1872
An unnamed first black police officer was appointed by the mayor in Chicago.

1884
Thirty-five black officers were appointed at one time in a controversial move in Philadelphia. Existing officers assaulted the new hires.

1886
The Los Angeles Police Department hired two black officers, Robert William Stewart and Roy Green.

1905
August Vollmer becomes town marshal of Berkeley, California. He is considered the father of American modern policing.

1905
Lola Baldwin, often credited as the first female police officer because she was given some police powers, was hired in Portland, Oregon, to protect young girls and women.

1920
Vollmer began using the new technology dubbed the Keeler Polygraph.

1880 | 1890 | 1900 | 1910 | 1920 | 1958

1888
George Garcia, possibly the first Hispanic police officer, was appointed in New York in 1888 (some report 1896).

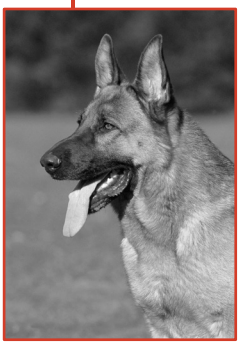
1888
Lucy Gray was the first police matron appointed in Los Angeles.

1891
Wiley Overton hired, widely credited as the first African American police officer hired at the Brooklyn Police Department (now part of the New York City Police Department).

1893
Marie Owens became the first woman appointed to perform police duties in Chicago.

1899
Julius Boyd Loving was hired as the first African American deputy in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

1907
The first documented police dog program was established



1908
The Berkeley Police School was established by August Vollmer.

1910
Alice Stebbins was hired as the first fulltime paid policewoman with full police and arrest powers in the Los Angeles Police Department. She is frequently cited as the first female police officer in the nation.

1916
Georgia Robinson was the first black female officer hired (Los Angeles, California). Some suggest the date was 1919.

1958
Though evidence is scarce, it appears that Jim Beltran was the first Asian police officer hired in the United States. He joined the Seattle Police Department.

1907: © iStockphoto.com/anopdesignstock; 1920: Library of Congress.