

The Oregonian

Why is Commissioner Amanda Fritz 'concerned' about Chief Resilience Officer proposal?

*By Brad Schmidt
October 08, 2014*

Does Portland really need a new government administrator called a Chief Resilience Officer?

Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz has a long list of concerns.

And some City Hall staffers have wanted clarity about how the new job would be any different from an existing post held by Carmen Merlo, the director of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management.

On Wednesday, the Portland City Council is being asked to approve a \$1 million grant application to the Rockefeller Foundation to fund the new post. The City Council had been scheduled to vote on the grant application last month, but action was delayed following the death of Fritz's husband.

Fritz began questioning the proposal on Sept. 12, according to documents released to The Oregonian in response to a public records request.

Fritz told the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management in an email that she was "concerned" about expanding the scope of preparedness work when the city didn't have enough money to address known needs, such as replacing emergency fuel tanks.

Fritz also questioned the need for a new layer of bureaucracy, particularly for a position that would report to Mayor Charlie Hales even though the Chief Resiliency Officer would be assigned to the emergency management bureau headed by Commissioner Steve Novick.

"It seems the application is proposing to create an entire new bureau, not just one staff person? What would be the different functions of the Office of Resilience and the Office of Emergency Management?" Fritz wrote.

In some ways, those are some of the same distinctions that other City Hall employees were seeking a week earlier, as they reviewed the city's grant application.

Even one of Novick's staffers asked the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management for help explaining the proposal:

"Help me explain how a Resiliency Plan is different from your Strategic Plan or (Continuity of Operations Planning)? Where would the Resiliency Officer sit? How would that job be different than what Carmen does?"

Merlo, who is out of the office this month, told employees in an email she was able to answer many questions in a meeting with top City Hall aides.

Public answers to those private questions should emerge during today's City Council meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m.

Portland's next police chief Larry O'Dea promises more community access, more diversity on force

*By Maxine Bernstein
October 07, 2014*

Larry O'Dea survived as an assistant chief in the Portland Police Bureau for seven years through three different police chiefs. That's no easy task.

He closely watched as two of them were ousted abruptly – Derrick Foxworth for sending sexually explicit text messages to a female employee and Rosie Sizer for standing up to former Mayor Sam Adams in defense of her budget proposal.

"My loyalty has always been to the work and to the job," said O'Dea, who at age 52 has spent 28 years in the Portland Police Bureau. "That's just my style. I work hard. I put in the time."

O'Dea will take over the 935-member force on Jan. 2 after Mike Reese retires.

He said he's looking forward to a smooth transition and called the past hand-offs disruptive, leaving too much angst and uncertainty within the bureau and the community.

"We don't have time for that," O'Dea said Tuesday. "We've got too much in the hopper to do."

Since he was a kid, O'Dea said he always wanted to become a police officer. He had no law enforcement role models in his family, but his grandfather was a fire chief in his hometown, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

With his dad in the Army, O'Dea – the oldest of four children -- moved frequently with his family, living in Alabama, Mississippi, New York, Kansas and Georgia before spending his late teens and early 20s in Fairfax County, Va.

He married his high school sweetheart, Kay Estola, and moved with her to Portland for a job opportunity she sought. At the time, O'Dea was working as a manager of Godfather's Pizza restaurant in Virginia and going to school. He ended up getting an associate's degree in criminal justice at Portland Community College and a bachelor's degree in social science from Portland State University. He worked briefly as a reserve deputy for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office before he got hired with Portland police in 1986.

He worked a downtown walking beat, served on a street crimes unit, was among the bureau's first gang enforcement team officers and spent seven years on the Special Emergency Reaction Team.

Unlike today's police supervisors who often get moved quickly from one job to the next, O'Dea said he was lucky to have spent 12 years on patrol before his promotion to sergeant, then another five years as a sergeant before serving as a lieutenant.

As Central Precinct's lieutenant, he served under then-Precinct Cmdr. Rosie Sizer, and became involved in the bureau's changing approach to crowd control, with less reliance on heavily equipped rapid response teams and a greater presence of less-threatening bicycle officers.

He did have one year of rapid promotion: 2008. He served as a lieutenant, a captain in charge of the traffic division for about nine months and then was appointed to be an assistant chief. He never served as a detective or as a police commander.

As assistant chief, he oversaw the training, fiscal and personnel divisions at first, then moved in 2010 to supervise patrol operations.

"I feel very well-prepared for the job," O'Dea said of his appointment as chief. "For me, it's been work hard and it's always developed into another opportunity."

O'Dea cited four goals in his new role: Building trusting relationships with people in all parts of the city; increasing the diversity within the bureau and its leadership; increasing police collaboration and communication, both within the bureau and with the community; and making sure the bureau is fiscally responsible.

He said the bureau has not investigated officers' use of force as robustly as other police agencies have and has fallen behind in monitoring their Taser use.

Changes in policies and training required by the city's settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice are appropriate, he said. The settlement came after a federal investigation found Portland police had a pattern of using excessive force against people with mental illness.

"It was a painful process, but at the end of the day, they really do make sense," O'Dea said of the reforms. "At the end of the day, it's not Chief Reese's or Chief O'Dea's responsibility. It's all our responsibility to make sure those changes get accomplished."

O'Dea plans to meet one-on-one with police command staff before shaping his own leadership team. He described his management style as "consistent, straightforward and very direct."

He said he's worked hard not to become detached from the street officer's job, keeping his hand in police training and has stayed certified as a firearms and AR-15 rifle instructor.

His immediate priorities will be carrying out the Justice Department reforms, drafting a police budget, overseeing the anticipated changeover to a new regional police database in April and hiring a new equity and diversity manager. An out-of-state candidate is meeting with him Friday for the job, he said. That

manager, he said, will review police training, hiring practices and policies through an "equity lens" to see how the bureau can improve to serve all people fairly, he said.

O'Dea said he's eagerly awaiting the outcome of a consultant's review of police staffing. Though the bureau has been criticized as top heavy with administrators, O'Dea said he doesn't agree with that assessment.

He anticipates some structural staffing changes in patrol, he said. He would consider broadening patrol districts into larger sectors covered by teams of officers to have more flexibility to fill in when officers are off. He also wants to make sure there are enough officers assigned to patrol operations before staffing specialty divisions, such as gang enforcement or street crimes.

"We tend to staff specialty units first," O'Dea said. "That's never felt right to me."

As an example of his decisiveness, O'Dea pointed to his command of a 2008 police response to a suicidal man on a 14th-floor balcony of the downtown Marriott off Naito Parkway. He recalled that the hostage negotiators told him they believed the man was going to jump from a high balcony and that they wouldn't be able to talk him out of that. O'Dea called in the tactical squad to assist.

"It would have been safe to say, 'Let's just keep talking,' but you've got to be able to make the decisive calls that might put you at risk," O'Dea said. The tactical officers roped down from a higher vantage point and others burst into the man's hotel room and grabbed him before he could jump after a 13-hour standoff.

O'Dea routinely works more than 40 hours a week. When he's not doing police work, he's building homes with Habitat for Humanity on his Saturdays and is involved with his church, Prince of Life Lutheran in Oregon City. He's on his 13th Habitat home in Silverton and sits on the agency's North Willamette Valley board.

