

# Chief of Police Roy McKinsey

1986-1995

Member of Bartow Police Department 1969-1995

Chief Roy McKinsey was appointed Chief of Police following the retirement of Chief Charles Fleming in 1986.

Chief Roy McKinsey began his career at the Bartow Police Department in 1969, working in the Patrol Section. Chief McKinsey was the first undercover narcotics officers assigned solely to the investigation of illegal drugs and alcohol.

Chief McKinsey earned a bachelors' degree in Law Enforcement from St. Leo College, graduated from the National FBI Academy in 1984, and graduated from the State of Florida Fire Academy in Lakeland.

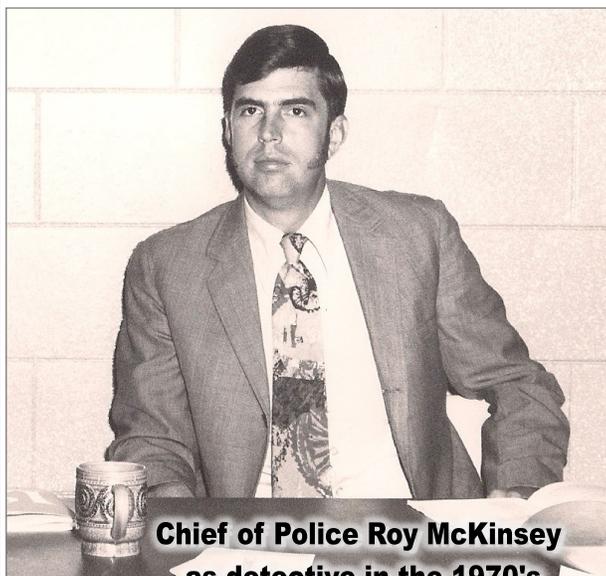
During his 25 years with the City of Bartow, he saw the department double in size.

In 1978, while McKinsey was second in charge, he was fired by then Chief John Cunningham. The incident, which initiated an investigation by the State Attorney's Office, eventually resulted in the resignation of Chief Cunningham and in 1979 McKinsey was rehired by newly appointed Police Chief Fleming to his former rank of Major.

In 1990, a major change was made in the police uniforms and police car design and color. Gone were the brown and tan uniforms and cars, replaced with navy uniforms and white cars with blue stripping.

Chief McKinsey, very community minded, participated in programs, many of which continue today, including: Law Enforcement Special Olympics, Bicycles for Kids (all unclaimed bicycles are donated to the Church Service Center), Raising money for Cancer research, the Teddy Bear program. He implemented a Victim Assistance Program, an Honor Guard Unit, Field Force Team, K-9 Unit, purchased a Mobile Command Post, a fitness program, and secured a legal advisor.

Chief McKinsey was responsible for the department's reorganization and the establishment of the School Resource Officer Program, whereby an officer was assigned in the local schools. In addition, a number of minority and female officers joined the department. ***"I wanted a diverse group of officers representing the community; that was one of my goals,"*** Chief McKinsey said.



**Chief of Police Roy McKinsey  
as detective in the 1970's**

In 1994, Chief McKinsey was appointed the Interim City Manager, after the resignation of Jim O'Connor.

Chief McKinsey worked to manage the department with an 'Open Door Policy' saying ***"I have found that if you treat a person with respect, it is always returned"***.

Chief McKinsey's awards over the years include:

- ◆ Law Enforcement Officer of the year, 1972
- ◆ Policeman of the Year, 1980.
- ◆ Criminal Justice Committee, 1986
- ◆ Distinguished Service Award, 1992
- ◆ Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

Following his retirement in 1995 at the age of 53, Chief McKinsey went to work with the Polk County Sheriff's Office.