

100 MOMENTS

PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE BCI/DCI

By Ben Mims (1990-2016)

The current and past People of Color and Women of the Division of Criminal Investigation proudly commemorate and celebrate the BCI/DCI 100th Anniversary. We salute the brave People of Color and Women whose actions and achievements contributed to the advancement of the BCI/DCI history.

People of Color and Women have been working in the DCI for 47 years, since 1973.



EARNEST BATY JR. (1973-1977) WAS THE FIRST PERSON OF COLOR TO SERVE AS A BCI SPECIAL AGENT

Earnest Baty Jr., the first black Special Agent, was hired in 1973; he worked for the BCI until 1977. *The Earnest Baty, Jr. Award* was established on June 15, 1985. This award is dedicated in the memory of S/A Baty, in recognition of his total dedication and tireless effort in

the area of physical fitness to the Department of Public Safety and the DPS Academy. The award was established to recognize members of the Department of Public Safety who, while in the basic academy, attain outstanding achievement in physical fitness by excelling in all three of the following areas: 1.5 mile run under 9 minutes, 20 or more pull-ups, and 80 or more sit-ups in 2 minutes. SAC Ben Mims was the first recipient of the Earnest Baty, Jr. Award.

In 1975, Julie Christian became the first female BCI Special Agent. According to Director Craig Beek, since Julie Christian was the first female to attend the DPS Academy, they needed to make accommodation adjustments for her.

In 1992, Karen Hopewell became the first DCI Gaming Enforcement Officer. In 1994, Karen Hopewell became the first GEO to be promoted to Special Agent to work on the riverboats, since the implementation of the position of Gaming Enforcement Officer.

In 1999, Niki Dean became the first black female DCI Special Agent.

Although the contributions and accomplishments of People of Color and Women in the DCI are many, the plight to cement their place in the history of our

organization did not come without historic barriers. Four examples of this are:

In 1994, Joe Diaz became the first Person of Color to be a Supervisor for DCI as a Special Agent in Charge. In 2005, Diaz was promoted to Assistant Director.



JOE DIAZ (1988-2007) & BEN MIMS (1990-2016)

In 1998, Julie Hamilton became the first female Supervisor for DCI, as a Special Agent in Charge.

In 2000, Ben Mims became the first Black Supervisor for DCI, as a Special Agent in Charge.

In 2007, Charis Paulson became the first female Assistant Director and in 2013 became the first woman Director of the DCI.

In the 100 year history of the DCI the department has hired 14 people of color. The first Special Agent of color was hired in 1973 and the last person of color to be hired was in 2020. There have been 33 sworn females hired in the past 100-year history of the BCI/DCI. This would indicate that there continues to be a need to recruit and retain people of color in the DCI in 2021 and beyond.

From Director to the newest recruits out of the academy, people of color and women are a part of this Division's rich history.

BEN MIMS – 2021

2021 finds Ben starting his fifth year of retirement. He was an Officer with Capitol Police and a State Trooper prior to joining the DCI in 1990. Ben retired in 2016 as the Special Agent in Charge for Eastern Iowa Gaming.