History Center Showcases Rare Artifacts and Photos from Pittsburgh Police Historical Collection

-In conjunction with the Fraternal of Police National Convention, the short-term display highlights the local founding of the FOP in 1915-

WHAT: A century ago on May 14, 1915, a group of Pittsburgh police officers, led by Martin Toole and Delbert Nagle, formed the Fraternal Order of Police to help policemen negotiate better working conditions and fair pay. By 1918, the local Pittsburgh order evolved into a national organization dedicated to representing the rights of police officers. Today, the FOP has more than 325,000 members throughout the U.S.

In conjunction with the National Fraternal Order of Police’s 62nd National Conference and Exposition at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the Senator John Heinz History Center has opened a new short-term display chronicling the 100-year history of the FOP, beginning now through Thursday, Aug. 20.

The History Center’s Fraternal Order of Police display, located in the museum’s fourth floor Campbell Gallery, features objects, photos, and archives from the Pittsburgh Police Historical Association collection that chronicle the early history of the FOP and the story of law enforcement in Pittsburgh.

Highlights of the short-term Fraternal Order of Police display include:

- A rare Thompson machine gun, known popularly as a “Tommy gun,” one of two purchased by the Pittsburgh Police in 1929;
- A 1960 polygraph machine used by the Pittsburgh Police during interrogations from 1966-1976;
- Badges, uniforms, handcuffs, firearms, and other never-before-displayed items from the Pittsburgh Police Historical Association;
- Early 20th century Pittsburgh Police artifacts such as a 1915 police custodian helmet; a 1918 FOP journal from the year the organization expanded nationally; and a 1924 Pittsburgh Police and Fire Department call box.

The Pittsburgh Police Historical Association donated its collection to the History Center in 2011. The History Center will display items from the collection as part of a larger upcoming exhibition focusing on crime and punishment in Pittsburgh.

WHEN: Now through Aug. 20

WHERE: Senator John Heinz History Center
Fourth Floor Campbell Gallery
1212 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org**
The History Center’s short-term *Fraternal Order of Police* display, located in the museum’s fourth floor Campbell Gallery, features objects, photos, and archives from the Pittsburgh Police Historical Association collection that chronicle the early history of the FOP and the story of law enforcement in Pittsburgh (photo: Pittsburgh police officers in 1905).

The Fraternal Order of Police display also features this 1960 polygraph machine used by the Pittsburgh Police during interrogations from 1966-1976.