

**CITY OF PORTLAND
INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW**

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IPR File Name: Think Out Loud Hales Interview - O'Dea discussion 5-31-16
Complainant:

Interviewed: Charlie Hales

MILLER: Admin – let's turn to police chief LARRY O'DEA. He mistakenly shot a friend in Harney county last April. I understand that he told you about what had happened a few days later. What kind of a conversation did you have?

HALES: Well, I can't talk in great detail about this because actually there's a formal investigation underway, but as a responsible employee he let me know as his boss what had happened and that an investigation was going to be starting both by independent police authorities. First the county – Harney county and later the state police and by the Independent Police Review process here, so that process is underway and I'm certainly not going to pass judgement although many others unfortunately already have one way or another. I'm not going to pass judgement on Chief O'DEA'S conduct that day until I get the report of the investigation. I have this old fashioned belief that there ought to be an investigation, facts, and then decision. Not some other order.

MILLER: Where does the public's right to know about what the highest leader is, whether elected or appointed, what their actions have been? Where does that fit in your conception of what you just described?

HALES: Oh its absolute, but the investigation should be completed first. And unfortunately the investigation wasn't completed before this became public, but whenever a police officer does something on or off duty that requires investigation, we start one and it's confidential until it's completed.

MILLER: All the time though there are press releases about off duty officers who are involved in some kind of incident and those details are made public.

HALES: Yeah, in this case I didn't think that was warranted because of an independent investigation was underway and based on Chief O'DEA'S account of what happened I thought that was – it was right to have the investigation get completed first and then make a decision and first – and of course make it all public as well.

MILLER: The way it's been reported so far from what we can tell Chief O'DEA told you in that phone conversation, I shot a friend. Yet a couple days earlier when he was interviewed by a sheriff's deputy he either lied or misrepresented himself in such a way that the sheriff's deputy was led to believe that somebody else had shot the friend. In fact, the friend had shot himself.

HALES: There we're getting into the evidentiary questions of what happened that day and that's something I'm just not going to comment on until the investigation's complete. I want to have the state police's report on my desk and read every detail and then we'll talk about both what happened and any discrepancies between what happened, if any, and what I was told.

MILLER: You may not want to answer any of these questions, but I will ask them anyway and we'll see what happens. Did you know that the chief had lied to the sheriff's deputy in Harney county when he called you?

HALES: No, one I don't – I think that's a very weighted word and I'd be careful about using it until we have the evidence, so no I really can't comment on these specifics until all the evidence is in and, you know, there's always in any incident, good or bad, there's always different versions of what

51 happened and I'm going see them all and understand them all and I'll have a chance to ask the
52 questions I need to ask as a boss before I make a decision.

53 **MILLER:** Just so I understand, is it the current policy of this city that the chief of the police could be
54 involved in a shooting and say he has shot somebody in another jurisdiction and that the public
55 wouldn't find out about it for months until after a full independent investigation?

56 **HALES:** Well, it's not months. Its weeks and then secondly I guess I would ask for a couple of
57 understandings here. One, this is a very anomalous situation. I don't think anything like this has ever
58 happened before. Two, LARRY O'DEA is a wonderful police chief and has built relationships with
59 our community that are just stellar and he's also one of the most decorated heroes in the Portland
60 Police Bureau, so I think – I hope everyone will take a deep breath and say, you know, this is being
61 investigated, this is a good man who had a very bad incident and a very bad day and let's withhold
62 some judgement about truth telling, about conduct, until it's been properly investigated.

63 **MILLER:** Finally what would it take for you to decide to reinstate Chief O'DEA as the full chief?

64 **HALES:** Well, I'll see what the investigation reveals and then I'll know whether that's the right choice
65 or not.

66 **MILLER:** If you're tuning in I'm talking right now with Portland Mayor CHAR...

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69 Transcribed 10/19/2016 @ 9:00 p.m. Halla Stonehouse