

The Oregonian

Local Brewery Triumphs Over City of Portland in Yearslong Trademark Dispute

*By Jessica Floum
January 22, 2018*

The city of Portland has ended its pursuit to wrest away a local brewery's logo after getting shunned and criticized by brewers and businesses for assisting an "attack from Big Beer."

Old Town Brewing has exclusive rights to use the leaping deer logo found on the city-owned Portland, Oregon sign on beer-related products. It secured those rights from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2012, meaning anyone who wanted to use the logo on beer products would need Old Town Brewing's permission.

The city hired a private trademark attorney and spent four years contesting Old Town Brewing's exclusive rights, netting three straight denials from the federal trademark office. On Monday, however, city officials announced Portland will no longer seek to secure the trademark for use of the logo on beer, wine and liquor products.

The city of Portland has devoted hundreds of hours and tens of thousands in legal fees to gain rights to a distinctive beer logo -- a move that would undermine a local brewery.

In exchange, the Northeast Portland brewery will allow the city to license the image for certain local alcohol-related uses such as festivals, events and advertising for local trade organizations. Old Town Brewing will not allow use of the logo on any alcohol-related products or packaging.

Old Town Brewing owner Adam Milne said in a statement that Mayor Ted Wheeler's engagement in the discussion changed the "tone and tenor" of negotiations from the more aggressive stance of city attorneys.

"I appreciate his support of local small businesses and of Portland craft brewing," Milne said in a statement.

Wheeler said in a statement that resolving this trademark dispute was important so that the city and brewery could get back to their "core missions."

"I am pleased that we have arrived at a mutually beneficial solution," Wheeler said in a statement.

Portland devoted hundreds of hours and tens of thousands in legal fees to gain rights to the trademark.

The city of Portland obtained a state trademark two years ago to use the image on a variety of products, including beer products without consulting the local brewery. Federal trademark rights trump those granted by state agencies.

The city acquired the Portland Oregon sign in 2010 and secured the rights from the state to use the sign's stag image on products other than beer the following year. City attorneys for years felt that entitled the city to sell the rights to companies to use the image on beer and alcohol products.

"This was a challenging process," Milne said.

Portland's charter prevents the city from entering a permanent agreement with Old Town Brewing, but this new agreement will stand for five years.

"I strongly encourage future administrations to maintain this policy," Wheeler said.

Police Chief: Portland Can't Ignore History of Racial Inequality If It Wants to Improve

By Maxine Bernstein

January 22, 2018

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said Monday that she deliberately chose the Oregon Historical Society and its "Racing for Change, Oregon's Civil Rights Years" exhibit as the setting for her swearing-in ceremony to "address the elephant in the room."

She described an era of early policing in the nation's history when sheriffs enforced segregation in the South and officers received political payoffs to turn a blind eye to a politician's illegal prostitution or drinking.

"Here in Portland, the issue of racial inequality and displacement still lurks in the undercurrent of a very progressive city," Outlaw said moments after she was formally sworn in as the city's first African American female chief. The ceremony comes after Outlaw has been in the job for three and a half months.

"We cannot effectively address crime reduction and community engagement and inclusion or organizational excellence through an equity and inclusion lens if we ignore our history."

She dismissed critics who might say her recounting of the past is "divisive" or "race-baiting." No, Outlaw said, an understanding of the city's history should be the starting point for "transformation and positive progression."

"How can we begin the healing process without first acknowledging what was?" Outlaw said to a crowd of about 150 invited guests including friends and family, community leaders, legislators, police chiefs from around the state and state and federal law enforcement leaders.

"The history of the civil rights movement in this country, and most important in this city, has a direct impact on how we effectively serve the Portland community. When we know better ... we do better."

Outlaw said she'll strive to build trust between officers and the community, use data to identify problems and allocate resources to reduce crime, emphasize de-escalation tactics in training for officers, hold officers accountable and support officer safety and wellness.

"True community policing is a philosophy that will be interwoven into the fabric of the Portland Police Bureau," Outlaw said. "It is not a thing, nor is it a box to be checked."

She also urged citizens to make their own contributions and work together with the Police Bureau to improve the city.

"I challenge us to move beyond our fears of the unknown and to embrace the commonalities that we all share," Outlaw said. "If we are to be effective, we must first seek to listen and understand the perspective of those who differ from ourselves."

She took jabs at critics who questioned why she got council approval for \$365,000 to hire a new deputy chief when she already has three assistant chiefs or suggested she was too young at age 41 or inexperienced to serve as chief of a metropolitan police force.