He said he began volunteering for Habitat for Humanity about two weeks after he read a police union article by retired Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Noelle. Noelle's advice to others was not to wait until retirement to follow their interests.

"I've always been handy, and it's just a good way to give back," O'Dea said. "It's like old-fashioned barn-raising."

O'Dea lived in Southwest Portland for 20 years before moving to the Oregon City area, where his wife can keep a horse. His son, Larry O'Dea IV, 23, lives in Eugene and works for Albertina Kerr, an agency that provides services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

O'Dea said to expect him to be more accessible to the public.

"My focus is going to be in the community much more and having the assistant chiefs running the day-to-day operations," he said. "It's really important to me we're policing the people in this community the way they want us to do so."

Dante J. James, director of the city's Office of Equity and Human Rights, said he's happy for both Reese and O'Dea.

"I believe Larry O'Dea will be a positive influence over the bureau," James said. "It's where his heart is."

Portland Police Officer Daryl Turner, who serves as president of the rank-and-file union, the Portland Police Association, said in a statement, "We look forward to working with Chief O'Dea in the same collaborative manner as we have with Chief Reese."

Some officers privately said they see the change as signaling "more of the status quo," and were surprised that the mayor didn't do a national search or at least hold interviews for the job.

Others, like acting Capt. Robert King said, "We're all just absorbing it."

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese to retire after tenure marked by uneasy relationship with Mayor Charlie Hales

*By Maxine Bernstein
October 07, 2014*

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese, serving just over four years in the top job, made his retirement announcement at noon Tuesday before a bank of news cameras, then left the building with his wife, daughters and parents.

He'd take no questions, his spokesman said.

And that's how Reese revealed the beginning of the end to his 25-year law enforcement career, marked recently by a rocky relationship with his boss, Mayor Charlie Hales.

The mayor said Reese approached him in July to discuss when he should retire.

They decided Reese should remain until two things happened: a federal judge signed the city's settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice on a package of police reforms and the bureau's new police training center opened.

"I thank Mike Reese for his leadership and his service," Hales said. "Mike saw us through the investigation and settlement with the DOJ. This was a key milestone for our city and the community's relationship with the bureau."

The mayor, who also serves as the city's police commissioner, immediately named Reese's successor: Portland Assistant Police Chief Larry O'Dea, 52, a 28-year bureau veteran.

Hales said he chose not to do a national search, confident that O'Dea was the best person to take over. He held no formal interview process, selecting O'Dea from his experience working with him.

"This is a professional organization moving from one leader to another leader," Hales said. "This is from strength to strength, from integrity to integrity."

The change will take effect Jan. 2.

Reese described his departure as "a natural time for the transition to a new chief."

He called the chief's job a "humbling, challenging and rewarding experience" and said he's looking forward to more adventures with his family. He plans to participate in more triathlons, go sailing and continue to coach youth basketball.

He was proud, he said, that the bureau has hired more women and minorities, opened its first training center, adopted changes to its use of force and police oversight policies and brought new uniforms and newly designed police vehicles to the department.

"Down the road, I'm excited for new opportunities," he said.

Known as tremendously ambitious

Reese's tenure is long for a Portland police chief. He was appointed May 12, 2010, by former Mayor Sam Adams, the same day Adams abruptly fired Rosie Sizer after she had publicly defended the Police Bureau's budget proposal.

Plucked from his job as Central Precinct commander, Reese got his feet wet responding his first night as chief to the fatal shooting by police of Keaton Otis, a 25-year-old African American man with a history of mental illness who shot an officer during a traffic stop.

Reese, a 57-year-old Portland native who once considered a run for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and later for Portland mayor, has always been known in the bureau as tremendously ambitious and politically astute.

At the start, he enjoyed a cozy relationship with Adams. He served through Occupy Portland and during the unprecedented Justice Department investigation of Portland police that found officers used excessive force against people with mental illness.

Just 18 months into the job, Reese considered his own run for mayor after Adams announced he would not seek re-election. But Reese backed off when he was caught misleading the public in November 2011, claiming on live TV that Occupy Portland demonstrations caused an hours-long police delay in responding to a rape victim's call.

The Oregonian pointed out that the rape call was made nearly two weeks before the large-scale Occupy Portland demonstration in question and that the rape call was not classified as a top priority emergency when it came in. Later, Reese apologized for his TV remarks.

Kept low-profile

Reese and Hales never seemed to have a close bond. They put up a united front publicly, but had an uncomfortable relationship behind the scenes, particularly when Reese faced criticism for questionable behavior by some of his highest-ranking, hand-picked advisers.

Reese's two assistant chiefs got into hot water in 2013 and were forced out, while the city's elected auditor publicly questioned Reese's leadership and police accountability under his direction.

Reese lost his right-hand man, friend and closest confidante when the bureau's civilian director of services, Mike Kuykendall, resigned over an exchange of text messages with a female lieutenant about her boss.

Assistant Chief Eric Hendricks, who tried to halt a full internal investigation into a police captain, also retired while under investigation.

From then on, Reese kept a low-profile.

The mayor's office, notably Hales' chief of staff Gail Shibley, took more of an active role in choosing command staff replacements.

There were rumblings that the mayor was dismayed that Reese was away in Bangladesh during a controversy earlier this year over officers handcuffing a 9-year-old girl. It was Reese's third trip to Bangladesh, part of a federally funded community policing program. Reese said he taught a class on police leadership and police accountability there.

Hales also was reportedly upset when Reese in February unveiled a "Prosper Portland" initiative to address the city's homeless problem. The chief made the public presentation to a meeting of Multnomah County's top public safety leaders, without having shared it with the mayor.

As part of the initiative, Reese called for a different approach to handling people who sleep downtown and urged city and county leaders and businesses to support the plan, including more overtime for officers to walk beats and more treatment opportunities for street people. The chief's plea followed a decision by Hales not to ask state lawmakers for more latitude to crack down on panhandlers or homeless people who congregate on sidewalks.

Then earlier this year, the mayor seemed blindsided again. Hales said he wasn't aware of all the elements of an agreement that he and the Reese signed with controversial Capt. Mark Kruger to settle a legal claim Kruger intended to file against the city.

The city agreed to pay \$5,000 to Kruger and erase two disciplinary actions from his personnel record: an 80-hour suspension without pay for his public tribute to five Nazi-era German soldiers at a city park and a written reprimand for retaliating against a female lieutenant. Kruger also received 80 extra hours of vacation time and a laudatory letter from Reese as part of the deal.

When Reese marked his fourth anniversary as chief this past May 12, The Oregonian posed a question: Did he plan to celebrate a fifth anniversary?

He replied: "Ask the mayor that."

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese to retire: A look back at some milestones, missteps, initiatives

By The Oregonian
October 07, 2014

Mayor Charlie Hales on Tuesday cited among retiring Portland Police Chief Mike Reese's accomplishments opening a new police training center and helping settle a federal investigation that found officers sometimes used excessive force against people with mental illnesses.

Here's a look at The Oregonian's coverage of those milestones as well as some of Reese's missteps and initiatives and how he approached his job.

