

SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

John E. Brooks Chief of Police

777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway Sunrise, Florida 33325 (954) 746-3600



Retiree Luncheon Agenda Flamingo Park - February 16, 2009

11:00 AM

Opening Comments

John E. Brooks, Chief of Police Mayor and Commissioners

11:10 AM

Power-Point Presentation David McCann, Officer

11:20 AM

New PD/FD Headquarters Facility Bill Meyrahn, Police Planner

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch and Static Display Review

12:30 PM

Retirees qualifying under HR 218 will proceed

to Markham Park

Directions: Drive westbound on NW 8th Street to Sawgrass Corporate Parkway. Turn Left on NW 136 Avenue to State Road 84. Turn Right On State Road 84 to Markham Park (16001 State Road 84) and follow Signs to Range.

1:00 PM

All other retirees will proceed to Police Department

for their ID Cards.

Directions: Drive westbound on NW 8th Street to Sawgrass Corporate Parkway. Turn Left on Sawgrass Corporate Parkway and then right into Parking lot (SW Corner) of Sawgrass Corporate Parkway & NW 8th Street, 777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway.

1:30 PM or later

Retirees qualifying under HR 218 after receiving their range qualification will proceed to the Police Dept

to obtain their ID Cards.

Directions: Take east bound State Road 84 to NW 136 Avenue. Left on NW 136 Avenue to NW 8th Street. Turn left on NW 8th Street to Sawgrass Corporate Parkway. Turn left on Sawgrass Corporate Parkway and then right into parking Lot (SW Corner of Sawgrass Corporate Parkway & NW 8th Street), 777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway.



Chief's NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION



Chief's Message

This month's newsletter is dedicated to the legacy of the men and woman who have served our city and retired, leaving behind the foundation for the great law enforcement agency that we have today.

I did not have the opportunity to work with these police officers, nor did I have to bare the burdens and challenges they faced during their time with this agency. However, I have heard many great stories and have learned so much about the history of Sunrise that I felt it was important to take this opportunity to reconnect the past with the present.

The City of Sunrise Police Department has grown since the days of Sunrise Golf Village when there were 3 officers who served a few hundred residents and the infamous up-side down house. Today there are 184 police officers serving nearly one hundred thousand residents, in addition to the tens of thousands of people who visit our city daily at the Sawgrass Mills Mall or the Bank Atlantic Center, home of the NHL Florida Panthers.

The events of the past encourage continuous advancement for the City of Sunrise and its police department. As this city grows our neighborhoods and businesses will always depend on the dedicated men and women to protect their quality of life. The success of this agency will be built not only on the contributions of those who have gone before us, but on the lessons they have imparted on those serving today.

This month's newsletter is intended to share with you some background and the colorful history of the Sunrise Police Department. I hope you enjoy it.

Welcome home Sunrise Police Retirees!

John E. Brooks Chief of Police



KEEPING TRACK OF TIME

The idea of chronicling a complete history of the Sunrise Police Department was conceived in April 2001 by former Records Specialist Anne Knopf. It was through her investigations and interviews with past and present Department personnel, that history was uncovered. Not only does this story provide the history of the Department, but also many memories shared by employees past and present. We hope that you will find it informative and, most of all, interesting. As the years advanced, so did the Sunrise Police Department. The progression of achievements is quite impressive.

And, here is how it all began......



The year was 1960 and a developer named Norman Johnson purchased 1 and ¾ square miles of land, which he named "Sunrise Golf Village." Billed as a land developer's operation, Norman Johnson and fellow developer, F.E. Dykstra designed and built an upside-down house (formerly located at 6201 NW 12 Court) to attract prospective property buyers.

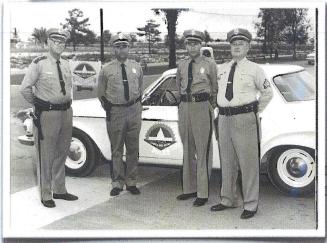
On June 21, 1961, the City of Sunrise Golf Village was officially incorporated. That same year Norman Johnson was appointed as the first mayor by Governor Farris Bryant. The City's population at the time was about 350. The City of Sunrise Golf Village Police Department was established in 1961.