"I wonder if the deputy chiefs of my male counterparts in major cities throughout this country are referred to as helpers rather than the true No. 2 in any CEO or COO relationship," she said, drawing applause. "I wonder if anyone asked Mark Zuckerberg about his age founding Facebook or anyone questioned Bill Bratton when he first became police chief."

Her address came after a violent weekend in Portland, which included a homicide downtown and a shooting on the Fremont Bridge. The chief, though, highlighted "little to no incidents" during mass protests and marches in the city on Saturday.

While Outlaw's executive team and the police honor guard were present, most officers in the bureau watched her remarks on a live-stream video due to space restrictions at the historical society.

"Thank you for accepting me and still being willing to push and work hard through times of newness and uncertainty," Outlaw said to officers. "There's class act people in this bureau and I'm humbled to be able to work with them."

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who also serves as the city's police commissioner, said Outlaw was selected to improve the Police Bureau and pledged his continual support. "We are a team, and I stand with Chief Outlaw," he said.

Fellow Oakland native and Outlaw's friend, actor Russell Hornsby, served as master of ceremonies. Carmen Sylvester, the first African American woman hired by the Portland police in November 1973, swore in Outlaw as chief. Saeeda Wright, a soloist with the Oregon Symphony, sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

Chief Danielle Outlaw's father Tyrone Bowman admitted that he was uncertain about his daughter's career choice years ago when she joined the Oakland Police Department. "She said some time ago to me that, 'One day I'm going to be police chief.' I knew that she would get here," Bowman said.

Outlaw's father, Tyrone Bowman, who admitted he had at first questioned his daughter's career choice when she joined the police academy in Oakland, said he was proud of her, but not surprised.

"She said some time ago to me that, 'One day I'm going to be police chief.' I knew that she would get here," he said.

Friends from Xi Gamma Omega, her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s Oakland chapter, urged her on from the audience as Outlaw paused, overcome by emotion, when she spoke of her mother, who died two years ago.

"We think it's an incredible accomplishment," said Tamika Greenwood, who flew in with friends for the day from Oakland to attend the event.

Former state Sen. Avel Gordly sat in the front row. "I'm so excited and just so filled with hope," Gordly said, noting that Outlaw is a terrific role model for young African American girls.

Musse Olol of the Somali American Council said he encouraged Outlaw when he met her to hold her ceremony at the historical society, not at City Hall, as past chiefs have done.

"We're not just hiring another chief. This is an historic moment," Olol said. "I'm really excited to be a part of it. It's quite a moment of progress."

Oregon Senate Candidate Kayse Jama Asks Whether Comments in Portland City Hall Security Line Were Racially Targeted

By Katie Shepherd
January 22, 2018

As a guard peeked into a bag, he allegedly asked Jama if he had "any bazookas or bombs."

The most prominent Somali immigrant in Portland says he was left wondering if he had been accused of being a terrorist after a security guard at City Hall searched through his bag on Friday.

Kayse Jama, the director of Unite Oregon and a candidate for the Oregon Senate, says the security guard made an alarming remark when Jama handed over his bag for a routine search.

As he peeked into the bag, Jama says the guard asked if he had "any bazookas or bombs," according to a Facebook post Jama wrote Friday evening.

The racially charged question lit up social media after Jama posted about the alleged interaction. Many people said the comment was racist.

"I am certain the guard asked this question in jest—and, indeed, many community members have experienced similar comments—[but] for me it was not funny," Jama said in a statement responding to questions sent by WW. "I still don't find it funny."

In his Facebook post, Jama noted that his Somali heritage is not hard to identify—he speaks with an accent—and wondered if the guard had noticed and made the comment because he is an immigrant.

People on social media were quick to lob criticisms at City Hall's security guard, calling the comment racist and anti-immigrant. But others thought the guard was likely trying to make a poorly thought-out joke.

Jama says he no longer believes he was singled out for his ethnicity.

"It is evident that this is not just something that happens to people of color or immigrants and refugees," Jama said.

Jama is not a new face in City Hall. He's been engaged in local politics for some time as the director of Unite Oregon, a nonprofit that works to organize people of color, immigrants and refugees around political issues. Now, he's running to unseat Sen. Rod Monroe (D-East Portland) in the state Senate.

He updated his Facebook post after hearing feedback from the comment section, saying that he did not want to see the security guard lose his job.

A spokesman for Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler was not immediately available for comment this weekend.

Jama tells WW that he now believes the remark wasn't targeting him, but it signals that city employees lack training in how to deal with people from different backgrounds.

He adds that he doesn't think the guard should be disciplined.

"This is not about him, or me," Jama adds. "I go to City Hall all the time and I am very comfortable there. I want to ensure all our community members feel welcome in City Hall and in every public building—and to receive the same treatment no matter who they are."

