

The Oregonian

Portland Police Mounted Patrol will be gone but not forgotten (photos)

*By Stephanie Yao Long
August 16, 2017*

The public was invited Wednesday to honor and bid farewell to the Portland Police Bureau's Mounted Patrol Unit, a victim of budget cuts by the city council.

Four horses (Asher, Diesel, Major and Olin) were present for the decommissioning ceremony at the Portland Police Memorial along Tom McCall Waterfront Park, where dozens of people took pictures with the animals.

Most recently reincarnated in 1979, the mounted patrol can trace its roots to 1875, a few years after the beginnings of the police bureau itself. Previously, officers took the trolley to their assigned areas, where foot patrols were the norm.

In 1899, horses were set aside in favor of bicycles. The animals were reintroduced in 1903, however, when it was found that the bicycles constantly suffered flat tires on the rough roads.

Over the decades, the mounted patrol has come and gone several times.

Although the police horses will disappear for now from Portland streets, expect them to continue working.

Olin will join Forward Stride, a therapeutic facility in Beaverton working with various populations, including children with autism and veterans suffering PTSD.

Major will be exploring trails in and around Prineville, where he will live with Larry Kanzler, the sergeant who started the Mounted Patrol Unit in 1979.

Asher returns to his original owner in Washington State, where Officer Cassandra Wells promises to go for the occasional ride, like old times.

And the Portland Police officers who were part of the mounted patrol will be absorbed back into the bureau in various capacities.

Their impact and the relationships forged with the animals won't soon be forgotten though.

Officer Wells, who has been riding the patrol horses for half of her 11 years with the bureau, describes the mutual respect, especially during protests.

"You take care of them, they take care of you. Protests can get scary sometimes. They have to trust you to go into a crowd."

The days when that crowd was less confrontational will be the most memorable, according to Officer Ryan Albertson.

"Everyday, a hundred people will say how much they appreciate the horses and having us out there."

These specially picked horses were well-cared for by a staff led by Jennifer Mack, who has worked for the mounted patrol as a stable attendant, trainer and manager over the last 19 years.

Stable attendant Roxanne Schoening remembers spending nights with horses suffering from illness or injury, describing it less like a job and more just a part of life.

Mack, the stable manager, explains that the compassion that animals inspire serves a purpose.

"They are the best community policing tool."

Former Police Chief Larry O'Dea lied and brought discredit to city, review finds

By Maxine Bernstein

August 16, 2017

Former Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea brought discredit to the city, delayed reporting his April 2016 off-duty shooting of a friend and then lied to Independent Police Review investigators about the incident while he was still chief, an investigation found.

But the city's human resources director decided not to sustain an allegation that O'Dea "improperly directed or suggested" his assistant chiefs keep quiet about the shooting outside of the chief's office after he told them about it.

Mayor Ted Wheeler sent O'Dea a two-page letter outlining the conclusions of the investigation into the handling of the shooting and a separate investigation into allegations that O'Dea failed to report a discrimination complaint.

The second city inquiry found O'Dea failed to report alleged discriminatory remarks made by the Police Bureau's diversity manager to an administrative assistant working in the chief's office and then lied about what he knew to investigators.

"If you were still employed by the Police Bureau, I would terminate you," Wheeler wrote in the July 6 letter.

The Portland Mercury first reported on the letter Wednesday morning.

O'Dea's lawyer Derek Ashton said Wednesday he wasn't able to immediately respond.

O'Dea retired in late June 2016 as he was under criminal investigation.

A grand jury indicted him on a negligent wounding charge, but a Harney County judge agreed to a civil compromise that allowed the charge against O'Dea to be dismissed.

O'Dea shot his friend, Robert Dempsey, while camping and hunting squirrels in the Catlow Valley area of Harney County. The hollow-point bullet hit Dempsey in the lower back and fragmented. Dempsey was released from the hospital the next day, the bullet still lodged in his body.

Four days later, O'Dea told his then-boss, Mayor Charlie Hales, about the shooting. Around the same time, O'Dea also told the police captain of internal affairs and his four assistant chiefs.

But no one alerted the city's Independent Police Review Division, which conducts all internal investigations of high-ranking Police Bureau members. The review division director first learned of the shooting when reading news reports about it a month later.

In October, the U.S. Department of Justice cited Hales' failure to seek an immediate investigation of O'Dea's off-duty shooting as an example of the city's and Police Bureau's continuing struggle to hold officers accountable for misconduct.

Oregon's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, which certifies police in the state, opened up a case to review O'Dea's police certification after it learned of the shooting and the criminal investigation.

That review remains ongoing, said Eriks Gablicks, director of the state public safety agency. The agency is awaiting the city's independent review of the shooting aftermath.

In the other investigation done by the city, O'Dea was found to have failed to report possible misconduct to the city's Bureau of Human Resources that stemmed from alleged comments made by the Police Bureau's equity manager Elle Weatheroy to a bureau administrative assistant.

O'Dea was found to have been "untruthful in his interview with (the Human Resources Bureau) and Internal Affairs about his knowledge of possible misconduct" in the case, according to the mayor's letter.

