

## Summit Historical Minute

Presented at the November 16, 2015 Council Meeting

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### *History of the Patch of the Summit Police Department*



At the founding of the Police Department in 1899 until the 1950s, a uniform patch was not issued. Officers were identified by the metal badges worn on their "covers" (a military term for a duty hat) and over their hearts on their blouse coats. As the area surrounding the City began to develop and the population increased after World War II, the Department began to utilize a standard style triangular patch in order to afford Officers increased presence and to help the many new residents and New York City commuters identify Summit's Officers. The triangular patch featured the name of the Police Department and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey. The design was used largely State-wide at the time, as each patch had to be hand-sewn. Thus, the name of the municipality was easily changed by each department.

In the 1970s, a City-wide contest was held in order to solicit proposals for a new patch design. The design selected highlighted the rich history of the City and memorialized the important role Summit played in securing our Country's freedom during the Revolutionary War. The patch depicted a numbered station in the communications network that General Washington set up to guard his lines and the Morristown headquarters during the Revolutionary War. Beacon #10 was a tall pole with a tar barrel at the top. The alarm was given by igniting the barrel and firing an iron eighteen pound cannonball from "The Old Sow." Beacon #10 and The Old Sow helped rally the local Militia units on June 7th and June 23rd to fight the Hessians in what later became known as "The Battle of Springfield." This patch was used until the 1980s, when it was updated using advanced digital graphics screening technology. The use of this new technology allowed for the picture of "The Old Sow" atop Beacon Hill to be clearly seen on the patch, further displaying the Department's pride in the history of the City.

The current patch design was further enhanced in 2015 by Chief Robert Weck. Patches were outlined in a new brilliant gold color which symbolizes the Summit Police Department's legacy of law enforcement excellence and dedication to the continued growth and development of Summit and protection of its residents and visitors.