Update Jan. 22, 4:15 pm: The mayor met with Jama to discuss the incident on Monday.

"Mayor Wheeler spoke to Kayse Jama personally about this unfortunate incident," Michael Cox, a spokesman for the mayor, said in a statement. "The mayor has directed the Bureau of Internal Business Services (which oversees the contract with G4S) to ensure security personnel in City Hall receive additional training in cultural competence so this doesn't happen again."

The Portland Tribune

City Hall Update: Date Set for Vote on CC2035 Changes

By Jim Redden

January 23, 2018

Plus, Amazon skips Portland and the City Council votes unanimously to lower speed limits on residential streets.

The City Council announced Thursday that it will vote on proposed amendments to the Central City plan update on Wednesday, March 7.

The announcement was made during a three-and-a-half-hour hearing on the amendments. The most controversial would raise maximum building heights in the RiverPlace area and continue planning to reconfigure the I-5 and I-84 interchanges in the Rose Quarter area.

The update is intended to guide development in the inner city for the next 20 years. It is officially called Central City 2035 or CC2035 for short. The proposed amendments and more information is available at: portlandoregon.gov/bps/47907

Amazon skips Portland

Amazon ruled out Portland as a site for its second national headquarters on Thursday.

The city had offered the Seattle-based company the opportunity to develop the former U.S. Postal Service sites and surrounding property, now called the Broadway Corridor. No tax breaks or other financial incentives were included in the offer, however.

Portland was not on the list of 20 cities still in the running for the \$5 billion project Amazon released on Jan. 18. The closest was Los Angeles, the only West Coast city on the list, which is 965 miles south. Some experts think Raleigh, North Carolina, is the front-runner.

Prosper Portland, formerly the Portland Development Commission, is overseeing the master planning effort for the site at the west end of the Broadway bridge.

Speed limits lowered

The City Council voted unanimously Wednesday to lower speed limits on residential streets from 25 to 20 miles per hour.

The reduction is included in the Vision Zero Action Plan approved by the council in December 2016 to eliminate all fatal and serious injury crashes in Portland by 2025.

Despite that, fatal accidents have continued to increase. According to the police, 51 people were killed in Portland crashes last year, compared with 44 in 2016. The Portland Bureau of Transportation, which uses slightly different criteria adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NTSA), says fatalities increased from 44 in 2016 to 45 last year.

Willamette Week

Protesters Face Off Along a Portland Road, With Very Different Views on Whether a Homeless Shelter Is Welcome in Their Backyard

*By Zac Conklin
January 22, 2018*

A former mayoral candidate is frustrated. "If we have to come up with a protest like this every time we propose a homeless shelter, it's a terrible waste of our time."

A half-dozen downtown Portland marches and rallies against President Donald Trump captured much of the media attention this weekend.

But on the other side of town, 61 blocks east of the Willamette River, another protest on Saturday showed rifts in the city's display of unity. Two groups stood on each side of Southeast Foster Road, waving signs with opposite views of a homeless shelter in a former grocery.

Over the past month, the Mount Scott, Foster-Powell and Lents neighborhoods have been rent by angry debate over the 24-hour shelter, which could be used by 100 people each night.

The Lents Neighborhood Livability Association originally had planned a protest against the shelter to be held outside of the shelter site. Though at the last minute the organizers cancelled the event, roughly 40 people showed up anyway.

Counter-protesters gathered about 60 people, led by activist and former mayoral candidate Sarah Iannarone, who supported the shelter, waving signs including "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and "Action with Compassion."

"This is in my neighborhood," said Ben Chatterton, who lives in the neighborhood, and heard about the counter-protest through his Democratic Socialists of America chapter. "I felt like this is my responsibility to come out. If a 120-bed shelter is on the table, then I am going to go support a 120-bed shelter. That is 120 people that can sleep in a warm place and not on a park bench."

About 15 people were out to demonstrate the shelter. They argued that they didn't have a problem with the shelter itself, but with the process used by Portland City Hall and Multnomah County to pick the site.

Jeff Miller, a contractor, questioned the amount of space that the shelter users would have.

"You have what I think is about 10,000 square feet, with 120 people along with showers and laundry. They are going to be lined up in there side by side like sardines," he said while shaking his head. "If they are going to put it in here, it needs to be bigger."

Iannarone expressed frustration with the terms of the debate.

"We need more shelters here, and if we have to come up with a protest like this every time we propose a homeless shelter, it's a terrible waste of our time," Iannarone said. "We really should

be using our time to brainstorm and come up with hacks and community meetings to make our shelters really effective and get people into permanent housing."