FIRST IN COMMAND

Our first Police Chief, Clarence Giles (1961-1968) also operated as a one-man Chamber of Commerce. In 1962 (after aggressive recruitment efforts!) Chief Giles expanded the Police Department to include three police officers (1-Sergeant and 2-Officers). The first official Sunrise Golf Village Police uniforms The pants included a thin, were light brown. dark brown stripe. Long sleeve shirts and hats were mandatory. The uniform shirts bore the Department's first patch; the green "mushroom" as it was affectionately described due to its shape. The first version of the patch was the green mushroom design mounted onto a dark brown circular background. The stitching inside the patch indicated, "City of Sunrise Golf Village Police." The police badge adopted was the fivepointed sunburst design. Police officers were only authorized to carry six-shot revolvers. The marquee police vehicles at the time were the 1957 Ford Station Wagon and Plymouth Fury. The vehicles were white with a single red bubble emergency light and the City of Sunrise Golf Village Police decals affixed to each door.







On January 10, 1967, Sunrise Golf Village emerged from being a land developer's operation into a legally constituted city government under the jurisdiction of its own residents, now a population of approximately 4,300. That same year, the residents elected their first Mayor, John Lomelo, Jr.

Under the command of Chief Giles, the Police Department expanded to six police officers (1-Sergeant, 3-Officers and 2-Reserve Officers). Police vehicles were now fully equipped with emergency equipment such as oxygen tanks, first-aid kits, radios, and public address systems. Shotguns were added as an authorized optional weapon. Police officers worked twelve-hour shifts at a pay rate of 50 cents an hour; that's a starting salary of \$12,480 a year!



Historical Note: For those members who still use the phrase "check the people computer" when calling into dispatch, the people computer originated as a result of entering those 3 x 5 people cards once we became computerized in Records.



In 1968, Hank Donath (1968-1974) took command of the Police Department to become our second Police Chief. Chief Donath expanded the Department's personnel to a complement of 18 full-time police officers (this included three Sergeant's positions). Through extensive annexation, the City's population grew to over 7,400.



On March 2, 1971, by referendum, the City shortened its original name by dropping "Golf Village" and thus the City of Sunrise was born. Additional annexation increased the population to over 15,000,

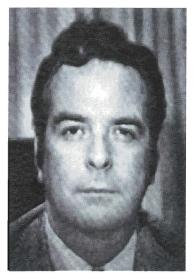


covering fifteen square miles. The City's "Municipal" Complex was located at 1277 Sunset Strip. The site included a newly renovated City Hall (formerly a carpet store); located in an A-frame building and two converted single story homes for the police station. The official police uniforms changed colors from light brown to the traditional navy blue. The design of the "mushroom" patch changed by dropping "Golf Village" and the dark brown circular background.

Since the Police Department was a converted family home, certain sections that would have been used for family living were converted for police related activity. For example, the briefing room, formerly the living room, was equipped with about ten chairs and officer's mailboxes. Officers who made arrests would by-pass the briefing room and head down a small hallway, which led to the holding facility, formerly the family bathroom. The holding cell was complete with tile and a drain.

This area was also used for prisoner processing such as fingerprinting. Since most homes were equipped with outside connections for watering hoses, the Department took advantage of this feature also. The watering hose would assist officers who booked unruly arrestees, so that they could be clean, fresh, and in a more sedated state before they visited the county facility. The converted bathroom allowed this to occur with relative ease. Officers or citizens wishing to see the Chief of Police would simply walk through the briefing room into one of the converted rooms. The detectives were also located in this facility and in traditional covert fashion, undercover detectives were not located in this facility but rather an off-site one to preserve their safety and identity; they were located across the parking lot in another converted home!

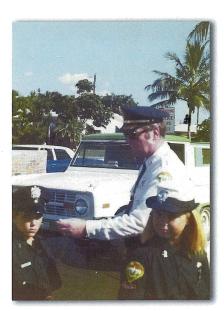




On October 1, 1974, after serving two and a half years as Police Captain, Ed Patten (1974-1979) assumed command as the Department's third Police Chief. During this era, the Department had a traditional "desk sergeant". Alongside the desk, was a citizen band (CB) radio, which was monitored by several people who belonged to our CB club. On December 29, 1976/78 the Sunrise Musical Theater celebrated opening night, that same year the Department's mushroom uniform patch was replaced with the bi-centennial patch. In an effort to economize during the gas crisis of the 70s (you remember that - don't you?), the Department decided to purchase Plymouth Volares as our marquee police vehicle.