- [New Portland police training center will be an asset for entire region, Chief Mike Reese says](#)
- [U.S. Justice Department launches civil rights review of Portland police](#)
- ['Groundbreaking' settlement on Portland police use of excessive force draws praise, disappointment](#)

Reese was chief only a few hours when he had to deal with a fatal shooting by police of a man during a traffic stop:

- [Portland police explain what led to the fatal stop of Keaton Otis](#)

Reese was contemplating a run for mayor when he withdrew after a brouhaha over a comment he made about Occupy Portland:

- [Portland Police Chief Mike Reese misled with claim that Occupy kept officers too busy to answer a call](#)
- [Portland police Chief Mike Reese says he won't run for mayor](#)

A look at some of Reese's policing initiatives:

- [Portland Police Chief Mike Reese sounds alarm on downtown homelessness, introduces 'Prosper Portland' initiative](#)
- [Gang enforcement being stepped up by Portland Police for summer](#)
- [Portland Chief Mike Reese wants to transform training for police from 'fear-based' to 'competency and confidence'](#)
- [Portland Police Chief Mike Reese talks about his goals as he nears the one-year mark](#)
- [Portland Chief Mike Reese vows to search for ways to reduce police use of deadly force](#)

His administration was dogged by questionable behavior of some of his top advisers and subordinates:

- [Portland police Capt. Mark Kruger's past discipline to be erased -- including for tribute to Nazi-era soldiers -- under city settlement](#)
- [Mike Kuykendall, director of services for Portland Police, resigns over 'unprofessional text messages'](#)
- [City to investigate high-ranking Portland police administrator's actions](#)
- [Assistant Portland police chief under investigation will retire](#)
- [Portland Police Chief Mike Reese, high-ranking supervisors blasted by auditor for 'alarming lapses' in accountability](#)

Reese also took to the streets:

- [Portland Police Chief Mike Reese fills patrol shifts to reduce overtime costs](#)
- [Portland police union files grievance alleging chief, others wrongly took patrol shifts](#)
- [Portland Police Chief Mike Reese rescues pot brownie-eating dog](#)
- [Portland police chief tweets his arrest of suspected downtown guitar thief](#)

Portland mayor, new police chief looking forward to smooth transition

*By Maxine Bernstein
October 07, 2014*

Portland Assistant Police Chief Larry O'Dea, tapped to be the city's next chief in January, said he's looking forward to a smooth transition, considering the last two tumultuous hand-offs.

Former Mayor Sam Adams abruptly fired Chief Rosie Sizer after a budget dispute and named Mike Reese to replace her. Sizer had gotten the top cop's job after Derrick Foxworth was demoted for a series of sexually explicit text messages with a bureau employee.

Those changeovers were damaging and disruptive to the department, said O'Dea, 52, a 28-year Portland Police Bureau veteran.

O'Dea served as a reserve officer in Fairfax County, Va., and a reserve deputy sheriff in Clackamas County before joining Portland police in 1986. He rose through the ranks and was appointed as an assistant chief in November 2008.

"I feel very well-prepared for the job," he said.

O'Dea spoke Tuesday afternoon in a hastily called news conference alongside Mayor Charlie Hales, who serves as police commissioner, and Reese, who announced he'll be retiring in January.

[Read O'Dea's prepared remarks](#)

[Read Reese's prepared remarks](#)

Reese's retirement did not come as such a surprise to the rank-and-file, who in the last year were wondering when the chief would leave.

Reese, with 25 years in law enforcement and 4 1/2 years as Portland's police chief, had long talked to his colleagues about retiring in August of this year, O'Dea said. The mayor said Reese approached him in July to talk about what would be a good time to leave.

"I believe this is a natural time for the transition to a new chief," Reese said, standing before his wife and two children in the 14th floor conference room of the Justice Center.

He called the chief's job a "humbling, challenging and rewarding experience" and said he's looking forward to more adventures with his wife and two daughters. He said he plans to participate in more triathlons, go sailing and continue to coach youth basketball.

"Down the road, I'm excited for new opportunities," Reese said.

He was proud, he said, that the bureau has hired more women and minorities, opened its first police training center, adopted changes to its use of force and police oversight policies and brought new uniforms and newly designed police vehicles to the department.

Hales said he chose not to do a national search for Reese's successor, confident that O'Dea was the best person for the job. The mayor said that national searches are "occasionally doable," but can be destructive as well.

"In this case, I don't think it was the right thing to do," Hales said.

The mayor said he held no formal interview process, but selected O'Dea from his experience working with him.

The mayor said he was committed to having an "orderly transition" -- none of the past drama of "Off with his head. Who's out the door? Who's next?"

Hales said he's found O'Dea to be collaborative and inclusive, and called O'Dea's communication style "so open, so transparent."

"I already know these people pretty well," Hales said, of the police command staff at the Police Bureau. "I think Larry is clearly the best."

"This is a professional organization moving from one leader to another leader," Hales said. "This is from strength to strength, from integrity to integrity."

Hales and O'Dea said they recognized they face challenges ahead with the implementation of the recently approved city settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, a study on how to best staff the Police Bureau and budget preparations.

O'Dea cited four goals: Building trusting relationships with people in all parts of the city; increasing the diversity within the bureau and its leadership; increasing police collaboration and communication, both within the bureau and with the community; and remaining fiscally responsible.

O'Dea, born in Niagra Falls, N.Y., moved around during much of his childhood as his father was in the service. He has a bachelor's of science degree from Portland State University.

He lived in Portland for 20 years before moving out of the city, and now lives just outside Oregon City with his wife of 33 years. He has a 23-year-old son. On weekends, O'Dea said he likes to build Habitat for Humanity houses. He's working on his 13th house in Silverton.

The transition will take effect Jan. 2.

Dante J. James, director of the city's Office of Equity and Human Rights, said he's happy for both Reese and O'Dea.

"I believe Larry O'Dea will be a positive influence over the bureau," James said. "It's where his heart is."

Portland police Officer Daryl Turner, who serves as president of the rank-and-file union the Portland Police Association, said in a statement, "We look forward to working with Chief O'Dea in the same collaborative manner as we have with Chief Reese."

Some officers said they see the change as signaling "more of the status quo."

Others, like acting Capt. Robert King said, "We're all just absorbing it."

Mike Reese retires: Portland police chiefs since 1985

By The Oregonian
October 07, 2014

Portland police Chief Mike Reese announced his retirement on Tuesday. It takes effect in January 2015. Here's a list of chiefs since 1985:

Penny Harrington, 1985-86: Mayor Bud Clark (1985-92) named Harrington the nation's first woman to lead a major police department. He asked her to resign 17 months later after a special commission concluded she demonstrated defects in her leadership.

Robert Tobin, 1986 (Interim)

James Davis, 1986-87: Mayor Bud Clark appointed Davis chief, then fired him during a breakfast in Multnomah Village's Fat City Cafe. Davis had fought for more police and wanted to sue the city over it; the mayor said Davis did not have the authority.

Richard Walker, 1987-90: Mayor Bud Clark brought in Walker as a calming influence after the turbulent tenures of Harrington and Davis. Walker preferred to stay out of the limelight and left after 3 1/2 years.

Tom Potter, 1990-93: Mayor Bud Clark selected Potter, then a 24-year veteran of the force. After 2 1/2 years, Potter retired, saying he would travel and pursue his hobby of archaeology. He later became Portland mayor.