Local Brewery Wins Battle With Portland City Hall Over Leaping Stag Trademark

*By Katie Shepherd
January 22, 2018*

Adam Milne, the brewery owner, and Mayor Ted Wheeler have now come to an agreement in the dispute over one of the most well-known images in Portland.

The city has surrendered in a battle over who gets to use the iconic image of a leaping stag from the Portland Oregon sign and will not seek a trademark that would conflict with one already owned by a local brewery.

Old Town Brewing, which has owned a trademark for the leaping stag image since 2012, had blocked several of the city's attempts to trademark the entire sign, deer included.

WW first reported on the trademark battle in November.

Adam Milne, the brewery owner, and Mayor Ted Wheeler have now come to an agreement in the dispute over one of the most well-known images in Portland.

"This was a challenging process," Milne said in a joint statement put out by the city and Old Town Brewing. "Once the Mayor directly engaged on the issue, we felt an immediate difference in the tone and tenor of the negotiations."

The city will give up on obtaining a trademark that it could license to any beer or alcohol company to use on cans, bottles, glasses, packages or tap handles. In return, Old Town Brewing will allow Portland to grant alcohol companies the right to use the image of the famous sign on local advertising.

Before the negotiations, Milne had faced an uphill battle against the city to defend his trademark. He had advocated for more than a year that the city simply seek a trademark that did not infringe on beer, wine and alcohol. That's exactly what the city has agreed to do now.

"I am pleased that we have arrived at a mutually beneficial solution that ensures the City of Portland can effectively protect the Portland sign as a landmark, while also protecting the trademark rights of Old Town Brewing," Wheeler said in a statement.

Milne will file a letter with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office encouraging the agency to grant Portland's trademark application so long as it does not cross over into the category of beer, wine and alcohol. The agreement between Old Town Brewing and the city will last for five years, with the option to renew it for another five years.

The Portland Mercury

Chief Outlaw was Ceremoniously Sworn-In Today. Check out the Highlights From Her Speech.

By Doug Brown
January 22, 2018

Danielle Outlaw was sworn in as Portland police chief in a private ceremony on October 2—112 days ago. Today, the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) held a "ceremonial" swearing-in event at the Oregon Historical Society.

Outlaw was ceremoniously sworn-in by Carmen Sylvester, a retired Portland cop who, in 1974, was the first Black woman hired by the bureau. Actor Russell Hornsby—who went to high school with Outlaw and apparently portrayed fictional Portland detective "Hank Griffin" in the NBC series Grimm—was the MC.

The main event was Outlaw's 22-minute speech. She focused a lot on civil rights issues, acknowledging Portland's racist history and the distrust between communities of color and the police. You can watch the full ceremonial swearing-in event [here](#), or watch just Outlaw's part speech [below](#):

Here are some highlights of Outlaw's speech:

- She chose the Oregon Historical Society because of its "Racing to Change" exhibit on the Civil Rights Movement in Oregon. "I was very intentional in the selection of this place," she said. She wanted to "address the elephant in the room."
- Outlaw brought up the 2017 Time article "How the U.S. Got Its Police Force," highlighting the portion mentioning how, in the South, police forces were created for the "preservation of the slavery system." Outlaw said "This isn't about Black history, or Portland's history, this is our history."
- She also highlighted the 2016 story in The Atlantic: "The Racist History of Portland, the Whitest City in America." She referenced that in the 1920s, a picture in the paper showed the police chief, sheriff, district attorney, U.S. attorney, and mayor posing with Klansmen. She said racism still lurks "in the undercurrent of a very progressive city."

Note: In May, during the city's search for a new police chief, the Portland Police Association union was upset that the job posting acknowledged historical and system racism in Portland, writing: "the verbiage and the tenor of the job posting left many in the rank and file angry and confused, as the clear implication from the posting is that the Police Bureau and its members have supported a racist culture in the City."

- "What does any of this, you might be asking, have to do with the police in the united states, the Portland Police Bureau, or Chief Danielle Outlaw? There's no argument that law enforcement agencies are responsible for upholding the law and maintaining public order.... We cannot effectively address crime reduction and prevention, community engagement and inclusion, or organizational excellence through and equity and inclusion lens if we ignore our history.... Seeking to understand our history is not divisive, nor is it an act of race-baiting, as I've heard it before. Nor is it meant to be accusatory. It serves as a starting point for transformation and positive progression. How can we begin the healing process without first acknowledging what it was...".

