Module 4: Law Enforcement

Section 4.1: Early History of Policing

**Amalgamation:** The process or result of uniting or consolidating things.

**August Vollmer:** A police reformer known for his strong support for higher education and professionalism in policing.

**Beat:** The geographical territory to which a patrol officer is assigned.

**Civil Service:** A system of government service employment based on merit and examinations rather than on political patronage.

**Code of Hammurabi:** A set of laws developed by Babylonian King Hammurabi that date back to the 18th century BC; the earliest written legal code known.

**Decentralized:** Not having a single administrative center.

**Frankpledge System:** A system of policing used in England during the Early Middle Ages whereby communities were divided into small groups (tithings) that were collectively responsible for the conduct of all members.

**Hue and Cry:** A calling out to the members of a community in order to collectively pursue a criminal, as was mandated under old English law.

**Hundred:** A unit of ten tithings (or 100 households) under the old English Frankpledge system.

**Kin Policing:** An ancient system of law enforcement where law enforcement responsibility was held by all citizens, and everyone was responsible for the conduct of their extended families.

**Magna Carta:** A charter of liberties that the English Barons forced King John to sign in 1215.

**Mosaic Code:** The ancient code of laws that, according to the Old Testament, were given by God to Moses.

**Mutual Pledge System:** Another name for the Frankpledge System.

**Nationalization:** To bring under the control of a nation, such as the government of the United States.
**O. W. Wilson:** An influential leader in policing, popularizing the idea of police professionalism that would shape policing in America for decades to come.

**Parish:** A church based administrative division of territory; corresponds to a county in modern usage.

**Political Era:** A period during the Nineteenth Century when policing in America's large urban centers was defined by political patronage and graft and corruption were rampant.

**Posse Comitatus:** A Latin legal phrase meaning the "power of the county;" a group of all able bodied men that the sheriff could summon to give chase to a fugitive.

**Preventive Patrol:** A policing strategy base on the idea that officers in highly visible uniforms and vehicles will deter crime by their mere presence in the community.

**Proactive:** Controlling a situation by causing something to happen rather than responding to an event after it has happened.

**Reactive:** Acting in response to a situation rather than creating it or controlling it; the opposite of proactive.

**Reform Era:** A period beginning in the early 1900s when police professionalism became the dominate paradigm of policing in the United States.

**Sheriff:** The chief law enforcement officer of a county; the office originated in feudal England as the shire–reeve.

**Shire:** An old English term for a geographical area equivalent to a modern county.

**Shire–reeve:** An English office during feudal times that evolved into the modern office of sheriff.

**Tithing:** A group of ten families under the mutual pledge system.

**Tithingman:** A man elected to preside over a tithing (a group of ten families) under the mutual pledge system.

**Watch and Ward:** A policing system used in Medieval English towns where community members were appointed to serve as guards during the day (the ward) and at night (the watch).