Charles Moose, 1993-99: Mayor Vera Katz (1993-2004) hires Moose, Portland's first African American police chief. After a sometimes tumultuous tenure, Moose left in 1999 to become chief in Montgomery County, Md.

Lynnae C. Berg, 1999 (Interim)

Mark Kroeker, 1999-2003: Mayor Vera Katz brought in Kroeker from Los Angeles. As Portland's first outside chief in 25 years, Kroeker had a style that critics considered as not well suited to Portland. He resigned under pressure.

Derrick Foxworth, 2003-2006: Mayor Vera Katz named him to step in following Kroeker's forced resignation. Mayor Tom Potter removed Foxworth after Foxworth's sexually explicit e-mails to a police desk clerk became public.

Rosie Sizer, 2006-May 2010: Joined Portland Police Bureau in 1985. Sizer was Portland's second female chief after Penny Harrington. She was appointed acting chief by Potter in April 2006 and sworn in as chief three months later.

Mike Reese, May 2010-Present (Retirement scheduled for January 2015): A Portland native and graduate of Roosevelt High School, Reese joined the Portland Police Bureau in 1994 and served as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain and commander. Maxine Bernstein wrote a profile of Reese in May 2010, "New Portland Chief Mike Reese says cops should be 'peacekeepers'"

\$562,000 jury award against Portland police is largest brutality verdict in city history

By Aimee Green
October 07, 2014

A jury's decision last week to award more than \$562,000 to a 40-year-old man who was repeatedly punched in the head and tased by Portland police is the largest sum awarded by a jury in a police brutality case in city history.

That's according to the city's Risk Management Division, which -- in response to a public information request by The Oregonian -- compiled a short list of the top verdicts against the city in police use-of-force incidents.

Last week, after four days of evidence and argument in Multnomah County Circuit Court, jurors voted 9-3 to award Jason Cox every dollar he'd been asking for: \$562,129.

The jury found that Portland police had committed a battery against Cox as they arrested him in June 2011 under suspicion of drunken driving. A surveillance video recorded the encounter, unbeknownst to police, showing that Cox hadn't taken a swing at officers before they pummeled him.

A story about the Sept. 29 verdict generated more than 400 comments from readers -- many expressing dismay over the way police handled the case. Below are answers to some commonly asked questions:

Will the city (i.e. taxpayers) or insurance pay the \$562,000 to Cox?

The city will be responsible for paying the entire award. As far as these cases go, the city is self-insured for the first \$1 million of liability -- and after that, an insurance company pays for amounts exceeding \$1 million.

What's more, Cox's attorneys, Greg and Jason Kafoury, aren't able to seek additional money from the city for attorneys' fees -- so the \$562,000 will be all the city pays out.

Will the city appeal the jury's verdict?

That hasn't been decided. Any decision likely will involve some input from the city council.

Mayor Charlie Hales last week expressed his disagreement with the jury's findings. Hales issued this statement: "While we don't agree with the verdict, we appreciate the jury's time and consideration of the evidence, and we respect the court's process. Since the incident occurred in June 2011, the Police Bureau has changed its use-of-force policies and training to refocus on de-escalation. Mayor Hales is continuing to work with the bureau to improve relations with the community."

What kind of implications does the jury verdict have on the officers involved: Jeffrey Elias, Robert Bruders and Sarah Kerwin?

In 2011, the police bureau's Internal Affairs division conducted a preliminary review of their encounter with Cox -- and that included watching the video jurors found so convincing. The Independent Police Review committee also reviewed the case.

Both the division and the committee found that the officers hadn't violated any policies and that their actions didn't warrant any discipline.

But in light of the jury's verdict, police spokesman Sgt. Pete Simpson said Internal Affairs will look at evidence presented during the trial. If any is found to be new and significant, Internal Affairs could re-open its investigation, Simpson said.

What's that -- "could re-open its investigation?" You mean that's not a requirement?

A long list of police reforms approved by a federal judge in August calls for full investigations by Internal Affairs and Independent Police Review in use-of-force cases in which juries side against police. But the wording of that particular reform contains a clause that's not clearly written.

Simpson, the police spokesman, said his interpretation of the clause is that it doesn't require full investigations if a review has already been done. But the bureau is still open to the idea of a full investigation because it's "in the spirit of the agreement" and the bureau wants "to get it right," Simpson said.

What does this not-so-clear clause say?

The reform -- and clause, which we've italicized -- reads as follows: "If an officer's use of force gives rise to a finding of liability in a civil trial, the PPB shall conduct a full IA investigation with the rebuttable presumption that the force used also violated PPB policy, which presumption can only be overcome by specific, credible evidence by a preponderance of evidence if no IA investigation has previously been conducted based on the same allegation of misconduct and reached an administrative finding."

So now that we now know how the Cox verdict fits into the larger picture, what Portland police use-of-force case garnered the second-highest jury award?

In December 2012, a Multnomah County jury awarded Gallagher Smith, 27, \$306,000 after finding that police falsely arrested, battered and maliciously prosecuted him. Officers used a stun gun and pepper spray on him, punched him and dog-piled on top of him before they unlawfully arrested him for criminally trespassing on a downtown sidewalk in 2010.

Smith had quarreled with a night-club doorman about having to wait in line but questioned police when they told him he couldn't use the sidewalk in the general area.

What case is the third-highest use-of-force verdict?

In March 2012, a federal jury awarded Daniel Halsted \$206,372. The jury found that Portland police Officer Benjamin J. Davidson used excessive force when in 2008 he fired a Taser five times into the back of Halsted, whom he'd wrongly suspected of spray-painting graffiti. Halsted testified that it was dark and he ran when someone carrying a flashlight began to chase him.

With attorneys fees, the city paid out a total of \$258,040.

What about the largest police use-of-force settlements?

The city has paid out much higher amounts in settlements for police use-of-force cases. Here are the top two:

In April 2013, the city agreed to pay \$2.3 million to settle a lawsuit filed by William Kyle Monroe, a man diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Monroe was permanently disabled after Officer Dane Reister mistakenly fired lethal rounds at him from a beanbag shotgun in June 2011.

In May 2010, the city agreed to pay \$1.6 million to settle a lawsuit over the 2006 death of James Chasse Jr., a 42-year-old who had schizophrenia. Chasse died after police used force to take him into custody after they thought he'd urinated along a Pearl District sidewalk.

Also of note, in February 2012, the city agreed to pay \$1.2 million to settle a lawsuit over the death of Aaron Campbell, a Northeast Portland man who was unarmed and had his hands behind his head when he was fatally shot in the back by police.

Portland could vote next week on proposed tax for both recreational, medical marijuana sales

*By Andrew Theen
October 07, 2014*

The Portland City Council next Wednesday will consider enacting a 10 percent sales tax on recreational marijuana.

Portland would join the growing roster of Oregon cities approving a sales tax on the drug in advance of a Nov. 4 statewide vote on its legalization.

Portland commissioners won't vote on a specific tax proposal until later this month, but Wednesday the council will begin debate on a 10 percent tax on the yet-to-be legalized retail marijuana and a 5 percent tax on medical pot.

City officials will also present a second alternative: a 5 percent tax on recreational marijuana with no additional tax on medical marijuana.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz said Tuesday she wouldn't support a tax on medical marijuana users.