- She said the Black Lives Matter and "Say Her Name" movements "didn't arise out of nowhere. Along the same vein, however, neither did the hashtags #BlueLivesMatter or #AllLivesMatter." She urged people to "seek to listen to or understand the perspectives of those who differ from ourselves."
- She acknowledged distrust between minority communities and police, and "systemic" problems in Portland like homelessness and mental health issues.
- "As your new chief of police, you will see me implementing several strategies that promote positive interactions between the police and our communities in order to build trust and legitimacy. We will continue to utilize technology and social media to reduce crime and enhance public trust. And I will ensure solid policy and oversight exists to safeguard accountability and transparency. Additional training, at all levels, to include the prioritization of de-escalation. To ensure every Portland Police Bureau employee is performing at their optimum level. Lastly, an intentional focus on officer safety and wellness is paramount to achieve our goals. True community policing is a philosophy that will be interwoven into the fabric of the Portland Police Bureau."
- Despite only being here since October, "I say with confidence that the Portland Police Bureau is moving in a positive direction." She highlighted data-based decision making, protests and demonstrations "with little-to-no incidents," and the effort to strengthen training.
- Outlaw, hired at 41, called out people who were apparently questioning her ability to be police chief at such a young age: "I wonder if anyone else asked Mark Zuckerberg about his age when he founded Facebook?"

Note: Mark Zuckerberg's young age when he started Facebook has been discussed. A lot. The origin story of Zuckerberg starting Facebook as a college sophomore is mentioned in nearly every profile of him ("in February 2004, when Zuckerberg was a 19-year-old sophomore at Harvard, he started a Web service from his dorm," wrote Time when they named him Person of the Year in 2010, for example).

- Outlaw was upset with the wording of a Mercury headline from October ("Danielle Outlaw Wants a Helper"). The story was about how she wanted to reorganize the structure of the bureau, creating a new "deputy chief" position (what we called a "helper") for day-to-day operations, so she can "focus on the strategic goals of the organization." She implied using the term "helper" to describe the new position was sexist and she said that she views herself as the "CEO" of the PPB, saying "I wonder if the deputy chief of my male counterparts in major cities throughout this country are referred to as helpers, rather than the true number two in any CEO or COO relationship?"
- "Together, we can continue to raise the bar and set the standard of policing as we contribute to this noble profession on national and global levels."
- She thanked her family. She thanked Mayor Ted Wheeler, who hired her, for "entrusting me to be a part of your vision. I see it. I get it. Together, we will get there."
- Her closing remarks: "Think about your role in ensuring success as a community. What is it? What does it look like? Because I can't do this by myself, I won't do it by myself. I've accepted my role, and I'm hear for the long haul. As you all know, we get more accomplished working together than against one another. You have my word that I will carry out my duties the best of my ability each and every day, and it will be done with grace, with mercy, with kindness, with compassion, with courage, with honor, and integrity..."

Commissioner Amanda Fritz Is Hoping to Re-Take Control of Portland's New Campaign Finance System

By Dirk VanderHart

January 22, 2018

Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz might have found a new home for a program that will finance city campaigns with public money: her own office.

In a code change that's been in the works for months, Fritz plans to bring a proposal before Portland City Council in the near future to take over the nascent Open and Accountable Elections program, currently controlled by the city's Office of Neighborhood Involvement, according to her chief of staff, Tim Crail. If approved, Fritz's office would get a chunk of money to hire program staff, tap a consultant to help suss out fine-grained policy rules, and appoint a Public Campaign Finance Commission to oversee the program, which will take effect following the November 2018 elections.

The upcoming ordinance is the latest development for a Fritz passion project that's been something of a hot potato in City Hall. It's also a move that would likely ensure the program is passed from office to office in years to come.

Open and Accountable elections is geared toward helping lesser-known candidates secure enough funding to make a run at city office. Once they've proven they're credible by collecting enough donations (at least \$2,500 total from 250 people for city commissioner or auditor candidates, and at least \$5,000 total from 500 people for mayoral candidates), candidates will be able to leverage \$6 in public money for every \$1 in contributions of up to \$50. That means your \$50 donation to a candidate using the system could net \$300 in city funds.

In exchange for that boost, candidates have to agree to spending limits and can't accept contributions of more than \$250, or take money from entities like political action committees or labor organizations.

It's a system that advocates say will improve city elections, but no one besides Fritz seems to want to take it on.

When the commissioner first proposed Open and Accountable Elections in 2016, she'd hoped the program would be administered by City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero, who currently oversees city elections. The problem: Hull Caballero wanted no part of it. Neither did the Multnomah County Elections Division.