The Volare, however, was a 6-cylinder vehicle and provided less than acceptable response times. After lasting only one year, Volares were not requested in the following budget. On the bright side, our vehicles were on the cutting edge for the times, the emergency light consisted of a single blue bubble, the vehicle striping was a thick lime green and there was a large gold shield (not even the same design as the current sunburst badge) on each side of the vehicle. The cars were equipped with a city band radio in order to communicate between cars. There were also a few cars equipped with computers. These computers were capable of performing silent dispatching This was extremely way ahead of the times! functions. computers were extremely large. They had a keyboard and monitor all in one and they took up the whole front passenger seat. As rumor had it, police officers and dispatchers were not having, nor should we say typing, appropriate conversations over these computers. So, due to the cost and the extra curricular activity, the computers were removed. Police reports were also simplified during this era as officers used to call their reports in to the Records Unit on a pay phone. The City did not supply quarters nor were officers reimbursed. The report was transcribed and available for the officer's review and signature 24 hours later. Anne Knopf recalls the way police reports were processed. "We typed the information on 3 x 5 index cards, which were called people cards." She said. "Yes, times certainly have changed, but I'll never forget those good old days."





The Department also had a wide array of specialized units at the time, such as the K-9, Underwater Search and Rescue Team, Honor Guard, Motorcycle Unit, VIN Unit, Reserve Officer Program (no arena here, but rather summer house-checks and ride-a-longs comprised their functions), the Juvenile Diversionary Program and the Walking Beat. Walking Beat officers worked solely in the shopping centers. Did I hear someone say, "Community Policing?" The Department's first SWAT Team was also assembled at this time. According to retired Detective Mike Hall, "we were equipped with Thompson sub-machine guns and rode around in what would be considered a "ghost-buster" mobile. It was a converted ambulance!", he added.



Geographically, the city limits ended at Pine Island Road (which was not totally finished) and Oakland Park Boulevard was in the process of being widened from two to four lanes. On the south end of Pine Island Road, the C42 canal was a natural barrier; the bridge was not yet built. Motorists would instantly drive their cars into this canal. It was a weekly, if not a daily occurrence that kept our Underwater Search and Rescue Team quite busy.

The ballpark at Sunset Strip was a big hangout for young teens. They would sit on the picnic tables drinking beer and smoking marijuana cigarettes. The patrol officers were constantly arresting youngsters from the park. The Fourth of July was a winner at the park. During the day, every officer was required to march in the annual parade. During the night, officers were kept quite busy handling fights and other disorderly behavior. Additional tasks for officers included: shutting off the ballpark lights, re-setting the one and only traffic light at Sunset Strip and Sunrise Boulevard to flash from 11pm to 6am and delivering the morning newspaper to the Mayor's residence.



One year after City Hall moved into their new five story building on West Oakland Park Boulevard, the Police Department moved into what was formerly City Hall, the A-Frame building at 1277 Sunset Strip. Everyone always said it looked like a converted International House of Pancakes restaurant.



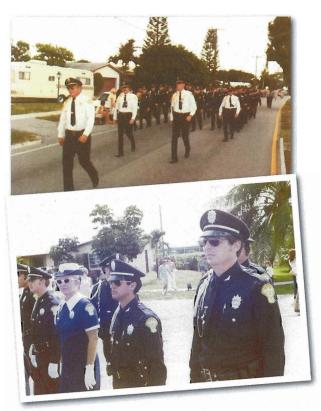
"I will never forget that tiny little A-Framed building on Sunset Strip," said Anne Knopf. "When I came to apply for the job, I walked in the lobby and asked where is the Police Department and someone answered by saying, you are standing in it."

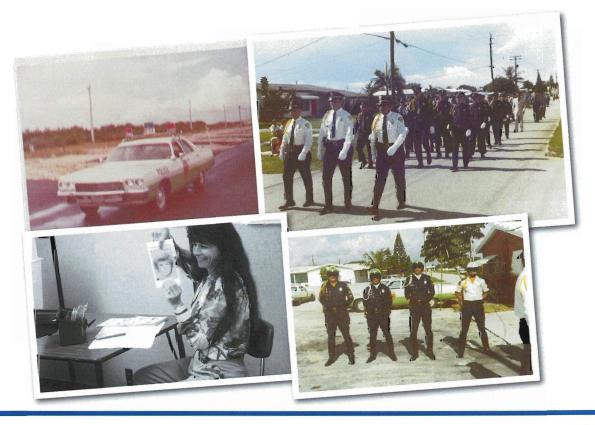
Ginny Loos, secretary the Chief, recalls, "Those of us who moved into the A-frame building quickly adapted to our new surroundings. The dispatchers, however, weren't able to get too comfortable, especially during the rainy season. They spent the summer months trying to dodge the lightening strikes that frequently struck the radio tower located on the side of the building. Dispatch Supervisor Mary Peacock recalled, "There was a shaker located outside, which would work on occasion. No, not a salt shaker, our A/C unit," she continued. "The next time you want to complain about the Public Safety Complex, come talk to one of us *old-timers* and we will tell you that you've got it made!" In more ways than one, we've come a long way from the 1277 building." Ginny added. "There have been a lot of changes over the years, but the things that I remember most about our Sunset Strip days were the friendships made and camaraderie we all enjoyed and many of those friendships still exist today."