Thomas Lannom, Portland's Revenue Bureau director, said the city didn't have an estimate of how much money it could expect to collect under either tax scenario.

But money is driving Portland and another 17 other Oregon cities in enacting marijuana sales taxes ahead of the looming Nov. 4 statewide vote on Measure 91, which would legalize cannabis and bar local taxation of it.

There's much debate on the enforceability of the cities' taxes. Attorneys for some Oregon cities argue that municipal pot taxes will be grandfathered in if enacted before the election.

Supporters of Measure 91 say that's not the case.

Marijuana is still illegal at the federal level, but the landscape of cannabis laws turned on its head in recent years with the rollout of recreational marijuana in Washington and Colorado.

In June, Mayor Charlie Hales' office created an internal city task force to study how Portland could learn from Washington and Colorado's experiences.

Portland, according to documents presented to the City Council Tuesday, is anticipating "at some point" Oregonians will legalize recreational marijuana. The Oregonian first reported Hales' marijuana task force in July.

At a two-hour work session Tuesday, city commissioners discussed the sales tax options as well as how Portland could further regulate medical marijuana while also expanding those regulations to recreational pot. The city has concerns about public safety, the effect of the proliferation of retail stores on children and how and where residents can cook edible marijuana products.

Lannom said the ballot measure could bring in anywhere from \$17 million to \$40 million in revenue for the state. Some of that would be passed along to cities like Portland. Lannom said revenue estimates were "obviously unclear," saying Portland may bring in \$117,000 - \$519,000 in revenue from the state tax on marijuana.

Without an additional tax, Lannom said, "it's probably unlikely" the city will have enough revenue to offset the costs of regulating the industry locally.

Willamette Week first reported the 10 percent sales tax idea last week.

Beyond taxing the new industry, Portland is also considering capping the number of recreational marijuana retail locations in the city, expanding zoning restrictions for medical dispensaries to include 1,000 foot buffer zones around playgrounds and libraries, and limit the hours each store can remain open.

Three subcommittees (on use by minors, diversion/theft of medical marijuana, environmental and consumer safety) offered a series of recommendations to the City Council Tuesday. Here are a few examples.

Create new inventory practices for dispensaries, retail stores

Require mandatory buzz-in security for dispensaries, retail stores

Require stores have permitted alarm systems

Limit the number of times patient can receive 24 ounces of medical marijuana daily

Prohibit manufacturing of edible products made with butane hash oil in private residences, unlicensed kitchens

Portland is expected to discuss the proposed sales tax on Oct. 15, but a final vote wouldn't occur until the following week at the earliest.

City's first permanent nature-based play area open at SE Portland park

*By Melissa Binder
October 07, 2014*

Portland's first permanent nature-based play area is now open at Westmoreland Park in Southeast Portland.

Kids can climb on logs and boulders, play in sand and water and build with branches and other natural materials, according to a news release from Portland Parks and Recreation.

"This is a unique and wonderful project to encourage children to play creatively and connect with nature," Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz said in the release. "The new Westmoreland play area is a site where people of all ages can spend much-needed time outdoors and enjoy unstructured play away from apps and TV screens."

The new play area is a pilot project for the parks bureau's Nature-Based Play Initiative, which aims to connect children with nature and promote environmental appreciation.

Westmoreland Park's play area includes:

- A concrete stream channel with water pumps where children can manipulate the water's flow
- Logs tilted at varying inclines for children to climb on
- Stone markers along the stream engraved with the story of Crystal Springs
- A grove of giant sequoia trees
- A grassy picnic area and benches
- Low fencing to help keep younger children within the boundaries of the play area

Crystal Springs Creek was recently restored to its natural flow through Westmoreland Park through a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. The park's aging playground had to be moved, according to the release, and the bureau took the opportunity to replace it with a nature-based play area.

The project cost \$1,050,000. The parks bureau's general fund and System Development Charges from new construction covered \$900,000 and the \$150,000 came from Metro's 2006 Nature in Neighborhoods bond.

Westmoreland Park is located at Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard and Bybee Boulevard.

The Portland Tribune

Hales, police working on smooth leadership transition

*By Jim Redden
October 7, 2014*

Mayor Charlie Hales is planning the smoothest transition in Portland police chiefs in many years.

On Tuesday, current Chief Mike Reese announced he will retire in January. Hales said Reese will be replaced by Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea, who is currently the Assistant Chief of Operations for the Portland Police Bureau.

During an Oct. 7 press conference, Hales said his priorities for O'Dea include implementing the recent civil rights settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, improving trust with the community, increasing diversity within the bureau, and preparing the next budget for the bureau.

"If you're looking for drama and intrigue, look at tonight's TV listings," Hales said at the press conference.

Hales, Reese and O'Dea have three months to coordinate the transition, which is longer than any change since June 1993, when then-Chief Tom Potter retired and was replaced by Deputy Chief Charles Moose.

Every other switch since 1981 has been more abrupt and clouded with controversy, however.

Shortly after first being elected mayor, Neil Goldschmidt appointed Bruce Baker as chief in January 1974. Baker, the former chief from Berkeley, Calif., was not popular among rank and file officers, however. Goldschmidt assigned the bureau to then-Commissioner Charles Jordan, who kept Baker until he announced his retirement for health reasons in 1981.

By then Goldschmidt had been replaced as mayor by Frank Ivancie, a former commissioner. When Jordan announced he would conduct a national search for Baker's replacement, Ivancie took the bureau from Jordan and appointed his own chief, Ron Still a captain with the bureau.

Still remained chief until 1985, when Ivancie was defeated and replaced by Bud Clark. After Still resigned, Clark appointed Portland Police Captain Penny Harrington as the first female chief in city history. But Clark dismissed Harrington in June 1986 after her husband, Officer Gary Harrington, was accused of compromising a drug investigation.

Clark appointed Captain Jim Davis to replace Harrington, but fired him in April 1987 during a meeting at the Fat City cafe in Multnomah Village after squabbling over the bureau's budget. Davis' replacement, retired Portland police commander Richard Walker, lasted until November 1980, when he left after being accused of slapping a female subordinate during an argument.

Clark appointed North Precinct Captain Potter to replace Walker. Potter served until June 1993, when he retired. He was replaced by Moose, who served until August 1999, when he abruptly resigned to become police chief in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Moose was replaced by former Los Angeles Police Chief Mark Kroeker, who resigned under pressure after numerous confrontations with community members in August 2003.

Then-Mayor Vera Katz appointed former Northeast Precinct Commander Derrick Foxworth to replace Moose. He lasted until June 2006, when Potter, who had been elected mayor, removed him over accusations of an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate and misuse of his official email account.

Potter replaced Foxworth with Central Precinct Commander Rosie Sizer. She was chief when the next mayor, former Commissioner Sam Adams, transferred the bureau to Commissioner Dan Saltzman. But Adams took the bureau back from Saltzman and dismissed Sizer in May 2010 after she held a press conference and criticized Adams' proposed budget for the bureau.

Adams appointed Reese to replace Sizer. Reese survived the switch to Mayor Charlie Hales, but began talking to Hales about wanting to retire during the summer of 2014. The transition to O'Dea was announced on Oct. 7.

