



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

August 1, 2000

Ordinance 13909

Proposed No. 2000-0386.1

Sponsors Pullen

1 AN ORDINANCE authorizing payroll deductions from
2 county employees' salary warrants for membership in the
3 Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum; and adding a new
4 chapter to K.C.C. Title 3.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to
7 provide a convenient channel through which county employees may contribute
8 membership fees to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum.

9 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. Deductions -- participation. The county shall
10 make deductions from a county employee's salary warrants and pay the moneys collected
11 to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum if the employee authorizes the deductions and
12 payments. A county employee's participation in the program is strictly voluntary. The
13 coercion of an employee to participate or to make a donation to the program, and the
14 penalization of an employee for failing to participate in the program, are prohibited.

15 SECTION 3. Codification. Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance should constitute
16 a new chapter in K.C.C. Title 3.

Ordinance 13909

17 SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to
18 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
19 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
20

Ordinance 13909 was introduced on 7/5/00 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/31/00, by the following vote:

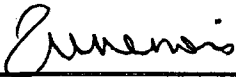
Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Pelz, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons
No: 0
Excused: 4 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Nickels and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



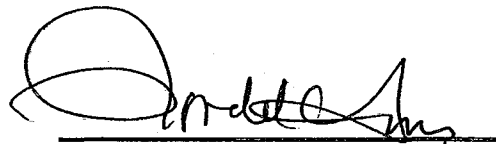
Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

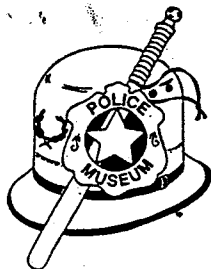
APPROVED this 2 day of August, 2000.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments A. Letter to Susan Kregness from the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum, B. Newspaper Articles, C. Copy of Web Page to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum





SEATTLE METROPOLITAN POLICE MUSEUM

6/8/99

Susan Kregness
Legal Unit
King County Sheriff's Department
516 3rd Ave W-116
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Susan,

Here is some information that you can present to the full council. Councilman Gossett and Sheriff Reichert are familiar with our facility, so this may be helpful to the other members.

The Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum was founded in 1997, by veteran Seattle Police Officer James Ritter. The museum's purpose is to educate the public and "demystify" the police. The facility is designed to depict the historical transitions within law enforcement in the Seattle/King County region over the past 140 years, and assist the public in becoming more comfortable with the law enforcement officers in their community.

Since its opening in November of 1998, the Police Museum has hosted thousands of visitors, which include adults, children, the elderly, tourists, law enforcement officers and community groups from throughout the region. The museum not only has historical exhibits from the Seattle Police and King County Sheriff's office, dating back to 1861, but an interactive area where kids and adults can learn more about their police. We also have a meeting room, which can be utilized for a variety of law enforcement related activities.



The Police Museum has been publicly endorsed by Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper, Mayor Paul Schell, the full Seattle City Council, King County Sheriff Dave Reichert, King County Councilman Larry Gossett, and dozens of local business throughout King County. The museum is a grant recipient from the King County Cultural Arts and Heritage project, and has been the subject of multiple news articles and positive media coverage.

In the fall of this year, collaboration will begin with the Seattle, Lake Washington, and Issaquah school districts to enhance drug, alcohol, and gang awareness. "Crime Stoppers" is also examining ways to use the museum for the public good.

Overall, the police Museum offers multiple benefits for the Seattle Police AND the King County Sheriff's Department.

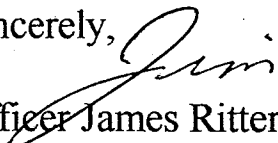
Since Spring of 1998, over 750 members of the Seattle Police Department have voluntarily contributed \$5.00 per month via payroll deduction. This is set up through our Fiscal Division, which requires a signed payroll deduction authorization form. The officers' employee numbers are entered into the system, and the computer generates a check to the Museum every two weeks. This was set up very easily, with no ethical or legal conflicts. The Police Museum is recognized by the IRS as a 501C3, non-profit organization which obtains its operating expense from museum membership, admission fees and public donations.