"The old Sunrise Police station had very little working space. The cramped environment led to very close working relations with fellow officers. Looking back on how the building was divided up for the different units, one would wonder how we were able to function. During the rainy season, it rained inside, with all the leaks, just as much as it did outside," said Officer John Earle.

Sam Ramputi (1979-1986) was the Department's fourth Police Chief. Vickie Cherene, Road Patrol's secretary, tells us that she remembers Chief Ramputi very well. "I remember when the bloodmobile was at 1277 Sunset Strip and Chief Ramputi asked if I was going to give blood. I don't do well with needles, so I vigorously denied the invitation and he proceeded to let me know that he was not going to take no for an answer" she said. Due to the limited working space, Vickie's desk was located in a hallway that was in close proximity to the Chief's office. When she heard what could have been his footsteps coming down the hallway, she made a mad dash for the back door. As she was running down the parking lot she turned her head to see if she had made a clean getaway. To her surprise, Chief Ramputi had caught up to her. "Chief Ramputi wrestled me into the bloodmobile and sat on my legs so that I couldn't run. I had to give blood and he didn't because his blood pressure had risen from running after me!" Vickie added.





The Department practiced innovation and creativity in the early 1980's when they purchased Cushman's for officers to drive. Cushman's, for those of you unfamiliar with this term, were designed similar to golfcarts. The purpose of the Cushmans was to motorize the Walking Beat officers from the 1970's. Unfortunately, officers were getting into accidents with them and it was decided that they needed to be taken off the street. In fact, anyone interested in learning more about the Cushman's can contact School Resource Officer Vincent Vitrella. Vinny is the only full-time active member of the Department left who actually operated one. The Department also had its own outdoor firearms range, sponsored by our F.O.P. Lodge. The range was accessible via a dirt road and located in a heavily wooded area at 44th Street and Hiatus Road. In 1981, a Senior Citizen Call-In program was initiated to check on the safety of senior citizens as well as disabled and homebound individuals living in the City. This innovative program was particularly beneficial to our many seniors living in Sunrise Lakes. Our Dispatch Center, who

monitored the program, quickly learned that this process was becoming a monumental task. You see each senior who became a member of the program was required to call the Dispatch Center daily. A dispatcher would receive each call and monitor a handwritten log of names to ensure all seniors called-in. The Department took a tough stance on intoxicated drivers during the early 80s with the purchase of its own B.A.T. (Blood Alcohol Testing) Mobile and "Breathalyzer" machine.



This vehicle, similar in size to our current SWAT van, would be driven from location to location throughout the City at the request of officers who had suspected DUI stops. The Department certified three officers



(one of them still works here – Detective Audrey Collins) who would operate the Breathalyzer and conduct videotaping. Due to high maintenance and outdated machinery, this equipment was eventually sold at auction.

With the war on drugs in full swing, the City made headline news when drug traffickers, while operating a low flying aircraft during the night with their lights off, dropped a load of cocaine onto a suburban lawn in the western part of the city. Pounds of cocaine were everywhere. The mid-80s was a transition period for the Department. After having briefly disbanded the original V.I.N. Unit, Chief Ramputi quickly re-established the Unit as a result of our most recent cocaine invasion. We also began a high-tech crime mapping initiative – the briefing room push-pin board. Two officers were hand-selected to maintain our color-coded push-pin board that displayed Part 1 crimes throughout the City. This highly innovative tool lasted about one year.

One morning when Day Shift officers showed up for briefing all the push-pins had been removed and were mixed up on the floor (unfortunately the one and only color coded chart that was hanging up next to the board was missing as well). To date this remains an open case within the Detective Division. In our last official mandatory attendance at the Fourth of July parade, the Chief allowed officers to drive their patrol vehicles down Sunset Strip instead of marching. The Dodge Diplomat and Chevy Malibu were the marquee police vehicles during this period. They also sported a new look as the Department eventually adopted the traditional blue and red visi-bar along with blue and gold reflective striping.

