to increased demand for police services, five additional officers were added to the force during the middle 1920s. A former Los Angeles County District Attorney's Investigator named Loren F. Patterson was appointed Chief of Police in November of 1924 when Chief Anderson resigned.



Prohibition Bust



Chief Calder

Gerald M. Calder, the owner of an auto repair company in Torrance, replaced Patterson as Chief in May of 1926. During Chief Calder's twelve years as Chief, the City experienced significant growth. As the City grew, so did the need for expansion of the Police Department including additional officers, police cars, and expansion of the police station.