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Former Sheriff Michael Hennessey Launches SF History Website

During his 32-year tenure as Sheriff of San Francisco, Michael Hennessey routinely made history.

He professionalized the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, dramatically expanded prisoner education and community re-entry programs, and broke longstanding barriers that denied careers in law enforcement for women, minority, and gay candidates.

Mike Hennessey also has a passion for history, particularly the history of San Francisco. That passion is on full display in a new website that explores the colorful history of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department: www.SFSDHistory.com.

Hennessey has teamed up with co-author Richard Dyer, a retired Captain on Hennessey's command staff, whose enthusiasm for writing and historic research matches Hennessey's.

Both Hennessey and Dyer had built fledging websites filled with articles and research about the Department's 164-year history. Now they have formally combined their work in a new website beautifully put together by web designer Paul Jasch of ShinyMachine.

"The history of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department provides a unique and dynamically new angle to view the history of San Francisco and California," states Hennessey.

"The remarkable personalities, adventures, achievements and missteps that make up the history of the Sheriff's Department provide insight and context about where we've been and who we are."

Included in the new site are never before published photos and historical data. But Hennessey and Dyer emphasize that the History of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department website is an ongoing research project. There's much more to come.

The SFSD History site presents a great deal of first-hand research from primary sources, specifically sourced from the San Francisco Main Library, the Bancroft and Doe Libraries at UC Berkeley, and the California State Library (which means untold hours poring over old newspapers, documents, and long forgotten books, with occasional eye prescription updates).

The authors are actively seeking SFSD History website sponsorship to continue to purchase the rights for, and have copies made of, historic photos and documents from libraries and museums, to develop website content and for the cost of website design and administration.

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