The administrative assistant had reported to O'Dea last year that Weatheroy made harassing and inappropriate remarks to her, according to several sources familiar with the review. The assistant is of Pacific Islander descent. Weatheroy is African American.

The administrative assistant said Weatheroy, for example, had questioned why she was married to a white man, the sources said. After asking O'Dea to address her complaint and no investigation resulted, she wrote a memo to the Human Resources Bureau.

Revised proposal narrows exceptions for compelling Portland officers to talk after deadly force use

By Maxine Bernstein

August 16, 2017

Portland's City Council has further revised its proposed police policy on compelling officers to give a statement soon after a shooting or death in custody.

The proposal now would compel the officers to give a statement to police internal affairs investigators "as soon as practical" but no later than within 48 hours.

The only exception would be if the officer is "incapacitated or unable" to do so.

The revised policy would no longer expressly give the police chief and police commissioner the power to delay the interview based on their own discretion, if they believed, for example, that an officer could face criminal indictment.

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Nick Fish, who worked on the wording of the ordinance, agreed with community input that a "narrower and very specific exception makes sense relative to the risk," said Sonia Schmanski, Fish's chief of staff.

"Commissioner Fish believes we're on solid legal footing. That circumstance is incredibly rare and on balance it makes sense to be responsive to community input," Schmanski said. "As is true for any bureau, the commissioner-in-charge can consider options outside normal bureau policies in a truly extraordinary circumstance."

The revised proposal also directs the city attorney to seek some type of court review of the policy.

It says the city attorney is directed to seek "a judicial determination" that compelling officers to speak to internal affairs while a separate criminal inquiry goes on won't result in the officers being afforded immunity from potential prosecution.

The City Council will hear the latest proposal at 2 p.m. on Aug. 24.

Document: Revised ordinance

Document: Revised policy directive

The revisions came after the mayor and city commissioners heard testimony from the public at two hearings in the last several weeks.

Members of the National Lawyers Guild, Portland Copwatch and Albina Ministerial Alliance's Coalition for Justice and Police Reform had urged the city not to wait for a court ruling before adopting a policy to compel officers to talk as soon as possible. They also urged the council to require the compelled statements be made by the end of an officer's shift or within 24 hours of their use of deadly force.

The mayor's initial proposal would have granted authority to the Multnomah County district attorney to dictate when police internal affairs investigators could interview officers involved in fatal shootings, while the city awaited a court ruling on the legality of such compelled interviews.

District Attorney Rod Underhill had advised police in March to hold off on internal affairs interviews until completion of criminal investigations in deadly force cases. He's concerned that compelled statements could violate an officer's due process rights and make an officer immune from prosecution. That led the Police Bureau to wait six weeks after one shooting this year before requiring the officer involved to give an interview to internal affairs investigators for a standard administrative review.

The Portland Tribune

Underhill, Wheeler shroud local hiring

By Nick Budnick

August 16, 2017

Hiding the names of police chief finalists could set precedent for future public hirings

At a time when many agencies in Oregon are moving toward greater transparency, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler have paved the way for more secrecy in the hiring of local officials — arguing that Portlanders shouldn't have the opportunity to vet finalists who don't want to be disclosed publicly.

With Underhill's backing, Wheeler didn't reveal that Danielle Outlaw of Oakland had been a finalist for the Portland police chief's job until Aug. 7 — when he announced she was the mayor's pick to replace Mike Marshman as top cop.

"We were not willing to lose a top recruit for the top law enforcement position in the city," said Wheeler spokesman Michael Cox, of the mayor's decision to prioritize finalists' preferences for confidentiality over public vetting.

The new legal position backing secrecy, however, contradicts the prevailing analysis set by the Oregon attorney general nearly 30 years ago, which calls for letting the public know the finalists for agency director jobs.

Underhill's decision to back Wheeler's wishes also sets what amounts to a precedent that will encourage greater secrecy not only at the city of Portland but at other agencies with Multnomah County as well, observers said.

Under the new stance taken by Wheeler and Underhill, said lawyer Duane Bosworth, "in the city of Portland you would never get finalist names for any job of any stature."

In late July, the Tribune reported that Wheeler had done a 180-degree turn from a January pledge to allow public vetting of finalists, as many cities do.

Activists and others had hoped to research finalists' names in part to avoid what's happened in Portland in the past, when top agency directors were named only to have issues surface from their past — sometimes crippling their leadership or even ending their tenure or consideration for the job.

Job called for transparency

The job announcement for Portland police chief called for the ability "to lead an organization committed to community policing, transparency and accountability."

Wheeler at first revealed only that Marshman, the incumbent chief, was one of four finalists for the job.

In response to a records request by the Tribune, Wheeler disclosed a second finalist. But his office refused to release the names of two other finalists, saying they'd requested confidentiality.

That's where Underhill entered the picture

In approving the 1973 Oregon Public Records Law, the Legislature gave Oregonians the ability to overturn agency record-request denials without having to hire a lawyer. For state agencies, the Oregon attorney general is tasked with being a neutral arbiter on records appeals, while county district attorneys handle appeals concerning local agencies.

