

## Willamette Week

### Audit Dings Portland Police Bureau for Lack of Follow-up Training

*By Anthony Macuk*

*March 4, 2015*

Portland City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero says the Portland Police Bureau rightly implements new policies after officers' mistakes grab headlines, but then fails to follow through on some of the changes after the headlines fade.

Hull Caballero's conclusion comes from a report issued Tuesday.

It pinpointed an "initial flurry of activity" after police shootings or other high-profile incidents but said "the training emphasis sometimes subsides."

Hull Caballero took over the Portland auditor's office in January. Her 48-page report comes almost three years after the federal Department of Justice found the Portland Police Bureau engaged in a "pattern or practice of excessive force used against mentally ill persons."

Her report isn't intended to evaluate the bureau's progress under its agreement with the DOJ to reduce unjustified force, but instead focuses on the effectiveness of the training division's instruction efforts.

The report found several instances in which the bureau needs to improve but also zeroed in on a few high-profile cases in recent Portland history. It noted how the bureau had let training in response to the events lapse, highlighting three such cases.

The first was the Sept. 17, 2006 death of James Chasse, a Portland man with schizophrenia who died after two Portland officers and a Multnomah County sheriff's deputy beat him. Police sent an ambulance away. Officers then took Chasse to Multnomah County Detention Center, where staff refused to book him. Chasse later died en route to a hospital. A medical examiner ruled he likely would have lived if he had gotten medical attention sooner.

In 2009, the police bureau changed its policy, giving emergency medical personnel—not officers—the responsibility to decide when a person needs medical attention.

Tuesday's audit highlighted the fact that police officers still have control over whether to call emergency responders in the first place. It also questioned the thoroughness of the bureau's follow-up training.

"The Bureau reported that there has not been a Roll Call video on this subject since 2008, and only the ... 2011 Tips and Techniques Bulletin served as written training documentation," the audit reads. "Training staff were unable to find lesson plans or recall any In-Service presentations for this material."

Another notable incident took place on June 30, 2011, when now-former Officer Dane Reister fired at William Kyle Monroe using a shotgun that had been mistakenly loaded with live rounds instead of less-lethal beanbag rounds. Monroe survived but was severely wounded.

The bureau immediately mandated that the two types of ammunition be stored in separate locations and said officers must visually check what kind of ammunition they're using during loading. The training division followed up with classes to reinforce the policy in 2011 and 2012, the audit says.

However, the audit found that no additional training classes or reminders have been administered since then.

The audit also looked at the bureau's use of force — a longstanding community concern following multiple police shootings, including the 2010 death of Aaron Campbell. The audit questioned whether the bureau spent sufficient time on use-of-force instruction during spring 2014 trainings.

"The training class did not spend much time on the overall standards because, according to the instructor, participants were well aware of the policy as it was covered in the 2013 In-Service training," the report reads. "However, this assumption may not have been warranted."

The instructor quizzed his pupils, the report says.

"In the 2014 In-Service Defensive Tactics training class we observed," the audit noted, "none of the 12 participants could correctly articulate the Bureau policy on when to use force when they were asked by the instructor."

The report adds: "In a subsequent conversation with one of the instructors, we were told that only one person in any of the prior classes correctly answered."

## The Portland Mercury

### Hall Monitor

#### Some Fond Parting Shots!

*By Denis C. Theriault*  
*March 4, 2015*

I'M ALL DONE with this column after this week. Maybe you remember reading that or hearing it. But probably not—you've all got busy lives. It's just that by the time this thing sees print, I'll be three mornings into my new job covering state politics for the Oregonian.

It's a bittersweet parting.

I've been unfathomably lucky to cover cops, politics, and city hall for what's arguably Portland's most human news organ—and undoubtedly the city's most beloved. (Even some of you fluoride haters still read us in spite of yourselves. I know it because some of you tell me.)

That's because the Mercury holds a precious spot in Portland's journalistic pantheon. Between the insufferable smugness of Willamette Week (maybe dial it back?) and the stately seriousness of the O (someone's gotta do it!), Mercury writers can say things other reporters only wish they could.

Which is what I'm about to do. While I can.

- Amanda Fritz ought to run for mayor. Yeah, yeah... I know. She doesn't want the job. It's a lot of pomp and circumstance and handshakes and foreign trips to smooch big-business boots. And whoever wins gets the most thankless job in city hall: running the police bureau.

That said, no other commissioner's been as effective when it comes to advancing a heartfelt agenda over the past two-plus years, and she deserves to talk about it all.

Sick time? Fritz. A parks bond? Fritz. A humane deal for Right 2 Dream Too? Fritz. Fending off attempts to pass a regressive street fee? Fritz. Carving out surplus money for infrastructure fixes? Fritz again. Also? No other commissioner's quite as beloved. Amanda's still very much of the people. And it shows.

- We're more likely to see Nick Fish run. But he probably won't. The fact that it's even discussed is still a problem.

Fish worked hard to set himself up as Mayor Charlie Hales' floor leader back in 2013. Hales apparently wasn't interested. It's been downhill ever since. Knowledgeable gossips in and around city hall talk about how Fish was cornering union leaders last year and presenting himself as their best bet, certain Hales wouldn't run again. Coincidentally, around that time, Hales started looking a bit less adrift.

Others have since downplayed Fish's interest, suggesting it was trumped up by Hales' advisers to prod him into fighting shape. And frankly, it's hard not to see both men looking over their shoulders at House Speaker Tina Kotek or State Treasurer Ted Wheeler. (Sorry, Mike Reese!)

- Charlie Hales is mayor, not emperor. Hales' first step toward re-election has been circling the wagons, calling his developer friends for giant donations meant to scare away rivals. It's a sign he knows he's vulnerable in the aftermath of the street fee debacle.

It's his own fault. Hales might be far less vulnerable if he'd spent more time working with his colleagues, collecting favors and endorsements that would have come in handy over the past year. He might even have a street fee ordinance to show for it. Instead, Hales has run a transactional, imperial mayoralty—too willing to stop after finagling three votes instead of fighting to five.

His heart's usually in the right place, notably on police issues. Just not his bedside manner. And if he's ousted, some of his colleagues won't be that sorry.