Chief Reese to retire in January

*By Jim Redden
October 7, 2014*

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese announced on Tuesday that he will retire in January.

Mayor Charlie Hales has named Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea to replace him.

"Larry O'Dea is one of the most decorated officers in the bureau — 11 medals and 75 letters of commendation," Hales said in the statement announcing Reese's retirement. "He shares my goals and aspirations. He has been living the idea of community engagement. He has led the bureau's equity work. He has the respect of the command staff, the rank-and-file, and the community. He is the right leader at the right time."

According to the statement, the transition will be the first smooth one between chiefs in two decades. O'Dea will immediately begin leading strategic planning that has long-term impacts for the bureau, including the DOJ settlement implementation, budget, staffing study, promotions, and transition to a new records management system.

Hales also praised Reese's tenure as chief, citing not only the recent U.S. Department of Justice settlement, but also the opening last month of the most complete law enforcement training facility in the region. Under Reese's leadership, the bureau instituted new discipline guidelines, new training procedures, and has hired a more diverse set of new officers in recent recruitments.

"I thank Mike Reese for his leadership and his service," Hales said. "Mike saw us through the investigation and settlement with the DOJ. This was a key milestone for our city and the community's relationship with the bureau."

Reese joined the bureau in 1994 and served as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain and commander. A native Portlander and graduate of Roosevelt High School, he has served as chief since May 2010.

O'Dea has served with Portland Police since 1986. He has been a uniformed patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He has served as assistant chief of services and assistant chief

of operations. O'Dea has an executive certificate from the Mark Hatfield School of Government at PSU; a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Portland State University; and an associate's degree in criminal justice from Portland Community College.

"We have made important strides in diversifying the bureau, in hiring, in training, in discipline guidelines, in de-escalation," Hales said. "And with Mike taking a well-earned retirement, Larry O'Dea is exactly the right person to handle the big challenges ahead."

Hales said his priorities for the next chief will include:

- Expanding community engagement. That includes the walking beats re-introduced this year.
- Focusing on equity and diversity issues, including training for officers and continued recruitment of a more representative workforce.
- Critiquing the Police Bureau's budget, ensuring taxpayers' dollars are used wisely.
- Implementing the DOJ settlement on schedule.

Among the DOJ settlement's requirements are consistent leadership and smooth transitions between chiefs. O'Dea participated in all aspects of the DOJ discussions, and understands the nuances of the complex agreement.

O'Dea said he is honored to accept the position of police chief.

"My four primary focus areas are: Community trust and relationship building; diversifying the bureau and bureau leadership; communications and collaboration; and being fiscally smart and responsible," O'Dea said.

"I am so excited about the direction we're moving," he added. "You can see it in the command staff and in the rank-and-file. It's about relationships with the community. It's not about the number of arrests; it's about working on the things that are important to the community."

Willamette Week

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese Will Retire in January

UPDATE: Mayor Charlie Hales names Larry O'Dea as next police chief, says he'll focus on diversity.

*By Aaron Mesh
October 7, 2014*

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese is retiring in January, WW has learned, and Mayor Charlie Hales has selected Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea to as the next chief of the Portland Police Bureau.

Hales' office confirmed Reese's retirement to WW this morning. The mayor will announce O'Dea's appointment as chief at a noon press conference in the Justice Center.

"I thank Mike Reese for his leadership and his service," Hales says in a statement. "Mike saw us through the investigation and settlement with the DOJ. This was a key milestone for our city and the community's relationship with the bureau."

Sources near City Hall tell WW that Reese's retirement was voluntary, a decision he reached partly because he now qualifies for maximum retirement benefits.

Mayor Sam Adams named Reese chief in May 2010. He joined the Portland Police Bureau on July 1, 1994 after five years in the Multnomah County Sheriff's office.

Those five years in the sheriff's office count toward Reese's police bureau retirement. That means Reese reached his maximum retirement benefit this past July.

Reese has steered the bureau through tumultuous times.

His officers engaged in a lengthy, largely peaceful stand-off with the Occupy Portland protesters who took over Chapman and Lowndale squares in 2011. The positive response to the bureau's handling of the volatile situation briefly led Reese to consider running for mayor that fall.

But Reese's mayoral ambitions crumbled when he told KGW-TV that Occupy Portland delayed police response to a rape for three hours. That wasn't true. As the Police Bureau walked back Reese's claim, an Oregonian photo of an officer pepper-spraying a demonstrator in the face went viral.

Reese then announced he wouldn't run for mayor.

Also in 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice launched a civil rights investigation into whether the police bureau was using excessive force when interacting with mentally ill citizens. The probe resulted in the DOJ finding that the bureau had engaged in a "practice and pattern of excessive force" against the mentally ill.

Negotiations resulted in a settlement signed in August.

Under Reese's leadership the bureau's use of force has declined steadily and he recently celebrated the completion of a longstanding priority, a police training facility, located in North Portland.

The selection of O'Dea as Reese's successor indicates Hales is doubling down on a return to community policing, which gets officers out of their cars and in more direct contact with citizens. Such walking patrols have been widely praised on Hawthorne Boulevard, and Hales has pledged to expand the programs.

O'Dea has been a public face for those changes, telling The Oregonian in February that building relationships to prevent crime has surpassed making arrests as a bureau priority.

He repeated those priorities today.

"I am so excited about the direction we're moving," O'Dea said in a statement. "You can see it in the command staff and in the rank-and-file. It's about relationships with the community. It's not about the number of arrests; it's about working on the things that are important to the community."

UPDATE, 1:45 pm: Hales announced O'Dea's promotion at a packed press conference in the Justice Center, telling media and police he chose Reese's successor because O'Dea will increase community policing and diversify the bureau.

"I've taken the measure of the man for some time," Hales told WW after the noon press conference. "His priorities match mine. You notice what he mentioned first: diversity and community policing."

Hales tells WW that Reese first reached out to him in July about retiring. Reese and Hales agreed that the signing of the DOJ agreement and the completion of the North Portland training center offered the right moment for a change.

The mayor contrasted the two-month preparation for Reese's announcement with the hurried terminations of former chiefs Derek Foxworth and Rosie Sizer.

"The usual format has been, 'Off with his head, out the door, who's next?'" Hales said. "That's not a good way to run an airline."

Reese didn't stick around for questions after his statement, where he told his bureau "there has been no greater honor than to be your chief." He says he's planning to spend more time sailing, running triathlons and coaching youth basketball.

O'Dea, taking questions from a press scrum after the announcement, said he'll focus on implementing DOJ reforms and making sure the Police Bureau spends more time building relationships than making arrests.

"What I want of my officers is that they are engaged in the city," O'Dea said. "Are you connected with your folks?"

The incoming chief was born in Niagara Falls and lives outside Oregon City. He says needs the police force needs to improve its relationships with all minority communities in Portland.

"We need to do a better job," O'Dea said. "You see it in events like Ferguson. That was about more than that night. That was about a segment of the community not having a strong relationship with their police bureau."

