



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Jamal A. Simington - Chief of Police
Paul D. Williams - Assistant Chief
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For Immediate Release: August 7, 2025

Celebrating 175 Years of Service

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department proudly marks its 175th anniversary this year, commemorating nearly two centuries of dedicated service, public safety, and partnership with the community.

Founded in August of 1850, BPD was a small watchman-style force that patrolled on horseback. The department expanded in the 1870's, adopting formal uniforms and growing to a strength of more than ten marshals. As the community continued to grow, so did the department into a modern and professional law enforcement agency.

Over the past 175 years, the department has responded to the evolving needs of the city by embracing new technologies, community policing strategies, and advanced training to better serve everyone who lives, works, plays, and worships in Bloomington.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone. Community members will see officers wearing commemorative badges in honor of our department's history. Watch for stories, photos, and historical highlights shared throughout the year on our social media channels, showcasing key moments from our past.

Chief Jamal Simington shared the following statement:

Throughout the Bloomington Police Department's 175-year history, the department has consistently adopted changes and innovations to serve the community better. From the incorporation of new technologies to enhanced professional development and training, focused community engagement, and a more diverse organization, the department continuously strives for excellence in public safety.

Officers displaying the 175th Anniversary badge for the next year will remind each of us of the sacrifices and leadership of those who served before us and contributed to these 175 years of service to this community. Pride in the department's long-standing history of public safety leadership and its continuous evolution to meet the needs of our community is paramount.

Media Contact:

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Bloomington (IL) Police Department

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As we celebrate this significant milestone and better prepare this organization for the 2nd century of public safety service, I express great pride and support for the men and women who have chosen to serve in this noble profession. Although we are a premier law enforcement organization in Central Illinois, we recognize that there is still significant work to be done to enhance relationships further and positively impact safety improvements.

This department is only as strong as the community we are committed to serving, and we thank all of our residents, businesses, elected officials, clergy, and other stakeholders for their unwavering support of our mission- 175 years proud! We will continue to uphold our values of honesty, integrity, professionalism, commitment to service, reverence for law, and respect for human dignity.

Furthermore, members of the BPD will execute our mission to work honorably and steadfastly with members of the community to enhance livability through servant leadership, strong partnerships, and continuous innovation daily. Please join me in congratulating the outstanding men and women who serve selflessly and with great courage on reaching this milestone.



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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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