



August 20, 1775, Don Hugo O'Connor founded the presidio of Tucson, a fort for Spanish soldiers to protect the Spanish settlements to the south from being raided. In 1821, Mexico gained her independence from Spain and Tucson was under Mexican rule for the next 33 years. Tucson became an American town when Congress approved the Gadsden Purchase on June 29, 1854 though the Mexican garrison continued to keep the peace until United States troops arrived in 1856.

Tucson had no formal or organized law enforcement until the Police Department was founded on April 22, 1871, when Tucson applied to the territorial legislature for incorporation as a village. Tucson was one square mile in size with a population of 3,200 residents. William Morgan was elected as the first town marshal. Along with his law enforcement duties, the marshal was responsible for maintaining the jail, caring for prisoners, trash pickup, keeping the streets and sidewalks clean, issuing dog licenses, acting as dogcatcher, and collecting taxes.

In the years since, the Tucson Police Department has seen 23 Chiefs of Police and the Department's staffing has increased to over 1,400 members and volunteers to serve a community of more than 540,000 residents and to patrol almost 230 square miles. The Department responds to an average of nearly 1000 calls for service every 24 hours. From the first officer killed in the line of duty, William Elliot in 1892, to the capture of John Dillinger and his gang, to the turn of the millennium, our dedication to service of this community is anchored in our own history and tradition.

Issued under my authority, these *General Orders* represent many years of collaborative effort among scores of subject matter experts. While no book of policies can possibly deal with all situations members of the law enforcement community may encounter, these *General Orders* offer a framework for making decisions, as well as specific rules for members to follow in order to deliver the best service possible to our community.



Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police
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