The Mercury

Coming Tomorrow! Mayor's Office Sets Proposed Rules for Airbnb's Expansion to Apartments, Condos

By Denis C. Theriault
October 7, 2014

Mayor Charlie Hales' office plans to release proposed rules for a controversial expansion by Airbnb to multifamily buildings by the end of the month, the Mercury has learned. The proposed limits—flowing from talks among landlord and renter lobbyists, housing advocates, city staffers, and even Airbnb itself—might even become law by the end of the year.

But while Airbnb has cheerily said it welcomes the city's embrace, participants in the talks also say the company will have plenty to grumble over. Meanwhile, even some participants are worried the proposed rules won't do enough to address problems with discrimination and affordability—an especially acute issue at a time of rising housing costs.

"I'm hoping we get to consensus," says Jackie Dingfelder, the policy director for Hales who presided over three separate meetings on the new rules this summer. "It may not be what everybody lands on to the 'T,' but I think we're going to be able to address the majority of the concerns we've heard."

Most consequentially? Hales' office wants to maintain the city's current ban on short-term rentals in homes that aren't someone's primary residence. Further, it will suggest a cap on the number of primary residences that can legally be offered up as short-term rentals.

The current thinking would allow licenses for at least one unit in every building citywide, but for no more than 10 percent of units in a larger complex, Dingfelder says—a smaller number than a 25 percent figure sources say was floated in discussions.

It's similar to a regime first crafted in Austin, Texas, which allows 25 percent of buildings to be rented on a short-term basis in commercial zones, and just 3 percent everywhere else. (Austin also caps the number of available single-family rentals in each of its federal census tracts.) Airbnb supporters lobbied against the caps in Austin, and sources say the company pushed back during meetings here with city hall.

"They don't like the idea of a cap," said one source close to the talks, who also gave the company credit for "sitting at the table." "They believe people should be able to use their residences as they see fit."

Airbnb was sanguine.

"Portland is embracing home sharing and we have been proud to participate in discussions about this matter," the company told the Mercury in a statement.

Hales' office has stressed it's open to revising its proposals, during a 30-day public comment period before the city council votes this year, or even after they've been in place for some time. Dingfelder says the office also has proposed several other restrictions or exhortations meant to ease concerns. Among them:

- Landlords, property owners, or homeowners associations must sign onto applications seeking permission for a short-term rental license. If you've signed something saying you're not allowed to do the rentals, nothing in city code will supersede that. The city hopes to track which units in which buildings are up for rent—something Airbnb doesn't do on its own.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors must be present—and that means units will be inspected but the proposed rules would still leave inspections to the fire marshal.
- Hosts must send notices, with contact information, to neighbors above, below, adjacent to, and across the hall from their unit. They also must notify their local neighborhood associations.

Dingfelder says city hall is fully aware that dozens of apartments are already up for rent on Airbnb without a license—and without landlords in control. If the new rules are too draconian, she says, that might continue.

"The market is ahead of us, frankly," says Dingfelder. "What's the right amount of regulation. And how do we balance health and safety and affordability?"

BREAKING: Mike Reese Retiring as Police Chief; Hales Names Larry O'Dea as Successor

*By Denis C. Theriault
October 7, 2014*

Police Chief Mike Reese has announced his impending retirement from the Portland Police Bureau this morning—an unsurprising development for city hall watchers who'd been waiting for such a decision after a federal judge this summer finally approved a package of police reforms between the city and the US Department of Justice.

Reese, who's led the bureau for a little more than four years, making him one of the longer-tenured chiefs in recent history, will be succeeded for the time being by one of his longest-tenured assistant chiefs, Larry O'Dea. Reese will serve through the end of this year.

All three—Hales, Reese, and O'Dea—will appear at a press conference at noon. An announcement from the mayor's office has touted the "smooth transition" as the city's first in two decades.

"Larry O'Dea is one of the most decorated officers in the bureau—11 medals and 75 letters of commendation," Hales wrote in a letter to city employees this morning. "He shares my goals and aspirations. He has been living the idea of community engagement. He has led the bureau's equity work. He has the respect of the command staff, the rank-and-file, and the community. He is the right leader at the right time."

Much of an announcement from the mayor's office praises Reese's implementation of the DOJ reforms, which have included a new emphasis on de-escalation and changes in the bureau's use of force policies. Reese was praised for increasing diversity hiring. He's also worked in recent years to beef up the bureau's data analysis capacity. Reese also stood firm in the Aaron Campbell shooting, firing Officer Ron Frashour for firing the shots that killed Campbell and defending his stance in an arbitration hearing the city ultimately lost.

But Reese also presided over several personnel and harassment scandals involving high-ranking officers, including the long saga over Captain Mark Kruger, which culminated in a legal deal that wiped away Kruger's discipline for a shrine to Nazi-era German soldiers. Kruger also saw police discipline wiped away in a retaliation case that saw him try to shame an officer who'd complained to the bureau about harassment. Kruger was cleared, but posted the letter saying so on his door. Reese's office, according to an investigation, initially tried to bury the retaliation claims until a whistleblower leaked it to the Independent Police Review in the city auditor's office.

Reese also once flirted with running for political office, considering a mayoral run, even opening a campaign account. That would have made him an opponent of Hales, who became his boss. Reese pulled out before ever really diving in, shortly after he was accused of exaggerating a slow response to a rape claim by his officers to discredit the Occupy Portland movement.

"I thank Mike Reese for his leadership and his service," said Hales, who signed off on the Kruger deal while claiming he never saw it. "Mike saw us through the investigation and settlement with the DOJ. This was a key milestone for our city and the community's relationship with the bureau."

Going with O'Dea means Hales will depart from past practice with senior management openings by hiring from within absent a lengthy national search. His announcement lists the following priorities for O'Dea, who is now Hales' chief.

- Expanding community engagement. That includes the walking beats re-introduced this year.
- Focusing on equity and diversity issues, including training for officers and continued recruitment of a more representative workforce.
- Critiquing the Police Bureau's budget, ensuring taxpayers' dollars are used wisely.
- Implementing the DOJ settlement on schedule.

"My four primary focus areas are: Community trust and relationship building; diversifying the bureau and bureau leadership; communications and collaboration; and being fiscally smart and responsible," O'Dea said. "I am so excited about the direction we're moving," he added. "You can see it in the command staff and in the rank-and-file. It's about relationships with the community. It's not about the number of arrests; it's about working on the things that are important to the community."

Read the full statement after the jump.

Chief Mike Reese today announced his plans for retirement from the Portland Police Bureau. Mayor Charlie Hales has named his replacement: Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea.

"Larry O'Dea is one of the most decorated officers in the bureau — 11 medals and 75 letters of commendation," Hales said. "He shares my goals and aspirations. He has been living the idea of community engagement. He has led the bureau's equity work. He has the respect of the command staff, the rank-and-file, and the community. He is the right leader at the right time."

Hales, O'Dea and Reese today will host a press conference about the transition, which is planned for January 2015. It will be the first smooth transition between chiefs in two decades.

The mayor praised Reese's tenure as chief, citing not only the U.S. Department of Justice settlement, but also the opening last month of the most complete law enforcement training facility in the region. Under Reese's leadership, the bureau instituted new discipline guidelines, new training procedures, and has hired a more diverse set of new officers in recent recruitments.

"I thank Mike Reese for his leadership and his service," Hales said. "Mike saw us through the investigation and settlement with the DOJ. This was a key milestone for our city and the community's relationship with the bureau."