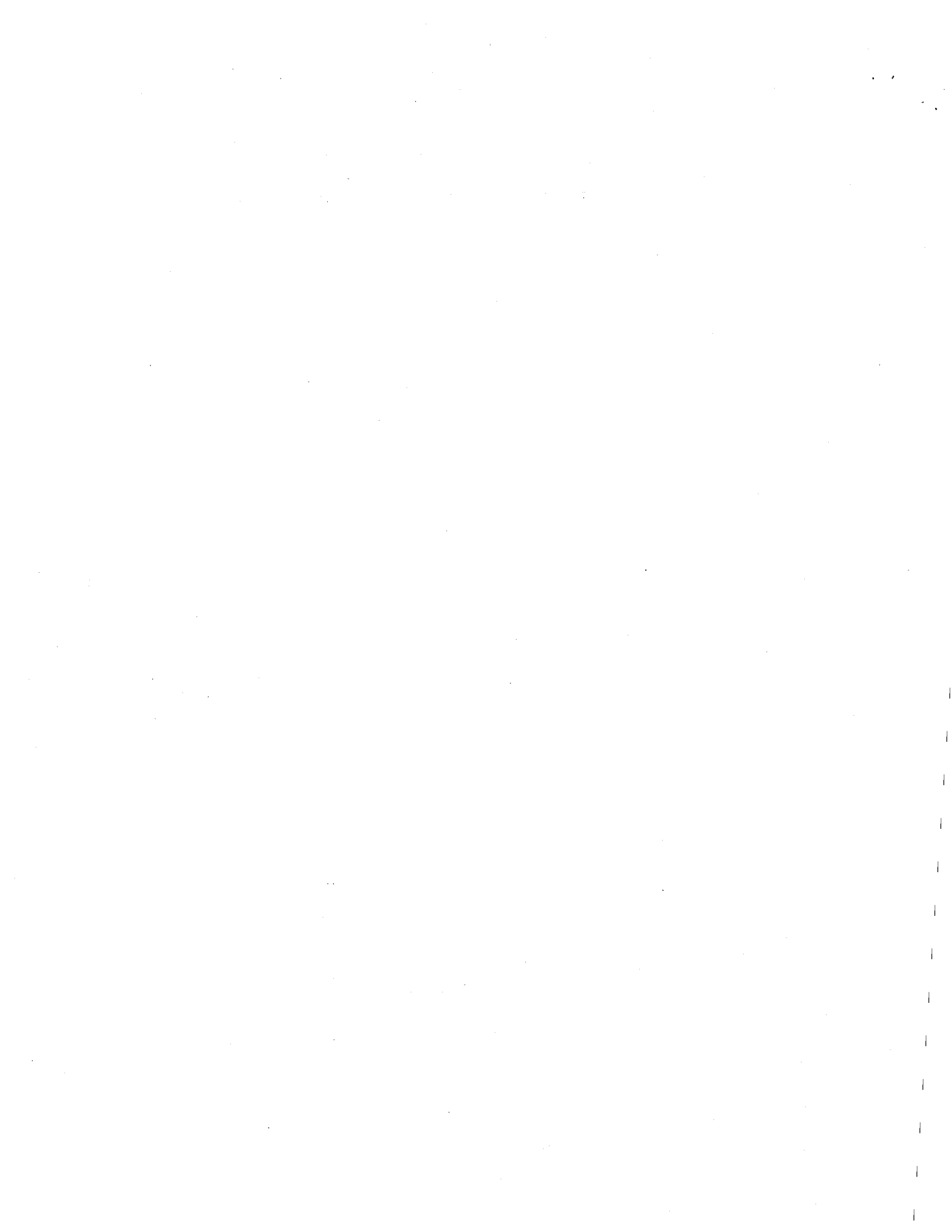
Since our membership drive began, many deputies from the King County Sheriff's Department have desired to become members, and contribute to their agency's history. Unfortunately, we must have authorization from the full council to set up this type of payroll deduction plan. I would be happy to provide you or the council with any documents pertaining to the museum, or further discuss its purpose and goals.



This King County Council has already shown support for our museum, and this would be a wonderful opportunity for the Sheriff's Department to become fully involved and recognized for their historical efforts in this region.

Sincerely,


Officer James Ritter
President





Ballard News

Weekly delivery to Ballard, Sunset Hill, Loyal Heights, Blue Ridge, Olympic Manor, North Beach, C.

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Attachment B



Willis Reed, 5, checks himself out in the mirror wearing a Seattle Police uniform at the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum. His mother, Page, smiles in the background.

Bruce Savadow/staff

Reflecting back on police history

Ballard officer founds largest West Coast police museum

By Amy Crumley
NEWS-TROUBLE

Thanks to Officer Jim Ritter, citizens can learn the ins and outs of law enforcement without getting into trouble first.

Ritter, who has patrolled Ballard on and off over the past 15 years, recently founded the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum, which is located at 317 Third Avenue in Pioneer Square.

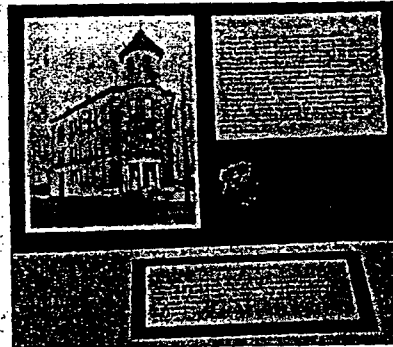
As the largest of its kind in the western United States, exhibits include artifacts dating back 150 years, as well as rooms in which children can actually try on modern police uniforms.

