



WILLIAM BRATTON

William “Bill” Bratton was born on October 6, 1947, and has had a storied career in American policing. After serving briefly in the Military Police during the Vietnam War,

Bratton became a police officer in his hometown of Boston, Massachusetts. He rose quickly through the ranks to the police department’s second-highest rank before becoming the Boston Metro police chief. Then he took a similar position with the New York City Transit Police before returning home as the superintendent in chief of the Boston Police Department. From there he was hired by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to be its chief (1994–1996), he then served as the Los Angeles

Police Department chief (2002–2009), and finally he was asked to return to the NYPD (2014–). He has been a reform-minded chief, often coming into police departments during troubled times, fixing many of the problems, and leaving them better than when he arrived. He has also been a lightning rod for controversy, especially when he began implementing such programs as broken windows policing or zero-tolerance policing. His implementation of CompStat was and remains quite controversial, and each time he has had to deal with the many issues covered in this chapter, he has been a focus of many hot-button issues in policing. Despite all of that, he has been honored with numerous awards, has been asked to consult with police departments all over the world, and has led three of the most renowned police departments in the United States.