Reese joined the bureau in 1994 and served as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain and commander. A

native Portlander and graduate of Roosevelt High School, he has served as chief since May 2010. O'Dea will immediately begin leading strategic planning that has long-term impacts for the bureau, including the DOJ settlement implementation, budget, staffing study, promotions, and transition to a new records management system.

O'Dea has served with Portland Police since 1986. He has been a uniformed patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He has served as assistant chief of services and assistant chief of operations.

He has an executive certificate from the Mark Hatfield School of Government at PSU; a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Portland State University; and an associate's degree in criminal justice from Portland Community College.

"We have made important strides in diversifying the bureau, in hiring, in training, in discipline guidelines, in de-escalation," Hales said. "And with Mike taking a well-earned retirement, Larry O'Dea is exactly the right person to handle the big challenges ahead."

Hales said his priorities for the next chief will include:

- *Expanding community engagement. That includes the walking beats re-introduced this year.*
- *Focusing on equity and diversity issues, including training for officers and continued recruitment of a more representative workforce.*
- *Critiquing the Police Bureau's budget, ensuring taxpayers' dollars are used wisely.*
- *Implementing the DOJ settlement on schedule.*

Among the DOJ settlement's requirements are consistent leadership and smooth transitions between chiefs. O'Dea participated in all aspects of the DOJ discussions, and understands the nuances of the complex agreement.

O'Dea said he is honored to accept the position of police chief.

"My four primary focus areas are: Community trust and relationship building; diversifying the bureau and bureau leadership; communications and collaboration; and being fiscally smart and responsible," O'Dea said.

"I am so excited about the direction we're moving," he added. "You can see it in the command staff and in the rank-and-file. It's about relationships with the community. It's not about the number of arrests; it's about working on the things that are important to the community."

The Portland Business Journal

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese announces retirement

*By Andy Giegerich
October 7, 2014*

After a period of relative stability at the top of its public safety ladder, Portland is set to get another police chief.

The city announced that Chief Mike Reese will retire from the bureau. Reese will leave in January 2015.

Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea will take the role, which Reese had assumed in 2010.

Reese arrived at a time when the bureau's officers were involved in several shootings. He helped negotiate a key settlement with the Department of Justice over Portland's participation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force and oversaw the opening of a new law enforcement training complex just last month.

O'Dea "shares my goals and aspirations," Portland Mayor Charlie Hales said in a release. "He has been living the idea of community engagement. He has led the bureau's equity work. He has the respect of the command staff, the rank-and-file, and the community. He is the right leader at the right time."

The release noted that the move is "the first smooth transition between chiefs in two decades," as Mark Kroeker and Derrick Foxworth both resigned under fire. Reese, who graduated from Portland's Roosevelt High School, joined the bureau in 1994.

While on the force, he worked with then-Commissioner Randy Leonard on a variety of downtown security initiatives.

O'Dea has worked with the bureau since 1986.

Hales said he wants his new chief to boost the division's community engagement, address equity and diversity issues and tighten the bureau's budget.

The Skanner

Portland to Say Farewell to Police Chief Reese and Welcome Chief O'Dea

*By Helen Silvis
October 7, 2014*

Assistant Police Chief Larry O'Dea at Tuesday's press conference announcing the handover. Chief Mike Reese will be one of the few Portland police chiefs in recent years to leave in a scheduled transition. Most have been fired. Photo by Helen Silvis

Portland Chief Mike Reese has announced he will retire in January 2015. His replacement will be Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea, a 28-year veteran officer.

"Larry O'Dea is one of the most decorated officers in the bureau — 11 medals and 75 letters of commendation," Mayor Charlie Hales said at a press conference in the Justice Center, Tuesday.

"He shares my goals and aspirations. He has been living the idea of community engagement. He has led the bureau's equity work. He has the respect of the command staff, the rank-and-file, and the community. He is the right leader at the right time."

As assistant chief, O'Dea has been responsible for operations management across all three precincts, youth services, and the traffic and transit divisions. He was part of the team that worked out the

Department of Justice settlement agreement, and he says he agrees completely with its goals. The problems in Ferguson Missouri, O'Dea told reporters were not solely due to Mike Brown's death at the hands of Officer Darren Wilson, but went deeper. The community in Ferguson had already lost trust in their police force. Community relationships should be at the heart of police work, he said.

O'Dea said he has four priorities for the bureau:

"The first is to focus on a relationship-based policing philosophy," he said. I can't direct that our members work on this crime, or that crime, or on this issue and it work for everyone. The needs of the downtown community are different from the Cully and Killingsworth community and different from the needs at 162nd and Burnside. What I can do that works is to direct our members to build trusting relationships with all parts of the community and have them work together on their priorities to build safer and healthier neighborhoods to better meet community needs."

"I also want to increase diversity in the Bureau and in the Bureau's leadership. Every community member should be able to look at the Bureau and see someone who shares their same culture and background. Increased diversity in the Bureau will improve community trust and improve the way we think and work.

"I also want to focus on increasing communication and collaboration both internally and externally. This will be critical in managing all of our major initiatives.

"Lastly, it is very important to me to be fiscally responsible. People work very hard and pay a lot of taxes. As the biggest General Fund Bureau, it is very important to me that every dollar we spend is needed and used wisely."

On the weekends O'Dea builds homes as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer. He lived in the city of Portland for 20 years, he said, although he has now moved just south of Oregon City so his wife can have a horse. Asked what would be the worst thing Portlanders might discover about him, he said that after 28 years on the force, Portlanders know pretty much everything about him.

O'Dea joined the Portland Police Bureau in 1986. He has been a uniformed patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. [Read O'Dea's bio here.](#)

The Human Rights Commission issued a statement saying O'Dea is known for his support of equity and inclusion.

"Chief O'Dea's compassion, empathy, and understanding; qualities that will serve the Police Bureau and community well," commissioners said in a press release.

"We hope to see him continue the successful work that has been accomplished around racial equity through the HRC's Community and Police Relations Committee, such as the institutional racism trainings that have been provided to command staff and sergeants. Asst. Chief O'Dea has been instrumental as both a member of the CPRC and command staff in moving this work forward and has communicated his vision of a shift from enforcement policing to relationship-based policing."

Chief Reese said now is the right time for a handover, as the bureau finalizes its commitments to the Department of Justice settlement agreement by hiring a Compliance Officer/Community Liaison and creating a Community Advisory Board.

"I've been the Chief of Police for more than 1,600 days. In dog years, that's a lifetime!" Reese said. "It has been a humbling, challenging and rewarding experience."

Reese said he's proud of what the bureau has accomplished during his time as chief.

"During my tenure, the Police Bureau has increased its hiring of women and minority police officers by more than 40 percent," he said. "We created better policies on the use of force and systems of accountability that align with community values. The Police Bureau's use of force is down 32 percent, and over the last four years, citizen complaints have also dropped."

Mayor Hales thanked Reese for his service to the city and said his achievements include the new law enforcement training center, new discipline guidelines and training procedures and greater diversity on the force.

"I thank Mike Reese for his leadership and his service," Hales said. "Mike saw us through the investigation and settlement with the DOJ. This was a key milestone for our city and the community's relationship with the bureau."