Its popularity and impact have caught on. Just last week, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and King County Sheriff Dave Reichert presented Ritter with several artifacts for the museum.

Items donated included a 1943 badge and identification card for the King County coroner/assessor.

It is Ritter's wish that pieces such as these are saved, exhibited and ultimately learned from.

His passion for artifacts caught



A display of the old Ballard Police Department is one of the many features at the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum.

Bruce Savadow/staff

on after discovering the Seattle Police Department, for whatever reason, destroyed many of its artifacts dating prior to 1950.

So Ritter began to recover and collect all he could by rummaging through antique stores and garage sales.

"Pretty soon my collection got to be so big, a museum was the only option," he said.

Actually, Ritter wanted to kickstart a museum for as many as 18 years, but got the opportunity just this last year.

It came in the form of the affordable rent of a Pioneer Square building. It was thought the proposed museum could enhance the image of the block as well as increase the "police presence."

In addition to filling the museum with his own collection of police artifacts, Ritter also secured donations or loans from

personal collectors, the city of Seattle and King County.

The operation is funded mainly by its 575 Seattle Police members. Out of every paycheck, they pay a small portion to the museum.

Moreover, the city of Seattle lends some support and King County departments are considering membership.

BALLARD POLICE history is what the museum and Ritter are most keenly interested in, simply because there's little or no record of it.

"It's one of the places we know the least about," he said, mainly because Ballard was its own city before its annexation to Seattle in 1907.

An 1899 Ballard chief of police badge is on display at the muse-

- See POLICE, page 16

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POLICE: Ballard blue-uniform history put on display

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um.

That along with a pictorial view of Ballard before its incorporation, is all the museum has.

"It's certainly one of a kind," Ritter said. "We just don't know who it belonged to, I wish I knew."

"There's just no information on it and it's very frustrating," Ritter said.

According to Ballard Historical Society President Susan Cook, much was reported in the local newspapers on the Ballard police prior to incorporation. Those reports, however, are not verifiable.

Point is, word had it that Ballard was a rough-and-tumble town. Apparently, some off-duty cops moonlighted as bouncers at local saloons and taverns. It was suspected they were also on the "take" from the liquor establishments.

The city of Seattle was big on the temperance movement at the time.

And so it was believed a large number of Ballard cops stonewalled incorporation because their wily ways could come to an end otherwise. Ballard had a colorful history for other reasons.

The jail itself was known around town as the "Ballard Hotel" because local transients seemed to purposely get arrested for a meal and a place to sleep.



Bruce Savadow/staff

From left: Ballard police officer Jim Ritter, founder of the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum; County Councilmember Larry Gossett and King County Sherriff Dave Reichert.

Prostitution, or "upstairs business," was popular.

Petty theft was also a problem. Not much different from today's crimes.

Though Ballard was incorporated in 1907, Seattle still utilized Bal-

lard's police station until 1945, even after a 1929 earthquake damaged it severely. For almost 40 years, it was considered Seattle's North Precinct.

The building at 5400 Ballard Ave. N.W. was torn down in 1965.

Police museum puts history of law enforcement on display

By Dean A. Radford
Journal Reporter

SEATTLE — Glass prevents the curious from leafing through an old Seattle police mug book at the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum, in search of grandma or grandpa or bad Uncle John.

Anyone with the last name Hogan might want to look closely, though. They'll find Mary Hogan, who killed her husband in the lobby of the Orpheum theater in 1914.

The mug book is just one of the bits and pieces of history that make up the story of the Seattle Police Department and the King County Sheriff's Office.

The museum is the dream of Jim Ritter of Bellevue, who has spent years collecting the artifacts at garage sales and through good old-fashioned detective work. He's a police recruiter for the Seattle Police Department.

The collection is displayed at the 3,000-square-foot muse-

um in Pioneer Square that opened last fall. Traffic so far has been light, but is expected to pick up with tourist season.

Yesterday, Sheriff Dave Reichert donated hats, trouser belts, gun belts, handcuff pouches and holsters to the museum.

He also donated the office's new badge — the first to say "King County Sheriff" in 30 years.

The museum has an interactive area where kids can try on police shirts and bullet-proof vests.

The museum, Ritter said, is "another form of community policing" where children and adults can learn about police work in a nonthreatening environment.

Police officers shouldn't overlook the museum's benefit to them, too.

"A lot of officers don't know their tradition and history," he said.

The museum opened in November after a yearlong building effort. It's run by a

nonprofit corporation that is supported in part by donations from police officers.

Prominently displayed throughout is Claude G. Bannick, who was both a Seattle police chief and a county sheriff. His daughter, Barbara Lockhart of Bellevue, cut the ribbon when the museum opened.