As Chief Ramputi exited, so did the ranks of Patrolman first class (one stripe) and Corporal (two stripes). In addition, all previous specialized units, except Traffic, V.I.N. and Honor Guard were eliminated. The delivery of the newspaper to the Mayor's residence ceased, but was replaced by delivery of the morning report to both the Mayor's and the Chief's residence.



In 1986, John Soldenwagner (1986-1995) became the fifth Police Chief. He brought the professionalism theme to the Department. Chief Soldenwagner re-established the K-9 Unit and established our first ever Research and Planning Unit.

The rank of Major was converted to Assistant Chief of Police and was awarded to Jerry Blough (now the Chief of the Margate Police Department). The policy and procedures manual was revised and the Department began preparations for national accreditation. Our Department uniforms transitioned for the third time, shirt colors were changed to light blue for officers and sergeants, white for lieutenants, captains and sworn members assigned to administration and navy blue for public service aides. The bi-centennial patch was replaced with the non-subdued shield design bearing the state seal.





In 1987, sworn officers were authorized, for the first time, to carry semi-automatic pistols, and PR-24 batons. In 1988, our first annual report was completed. The Department started to use reporting areas (RA's) as geographic indicators within patrol zones to pinpoint the type and frequency of the occurrence of a crime. In 1989, the City purchased the Health Care America community hospital for \$8.3 million dollars to house the Police and Fire Departments. The hospital was renovated to become the Public Safety Complex located at 10440 West Oakland Park Boulevard.







The Department hit the ground running in the 90s. In 1990, the Senior Citizen Call-In program became computerized and changed its name to the C.A.R.E.S. (Calls Are Re-assuring Everyone is Safe and Sound) Program. In that same year, the Sawgrass Mills Mall opened its doors for business. The Department re-established the S.W.A.T. team in 1991. In 1992, the Gang Unit was created within the Detective Division. In 1993 the Crisis Negotiation Unit, Bike Patrol Unit, Special Operations Unit and the Victim Advocate position were introduced. The Juvenile Diversionary Program was re-established shortly thereafter. On March 7, 1993, we officially moved into the Public Safety Complex.

On November 19, 1994, the Department was officially awarded national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (C.A.L.E.A.)





In October 1995, Chief David Boyett, our sixth Police Chief, joined the Sunrise Police Department and introduced Department wide Community Oriented Policing. In January 1996, training in Community Policing was initiated and all Department personnel, both civilian and sworn, received an eight hour overview of the basic elements of Community Policing. Sworn officers received an additional eight hours of training on creating and maintaining beat profiles and total quality management.

The Office of Community Policing was established to monitor and organize all activity relating to the mission of the Department and to serve as a clearinghouse for all Community Policing efforts. A transition team was formed to introduce Community Oriented Policing throughout the entire Department. The transition team, comprised of 14 Department members, worked on one or more newly established committees: employee suggestion, workload analysis, strategic planning, Community Oriented Policing association, beat profiles, technologies and employee development. During this time period there were many community relations programs that were introduced. They included the Citizen's Police Academy, Citizen Volunteer Program, Seniors and Lawmen Together (S.A.L.T.) Committee (part of TRIAD) and the Neighborhood Address Program. The Department also established the Telephone Reporting Unit (T.R.U), the Police Explorer Program and the Neighborhood Enforcement Team (N.E.T.). Members of the Bike Patrol Unit and Special Operations Unit were assimilated back into Patrol so that their talents could be utilized to further develop members in adopting our Community Oriented Policing philosophy. Bicycles and radar guns were made available to any officer wishing to use this equipment for the purpose of problem solving. Department uniforms changed again with the conversion back to navy blue shirts for all sworn members and white shirts for public service aides. The police patch changed to the subdued shield bearing the new City seal and our police badge was changed for the first time from the sunburst to the shield design.

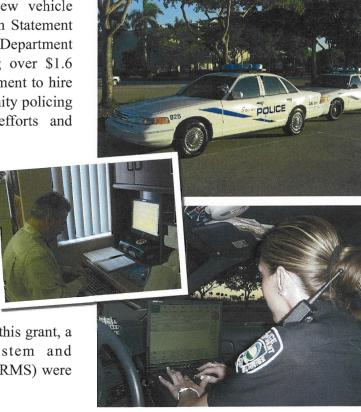




The transition team also introduced a new vehicle striping design along with our new Mission Statement and Organizational Values. In 1997, the Department was awarded five separate grants totaling over \$1.6 million dollars. Grants allowed the Department to hire more officers, provide overtime for community policing activities, increase our crime analysis efforts and

purchase new computer technology. The new technology brought crime fighting information directly to the officers in the field through a wireless digital network. The network of new notebook computers automated field reporting and investigative inquiries, allowing our officers to be more available for Community Policing activities. This technology grant was the largest grant

award received in the state of Florida. With this grant, a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system and computerized records management system (RMS) were purchased.





