

## Firsts for Matrons and Sworn Females of LAPD

| <u>Position</u>                           | <u>Name</u>                           | <u>Date</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Police Matron                             | Helen A. Watson <sup>1</sup>          | 1 Aug 1888  |
| 2nd Police                                | Matron Lucy U. Gray                   | 10 Jul 1889 |
| Policewoman                               | Alice Stebbins Wells                  | 12 Sep 1910 |
| City Mother                               | Aletha Gilbert                        | 1 Sep 1914  |
| Policewoman Sergeant                      | Anna Hamm                             | 1 Oct 1914  |
| Chief Woman Probation<br>& Parole Officer | Minnie Barton                         | 16 Mar 1916 |
| African American Policewoman              | Georgia Robinson                      | 25 Jul 1916 |
| Juvenile Officer (African Am)             | Juanita F. Edwards                    | 24 May 1929 |
| Hispanic Policewoman                      | Josephine (Serrano) Collier           | 1 Oct 1946  |
| Asian Policewoman                         | Joyce Kano                            | 28 Apr 1968 |
| Policewoman Investigator                  | Rita Knecht                           | 21 May 1971 |
| Females in Patrol (Unisex Plan)           | Patricia (Berry) Russell              | 29 Oct 1973 |
|   | Trinka (Gault) Porrata                | 26 Nov 1973 |
|   | Constance (Milazzo) Dial <sup>5</sup> | 26 Nov 1973 |
|   | Janet Penna                           | 26 Nov 1973 |
|   | Colleen (Sippey) Reid                 | 26 Nov 1973 |
| Lieutenant                                | Connie Speck                          | 12 Oct 1975 |
| Captain                                   | Connie Speck                          | 5 Oct 1980  |
| Commander                                 | Betty Kelepecz                        | 8 May 1997  |
| Deputy Chief                              | Margaret York                         | 28 Jul 2000 |
| Assistant Chief                           | Sharon Papa                           | 2010        |

|                         |                          |                   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| first female pilot      | Angela Dumlar            | 1990              |
| Tactical Flight Officer | Leslie Brophy            | 1989              |
| Bomb Technician         | Jacqueline Beatty #22250 | April 21, 1991    |
| Bomb K9 Handler         | Patricia Fuller #25461   | May 4, 2003       |
| HazMat Technician       | Nelly Nava #31586        | November 12, 1999 |
| Dive Officer            | Kelly Kocur              | March 2001        |
| Motor Officer           | Joanna Needham           | 1987              |
| Vice/Narco Officer      | Mary O'Rourke            | 1925              |
| SWAT Officer            | Jennifer Grasso          | 2008              |

1979 – **Fanchon Blake** Fought for gender equity within the lapd after she and other female officers were denied any opportunity to promote above the rank of sergeant. Her federal lawsuit resulted in a consent decree to end discrimination and increase the number of women and minorities in the department.