"He cleaned up the Police Department," Ritter said of Chief Bannick. He also helped to clean up Seattle, which for decades was known as a wild city.

Off in one corner is an original jail cell: Ritter towers above one of the doors — apparently criminals were a lot shorter before the turn of the century.

By the way, anyone named Thompson might want to read about Jack Thompson.

He was hanged on Sept. 28, 1877, for the murder of Solomon Baxter. It was the first hanging in King County and the second in the Washington Territory.

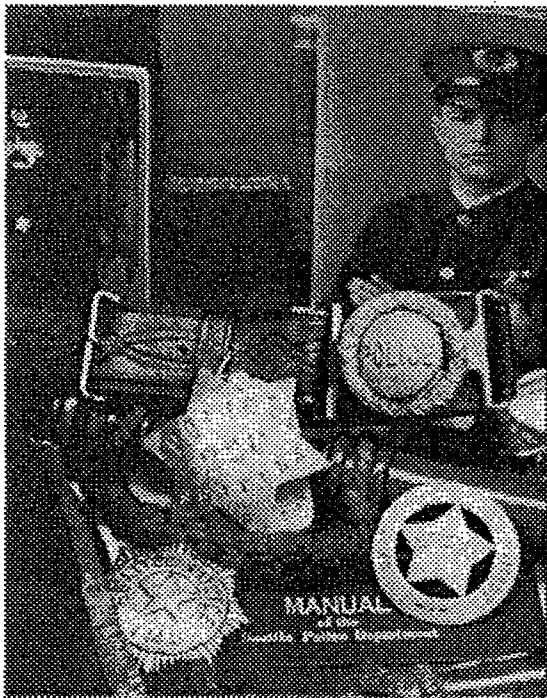
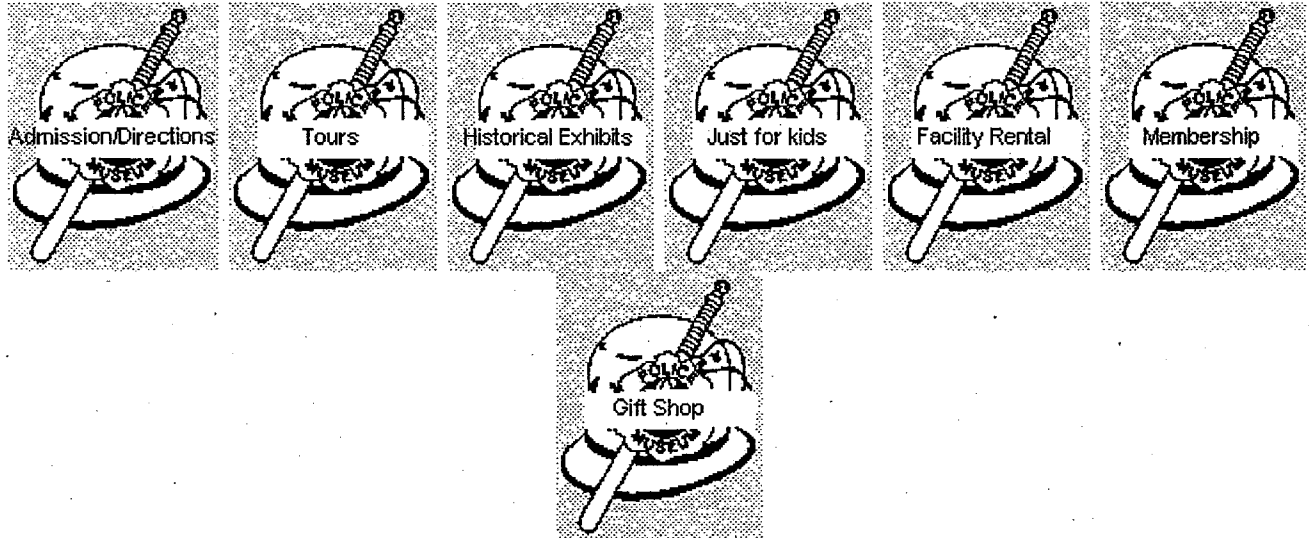


Steve Shelton/Journal

Items donated to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum include this sheriff's badge and credentials issued to the County Assessor's Office in 1943, as well as modern badges, caps, holsters and belts.



Welcome to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum!



317 Third Avenue South

Seattle, Washington 98104

ph: 206-748-9991 fax: 206-749-9099

smpmuseum@aol.com

Discover the history of northwest law enforcement, policing the frontier, and the "taming" of Seattle!

Located in Seattle's historic Pioneer Square, this facility is the largest police museum in the western U.S., combining historical displays with an interactive learning area for children and adults!

Working in collaboration with the Seattle Police Department, and the King County Sheriff's Office, this private, non-profit museum offers insight into the vast transitions experienced by both agencies since the early 1860's.