As a result of the Department's diligent efforts to fight crime in 1998, we had a 14% reduction in the crime rate and national recognition as one of Florida's safest cities as reported in a national crime study conducted by Money magazine. That same year the Department re-established the Reserve Officer Program, created the position of Part-time Public Service Aide and also welcomed the National Hockey Leagues' Florida Panthers to their new home at the National Car Rental Center. Crime trend reductions continued in 1999 with a 20% decrease in the crime rate and the lowest number of crimes reported since 1992.

In 1999, the rank of Major was re-established. The Department was also officially awarded re-accreditation status through C.A.L.E.A.. Explorer Post #88 was awarded the 1999 non-profit charitable organization of the year award from the City of Sunrise for their project "Operation Homebound" and the "Wee Care" child passenger safety program was initiated. "Operation Homebound" was created to enable police officers to access a database on their notebook computer with the names and addresses of homebound citizens should an evacuation be required during an emergency situation. "Wee Care" was created to educate parents and caregivers about the correct installation of child safety seats in motor vehicles.

MOVING FORWARD INTO THE MILLENNIUM...









As the Department entered into the new Millennium, Department Districting was initiated. As an enhancement to Community Policing, new sub-stations placed beat officers closer to the community they serve. All assigned officers report to and from duty at the respective station where roll call is conducted via video conferencing. The East sub-station (District I) is located at 6800 Sunset Strip and the West sub-station (District III) is located at 60 Weston Road.

On February 14, 2000, the Department newsletter "Orders of the Day" was established to keep personnel informed on the many changes taking place at the Police Department.

In 2001, officers began wearing the newly designed millennium badge. This badge honors the past while looking to the future and will certainly become a collector's item in the coming years. The Department, in partnership with local organizations, added three electric bicycles (e-bikes) to its ensemble for Community Policing initiatives along with our first motorized Buckle Bear miniature vehicle. Another uniform enhancement was the addition of shorts to the authorized apparel for patrol officers and public service aides.

We also welcomed our newest members who function in the capacity of Police Planner, Systems Support Specialist, Administrative Officer and Payroll Specialist. They are sure to enhance the quality of support to the rest of the Department and the citizens of Sunrise. Upon reflecting back to the 1960s, quite a bit has changed: starting salary for an officer is now \$37,350, the Department now employs 178 full-time sworn officers, the City's population is 85,779 and its limits cover 18.11 square miles. Norman Johnson and Clarence Giles would be proud.

A New Generation Begins...

Chief Brooks became the seventh Police Chief in 2007, at which time he moved the agency forward to renew it's accreditation, paved the way for City issued Glock - hand guns and introduced tasers and 223 caliber rifles to complement the Department's existing less-than-lethal weaponry. Chief Brooks is a charter officer and reports directly to the Mayor and City Commission. He works closely with the City Manager to further departmental goals as well as other City directors and elected officials to ensure that



quality services are delivered to the community on a daily basis. The Chief has worked side by side with the City Commissioners and City Manager to fast forward the construction of a new police department. Chief Brooks is committed to making the Sunrise Police Department the very best... utilizing technology, accountability, and participative management.





In closing, Ginny Loos sums it up best by saying, "Yes, we endured a lot in the *old* days, but we also walked away from 1277 Sunset Strip with a lot more. We *old-timers* can look back fondly and with pride at our accomplishments and at how far we've come to make things better for ourselves and our new friends at the Public Safety Complex."

The historical points recorded here are just a quick synopsis of the events that have occurred during the history of this agency. Each of you are the historians for the Sunrise Police Department and we encourage you to share additional facts, stories, photos or memorabilia with us to add to the memorialization of the legacy of our agency. Send copies of anything you would like to see added to the recording of our history to the police department to the attention of Officer David McCann.

Mailing Address:

Sunrise Police Department 777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway Sunrise, Florida 33325 Email: dmccann@cityofsunrise.org

All memorabilia donated will be preserved and displayed at our new Public Safety Complex.