So in December 2016, Fritz instead proposed the new election system be given to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), which she controlled at the time. Weeks later, the commissioner won the support of two outgoing city council members—Charlie Hales and Steve Novick—and the new elections system was adopted into law. But Fritz lost control of ONI when Mayor Ted Wheeler took office in January 2017, and staffers for Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who now runs the bureau, privately groused about being saddled with implementing the campaign finance program.

So now Fritz might be getting it back—for a while at least.

Crail says the potential changes are being made "working cooperatively with Commissioner Eudaly's office on how to get things moving. In conversations together, we decided it would be the best approach."

Fritz's office is in the process of crafting an ordinance that will allow Fritz to take over, but also ensure that no commissioner who's campaigning for re-election can oversee the public financing system. Since Fritz is up for re-election in 2020, that means she'd have to hand control to someone else if she plans to run. It's not entirely clear how that would work—especially since some council members have been skeptical about the system.

Should council approve the changes, Crail says his office would be tasked with hiring two full-time employees to administer the elections program, duties that would include making sure candidates are eligible, and ensuring the system isn't being abused. The program also calls for the creation of an oversight commission to offer guidance and recommendations.

Maintaining the program's integrity will be important. Portland's last flirtation with publicly funded elections—a system dubbed Voter Owned Elections—was susceptible to fraud and eventually dismantled by voters. Fritz was the only non-incumbent to win election using that program, and has consistently touted the fact that she doesn't accept big checks in her campaigns (her largest ever contribution is \$500).

By law, the Open and Accountable Elections system is funded with up to 0.2 percent of the city's general fund revenue each year—somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.2 million. Council has so far declined full funding for the program, since it probably won't be put to use until 2020 (barring an unexpected election next year). The city's current budget allocated \$250,000 to the program. The City Budget Office, in a report published last November [PDF], recommended putting \$350,000 into the system next year, then fully funding it in the 2019-20 budget.

That budget report, by the way, also agreed with Fritz, finding that the most logical place for the program is the Auditor's Office.

"Elections related work is already conducted by that office, and the public contribution matching program would need to rely on and coordinate with the existing elections program," the report found. "Housing the program elsewhere may create unnecessary costs and administrative duplication."

The Skanner

Portland Police Chief Outlaw Sworn In

*By The Skanner News
January 22, 2018*

Portland's new police chief Danielle Outlaw was sworn in this morning, Jan. 22, during a ceremony at the Oregon Historical Society.

The oath of office was given by Carmen Sylvester, the first Black woman patrol officer to be hired by the Portland Police Bureau in 1974.

Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes, pastor of the Allen Temple, delivered the invocation, while Mayor Ted Wheeler and actor Russell Hornsby gave remarks. Hornsby is best known for his portrayal of Detective Hank Griffin on the Portland-based NBC series "Grimm."

Outlaw is the 48th Police Chief since 1870, when the Metropolitan Police Department was formed. She was selected as Chief of Police in August by Wheeler, following a national search.

As a 19-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department, Chief Outlaw is the third woman to be police chief in Portland and the first African American woman to hold the position.

OPB

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw Delivers Speech On Race And Policing

By Amelia Templeton

January 22, 2018

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw celebrated her swearing in Monday with a ceremony at the Oregon Historical Society.

Outlaw is the the first African American woman to lead the police bureau, and has been chief for a little more than three months.

She spoke for about 20 minutes to a crowd that included African-American leaders, police chiefs and top justice officials from across Oregon.

Outlaw used her first major public address since taking the helm of the bureau to deliver a wide-ranging, funny and at times deeply personal speech.

Most strikingly, she spoke directly about race and policing, and the many eras throughout U.S. history when police forces were used to preserve inequality and racial segregation.

Outlaw promised to build a relationship of trust with communities in Oregon.

“Seeking to understand our history is not divisive, nor is it an act of race-baiting, as I’ve heard before. Nor is it meant to be accusatory,” she said. “It serves as a starting point for transformation and positive progression.”

The ceremony was live-streamed on Facebook for officers to watch. She said the department’s rank-and-file officers are “class act people,” she is humbled to work with.

Retired Officer Carmen Sylvester delivered the oath of office for Outlaw. In 1973, Sylvester became the first African American woman ever hired by the Portland Police Bureau.

Many of Outlaw’s close family, friends and colleagues flew in from across the country to show their support.

Clarence Cox, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, traveled from Atlanta to attend. Sorority sisters from Alpha Kappa Alpha, dressed in pink and green, filled several rows.

“It was an emotional experience for me. I was close to tears,” said Sen. Lew Frederick, after Outlaw’s swearing in and speech. “There are racial barriers. Acknowledging that made a big difference.”

