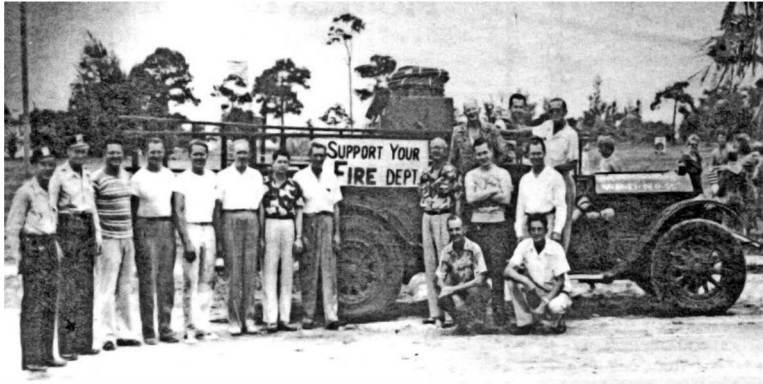


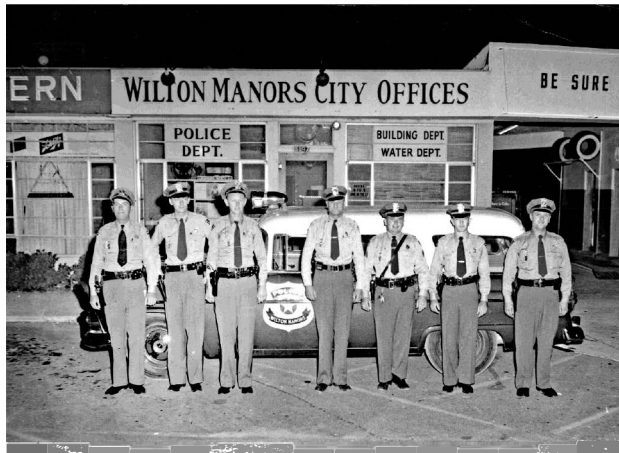
Wilton Manors Early Fire and Police Services



Wilton Manors first fire department began in August 1951 with the annexation of the neighboring Highland Estates community. Not only did this add 350 people to the town's population, it included their volunteer fire department and fire truck—housed on NE 6th Lane.

In 1952, residents formed the Wilton Manors Volunteer Fire Company; consisting of 42 members. They petitioned the Village Council to recognize the group as the official fire company of Wilton Manors and to contribute funds for the purchase, maintenance and repair of firefighting equipment. The Council agreed, and what became the Wilton Manors Volunteer Fire Department

was officially established. It lasted until 1999, when mutual-aid, accreditation and insurance issues caused the city to contract with the City of Ft. Lauderdale for fire-rescue services.



When the Village was incorporated in 1947, limited law enforcement was provided by the then Town Marshall; assisted as needed, by a County Sheriff's Special Deputy. By 1950, with a population of 883 and some 250 homes, the Council voted to hire a single full-time police officer and provide him with a car. He only remained for 8 months and was replaced by a Sheriff's Deputy.

The first real "police department" came in 1952 when newly-elected Mayor Perry Mickel authorized the hiring of both a Village Police Chief and Police Officer. By 1955, with Wilton Manors now a "City" rather than "Village" the department had grown in size to that shown here—operating from a storefront at 2197 Wilton Drive shared with other city offices [now the defunct Sushi Rock].

In 1957, both the Police and Fire Departments moved to the new City Hall/Municipal Center at 524 NE 21 Ct.

Questions or comments? Contact Ron and Mary Ulm at wmhs@WMHistory.org

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