Minorities in Law Enforcement
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Introduction
Law enforcement being an essential need in any society was plagued with racial discrimination within and outside the law enforcement community. Minorities throughout history, such as the Irish, African Americans, and the Latin Americans faced unfair treatment and prejudices from the communities they were sworn to protect.

Minorities were constantly being denied the job, by facing competition with the dominant group, the Anglo-Saxons having first priority in any type of work force.

Irish Americans in the NYPD
By the 1950’s the NYPD had a significant amount of Irish Americans on the force. So significant that it made up approximately 50 percent of the force.

Figure 1. Samuel J. Battle the first appointed African American in the NYPD. June, 28, 1911.

History in the making...
Samuel J. Battle is recognized as the first African American sworn into the NYPD IN 1911
• The first African American Sergeant in 1926
• Becomes the first African American Lieutenant in 1935
• The first African American Parole Commissioner in 1941

Figure 2. Samuel J. Battle overcomes the color barrier as The New York Police Department welcomed its first Black officer.

Then and Now...
In 1911, the city of New York’s population consisted of 2 percent of African Americans. Today, African Americans make up 23 percent of the city’s population, and 18 percent of all police officers. African Americans, Latin Americans, Asian civilians make up nearly 48 percent amongst all ranks, and among police officers they have been a majority since 2006.

Figure 3. William O’Dwery was the 100th Mayor for New York City. He also served as a NYPD officer.

Latinos in Law Enforcement
Figure 5. Latinos are a minority group in NYC. As seen in this chart, Latinos and other minorities in the red are taking half the shares within each department, until we reach the bottom however where the higher ranks are. Then you will see that the percentage gap is more dramatic. Commissioner Raymond Kelly himself, says that, “Diversity helps the community relations and crime fighting.”

Excerpt from: nydailynews

The excerpt above states that Latinos make up at least 29%. According to figure 3 minorities make up at least half of law enforcement or 50%, with Latinos being a minority, Latinos make up more than half of the minorities within law enforcement.

Figure 4. NYPD Emerald Society of Pipe & Drum Band was formed ten years after the NYPD Emerald Society

In 1950 the NYPD Emerald Society was founded by Doris Burke and three other policewomen. Irish women were also active in the NYPD and served along the men.

Site to visit: http://www.nypdops.org/FratOrg/Emerald.htm

Conclusions
With minorities groups increasing, the reputation of NYPD officers racial profiling being aggressive against the minorities will slowly be a thing of the past.

People can see how the NYPD integrates minorities into their force and that shows that their departments cares and want to solve their problems from different ethnic backgrounds.

From a community stand point, Latino immigrants and other minority civilians might be more willing to confront the police rather than feeling scared, running away when they encounter difficult situations.

Since most people are comfortable with ones that understands them and their difficulties, especially when there is no language barrier, having a more diverse force will lead to a better community for everyone.

In all, this represents the already diverse New York and its commitment and effort to make everyone comfortable.