

## Carlsbad Police Department

Shortly after city incorporation in 1952, Police Chief Max Palkowski was hired as the first paid city employee. The Carlsbad Police Department is the oldest department in city history. As the city grew so did the need for more police officers. Volunteer Reservists filled the gap until the city could afford to hire more Officers. In 2005, the Carlsbad Police Department employed over 100 sworn officers, 38 non sworn officers and more than 120 volunteers.



Hired in October 1952, Max Palkowski was credited with a fine sense of humor and excellent people skills. When asked why he wanted to be a police officer he replied, "There is no heavy lifting". He remained as police chief until his retirement in 1970.



In 1952, Carlsbad's first police department shared space with the county library in the old St. Patrick's Church on Harding St.



By the late 1950s the first combined Police and Fire Department and City Hall was built on Pio Pico. This building was demolished in the 1960s when I-5 was widened. The current City Hall complex was constructed at this time and included quarters for CPD.



As the city grew and the CPD staff increased the need arose for a larger facility. In 1986 the city constructed the Safety Center closer to the geographic center of the city. It houses the entire police department and the administrative offices for the fire department.