“We need to change the perception that people of color are a little less than,” said Sylvester. “It’s been a great day for Oregon, a great day for the police bureau.”

Avel Gordley, the first African American woman elected to the Oregon Senate, sat in the first row during the ceremony.

Gordley said Outlaw’s speech evoked Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s idea of envisioning a beloved community.

“I’m absolutely thrilled that we have someone of her depth, youth and understanding of the human heart,” Gordley said.

Below is audio and transcript of Outlaw’s full remarks.

I can’t thank you enough. Again, I am wholeheartedly humbled.

Distinguished guests, colleagues, family, friends.

Thank you.

You might wonder why we’re here today. Why this venue? Why the Oregon Historical Society?

I was very intentional with the selection of this place. I chose this venue because the exhibit, racing to change. Oregon’s Civil Rights years, affords us the opportunity to address an elephant in the room.

According to the Oregon historical society, the exhibit illuminates Oregon’s vibrant black community, their courage, struggle and progress amongst a larger context of discrimination and displacement during the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Again, why are we here today?

This isn’t just about black history, or Portland’s history. This is our history. So please bear with me as we take a look at a snapshot of the history of policing in the United States.

For many it is known that in the South, the creation of police forces was centered on the preservation of a slavery system. According to an article written by Olivia Waxman titled, “How The US Got Its Police Forces,” some of the primary institutions there were slave patrols, tasked with chasing down runaways and preventing slave revolts. During the Reconstruction Era, sheriffs enforced segregation and the disenfranchisement of freed slaves.

Later on, in the 19th Century, it was the era of political machines. So police captains and sergeants from each precinct were often picked by the local political party ward leader who often owned taverns or ran street gangs that intimidated voters. They were then able to use police to harass opponents of that particular party or provide payoffs for officers to turn a blind eye to allow illegal drinking, gambling and prostitution.

But then as the nation grew, different regions made use of different policing systems. Generally, those who looked and acted differently from the people who had dominated cities before drove the calls for preservation of law and order.

Here in Portland, the history of racial inequality and displacement still lurks in the undercurrent of a very progressive city.

An article written by Alana Sequels entitled, “The Racial History of Portland, the Whitest America,” discusses how in 1922, photos in the local paper show the Portland chief of police, the sheriff, the district attorney, the U.S. attorney, and mayor posing with Klansmen, accompanied by an article saying the men were taking advice from the Klan.

Also, according to this same article, after World War II, blacks were encouraged to leave Oregon, with the mayor of Portland commenting in a news article that black people were not welcomed here.

And then fast forward to 1967. Race riots exploded in the heart of the African American community. In response, the Portland police bureau was joined by the FBI and the national guard to deal with crowds.

What does any of this, you might be asking, have to do with the police in the United States, the Portland Police Bureau, or Chief Danielle Outlaw?

There is no arguing that law enforcement agencies are responsible for upholding the law and maintaining public order. All though one might be inclined to separate the many civil rights movements from policing, we know that law enforcement will continue to play an integral role, as it has been in many instances one's initial introduction to the criminal justice system.

We cannot effectively address crime reduction and prevention, community engagement and inclusion, or organizational excellence through an equity and inclusion lens if we ignore our history.

Seeking to understand our history is not divisive, nor is it an act of race baiting, nor is it meant to be accusatory. It serves as a starting point for transformation and positive progression. How can we begin the healing process without first acknowledging what was, during many of our lifetimes?

The history of the Civil Rights movement in this country, and most specifically, in this city, have a direct impact on how we effectively serve the Portland community. We'd be naïve to think otherwise.

And as we all know, when we know better, we what?

We do better.

Movements such as Black Lives Matter and #SayHerName didn't arise out of nowhere. Along the same vein, however, neither did the hashtags Blue Lives Matter or All Lives Matter. If we are to be effective, we must first seek to listen and understand the perspectives of those who differ from ourselves.

Much of the policing practices of the eras that I just mentioned are not only dated, but have largely contributed to the distrust and tension that exist between minority communities and the police today.

Twenty-first century policing requires strategic solutions to complex dynamic, and ever-changing problems. Our communities not only expect us to address crime, but they want us to solve larger systemic issues. In Portland, for example, these systemic issues are related to those who are houseless, or have mental health or addiction issues.

Policing today requires law enforcement agencies all over the world to strengthen trust and collaboration amongst the communities we serve, while also continuing to reduce crime. As your new chief of police, you will see me implementing several strategies that promote positive interactions between police and our communities in order to build trust and legitimacy.

We will continue to utilize technology and social media to reduce crime and enhance public trust and I will ensure that solid oversight exist to safeguard accountability and transparency. Additional training at all levels to include the prioritization of de-escalation is crucial to ensure that every Portland Police Bureau employee is performing at their optimal level.

