

**CITY OF PORTLAND  
INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW**

**Interview Date:** 12/19/2016  
**IPR #:** 2016-B-0014  
**IPR File Name:** Hale Straight Talk part 1 702\_0030 IPR  
**Complainant:** City of Portland

**Interviewed:** Charles Hales

**REPORTER:** One of the things that you mentioned, the police, and you have been the police commissioner; and your police chief, though, has caused some controversy for you. He resigned in June and was later indicted for shooting a friend during an off-duty camping trip; and then you were accused of keeping it away from the public and keeping it quiet, and the Oregonian wrote kind of a stinging criticism editorial. I will read part of it to you. Talking about the shooting they said, "What's not accidental is O'DEA's and Mayor Charlie HALES' intentional and cowardly response. They have kept the matter quiet for nearly a month until reporters forced them to confirm that a shooting occurred. Rather than being honest with the community, the two men withheld any information about the incident and the ongoing criminal and internal investigations of the Chief. Their actions reflect their disrespect for the public and lack of understanding of what accountability means." If you had to do it over, would you do anything differently with regards to Chief O'DEA?

**HALES:** Oh sure. If I knew what would have happened, or what was going to happen, I would do it completely differently. What I thought, wrongly, would happen would be that the state and the county involved would conduct a confidential swift investigation and either make or not make a criminal charge. That took our attorney general nine months, which is outrageous. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; but instead, we had a trial by the media right away before any of the facts were known. The Oregonian published on their front page that Larry O'DEA was drinking. He disputes that. He will finally get his day in court now, nine-twelve months later; he will finally get his day in court. What I thought would happen is that there would be a confidential investigation, a charge or not a charge from the authorities involved; not the city. We shouldn't investigate ourselves in a situation like this, and we – I would deal with whether Chief O'DEA would be able to continue as chief or not. I never thought this would be swept under the rug or invisible. I knew it would become public, but I got it completely wrong about the sequence. I thought that the state and the county would do their job, in this case Malheur County, not Multnomah County. I thought that the state and the county would do their job and that Mr. O'DEA would get his day in court and then we would deal with the questions of his suitability to continue as police chief. Instead, we had a rush to judgement, a media circus and now long after everybody has forgotten about that he is finally getting his day in court. It is a miscarriage of justice. It is sad for him. We will see what comes out of the end of that process, but the question of whether he was going to be able to continue as police chief was answered by the media rather than by the guy who hired him.

**REPORTER:** One of the things you do have to crow about is

**END OF RECORDING.**

Hale Straight Talk part 1  
Transcribed 12/29/2016 @ 9:00 a.m. Wendy Minor