

Mayor, council battled over police force in 1912

"The case is an unique one in that it is practically the city against itself, and the city is spending a large amount of money to prove that it has not 10,000 inhabitants."

Bloomington Weekly Star,
June 21, 1912

In the spring of 1912 there was a storm brewing in city hall — a controversy associated with the town of Bloomington's growing pains.

It began when the mayor, John Harris, decided that it was high time the community had a "metropolitan" police force. In the interest of enlightening its readers, the *Bloomington Weekly Star* published an article about the controversy under a headline, "WHAT NEW POLICE SYSTEM WOULD COST, Provisions of the Law For a Metropolitan Force in Cities of 10,000,



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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HAVE WE GOT THE PEOPLE?"

Apparently the state law authorizing cities to set up such a force was not mandatory in nature. It was simply an option that Mayor Harris decided he wanted to exercise.

The snag was that he didn't have the backing or say-so of the council. Commented the *Star*, "Control of the police seems to have been an issue between the Mayor and city council ever since the present administration started. (Harris had see Looking back, Back page