Lastly, an intentional focus on officer safety and wellness is paramount to achieving our goals. True community policing is a philosophy that will be interwoven into the fabric of the Portland Police Bureau. It is not a thing, nor is it a box to be checked.

Upon reflecting on the title of this exhibit, "Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years," I asked myself: Is this really a race? I think the answer is no. As does erosion, trust building takes time. This is a marathon and not a sprint.

Although I have only been here for a short period of time, I say with confidence that the Portland Police Bureau is moving in a positive direction. Steps have been taken to strengthen the bureau's organizational infrastructure, new relationships have been formed, data is being used to inform decision making and deployment strategies, mass demonstrations have taken place and concluded with little to no incidents, and work has begun to strengthen the training received by all PPB employees.

As I prepare to close, I challenge us to move beyond our fears of the unknown, and to embrace the commonalities that we all share.

During my short time, here I've been asked how I felt about being of a shorter stature.

And quite frankly given that the average height in my family is about 5'2" with the shortest being about 4'11", I've always thought I was tall.

I've also been asked about how I felt about being a police chief at the age of 41. And then I think to myself, I wonder if anyone has asked Mark Zuckerberg about his age when he founded Facebook, or if anyone questioned Commissioner Bill Bratton's age when he first became chief.

I've also read headlines since I've been here that read "Danielle Outlaw Wants a Helper." And then I thought to myself, I wonder if the deputy chiefs of my male counterparts in major cities throughout this country are referred to as helpers, rather than the true No. 2 in any CEO or COO relationship.

I, like you, laugh. I cry. I love. I grieve. I mourn. I celebrate. I make mistakes, and I get right on back up again. And as I learned from my mother, who departed this place, as we know it two years ago...

[Pauses and collects herself.]

Resolution does not always come in the way we expect it to appear. In this room, there are educators, entrepreneurs, private business owners, public sector representatives, community organizers, advocates, legislators, union representatives, media and so much more.

Each of us in this room have a role to fulfill and play a part in enhancing public safety in the city of Portland. Together, we can continue to raise the bar and set the standard of policing as we contribute to this noble profession on national and global levels.

Lastly, I am not the first woman, mother or person for that matter to relocate due to their profession. With that said, none of this can be done without a support system, and I have a very strong one.

Thank you to my family, not only for being here today, but for the very many sacrifices that have been made to make sure that I get to where I need to be.

My children can tell you, there's been many missed holidays, missed birthdays, missed events, missed baseball games, missed football games. You name it, it's on the list somewhere.

They've endured. They've endured being in the public eye. They've endured being held to a higher standard, they've endured getting snatched up when I get calls from the school because they've been showing out and embarrassing me. But they know that there's a lot of sacrifice that goes along with this. My oldest wanted me to send a shout-out to him. He couldn't be here. He's back at school. He attends Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mayor (Ted) Wheeler, thank you very much for entrusting me to be a part of your vision. I see it. I get it. Like you said, together, we will get there.

There is a huge strong community in this room today. If you hadn't had a chance to see it, take a look around, get a chance to network. But I can't thank you enough. I've only been here for three years.

Was that a slip? Honestly, it doesn't feel like three years. It's only been three months. The support and encouragement I have received from day one has been top notch and stellar and I thank you wholeheartedly.

To members of the Portland Police Bureau, if you look around the room you will see there's not many of us here. I have my executive team here, and the honor guard is here, but due to space limitations, we didn't have the opportunity to have everyone in the room, to make sure that those who weren't able to physically be here still had the opportunity to experience all the hiccups and mistakes as they occur.

But I want to thank them for accepting me, and still being willing to push and work hard through times of newness and uncertainty. It's been nonstop. No one shut down when I got here. They kept going and said, "OK, how can we help you chief? What do you need? I got you." And I anticipate that it will continue on that way. There are some class act people in this bureau and I am humbled to be able to work alongside them.

I'd be here all day if I kept saying all my thank yous. I'm going to wrap this up. Miss Diane Haymond, I personally thank you for making sure that today went off without a hitch. Thank you.

So, as we leave to return to our respective communities and areas of influence, in closing I ask you to do just one thing for me. Just one. Think about your role, in ensuring success as a community. What is it? What does it look like? Because I can't do this by myself, I won't do it by myself.

I've accepted my role, and I'm here for the long haul. As you all know, we get more accomplished working together than against one another.

You have my word that I will carry out my duties to the best of my ability each and every day, and it will be done with grace, with mercy, with kindness, compassion, with courage, with honor and integrity.