When the Tribune appealed Wheeler's denial, Deputy City Attorney Heidi Brown sent Underhill an affidavit from city human resources director Anna Kanwit. It said that since a 2013 order by Underhill supporting the release of finalist names, one candidate had dropped out before being named a finalist after learning from the city that he was not considered the best candidate.

Brown contended that applicants could be fired from their current job if named publicly and that disclosing finalists risked discouraging people from applying out of personal privacy concerns.

Brown cited a 1988 attorney general records-law opinion as if it supported the city position. In reality, the opinion called for releasing finalists' names — as has been the state's practice ever since, state officials confirmed.

On Aug. 2, Underhill nevertheless sided with Wheeler and Brown, opining that "we conclude that the disclosure of the names would cause public harm." He cited "the chilling effect of the loss of confidentiality for current finalists, who could withdraw their candidacy if the city were ordered to disclose their names at this time."

Underhill decision questioned

But Bosworth, a public records specialist who frequently represents the media, noted that Underhill's decision erroneously claims that not one, but two city candidates for previous city

jobs had withdrawn from consideration rather than be named. Nor did Underhill note that the candidate who withdrew had been informed he wasn't considered the best candidate.

Underhill didn't properly consider the public's right to know about its government, and also didn't satisfy the personal privacy exemption, which calls for protecting individuals only from the release of information that an ordinary person would find "highly offensive," Bosworth said.

Lawyer Jack Orchard, another records-law expert, echoed Bosworth, saying, "These candidates knew of the high public interest in this decision. There are no secrets to be kept."

Outlaw: Job wasn't at risk

In a press conference last week, Outlaw dismissed the notion put forth by the city that disclosure would have jeopardized her job. Her chief was fine with her applying, she said.

She requested confidentiality out of personal preference, to avoid the discomfort that comes with scrutiny, she said.

"When you put yourself out there as a chief's candidate, you're really exposing yourself to a lot. You're exposing yourself to scrutiny personally, professionally. Up until a certain point in the process, the expectation is, depending on the agency, that there is some confidentiality."

She suggested she would have been comfortable with the city releasing her name at some point, but until then wanted to avoid "distraction."

"... At some point — and I was prepared for this — when the city tells you 'heads up, we're going to release your name,' that's something we have to prepare for. For me, given that I was still actively working in my current organization, I didn't want a lot of distractions. My chief was very supportive; she knew what I was doing. But I didn't need the distraction in my professional life, and I didn't want my family to be distracted by what was going on here as well."

Mounted patrol rides into history

*By Jim Redden
August 16, 2017*

The City Council's decision to discontinue the patrol surprised many. The unit had been moved out of its former home at Centennial Mills two years ago and had been staying at The Hunt Club in Lake Oswego since then.

In a noontime ceremony marked by sadness, the Mounted Patrol Unit of the Portland Police Bureau was officially decommissioned Wednesday after four decades of full-time service.

The ceremony took place at the Portland Police Memorial, just south of the Hawthorne Bridge in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. It included four of the last horses to serve in the unit, most of which are either returning to the original owners or going to new ranches. Olin, the oldest, is beginning a new career with Forward Stride, a nonprofit organization that works with special needs children.

Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman, the unit's former chaplain, was moved to tears remembering the time he spent with the horses, their officers, and the unit's support staff.

"I always brought carrots when I visited the stables. The horses always know when the Jewish guy was there," he said.

The patrol ended because the City Council stopped funding it in the budget that took effect on July 1. Its last day was June 30.

Robert Ball, a reserve officers who started the Friends of the Mounted Patrol support organization, said the unit was the best community relations tool the bureau ever had.

"You'll always be in our hearts," Ball said to the current and former members of the unit in attendance.

No members of the council were present.

The patrol debuted in the Fourth of July parade in 1875 and was active on and off until emerging in its previous, full-time form in the late 1970s. In addition to their day-to-day patrol duties, the officers and horse participated in numerous civic event every year, and also provided security at public gatherings, including protests.

The last sworn members of the unit were presented with ceremonial swords, while the non-sworn support staff received plaques honoring their work. Captain Larry Graham said unit as a great crime-fighting tool, noting it had arrested hundreds of lawbreakers over the years. He also said the support staff played an especially critical role in the unit's operation.

"They not only trained the horse but cared for them, many times late at night, without additional pay," he said.

The council's decision surprised many. Although the council had repeatedly considered ending it over the years, public support always saved it.

The unit had been moved out of its former home at Centennial Mills two years ago and had been staying at The Hunt Club in Lake Oswego since then. But the bureau had agreed to relocate the horses to property already owned by the city along U.S. Highway 30 in North Portland. The Friends' group had already raised enough money for new facilities there.

"All of us wish we could have done more to save it," said Ball.

The ceremony was also attended by members of the existing Mounted Patrol Unit of the Seattle Police Department.

After the ceremony, the four horses and their riders were joined by all former members on top of a knoll in the park for the public to have one last chance to visit with them.

Willamette Week

City Commissioner Nick Fish Discloses He's Battling Cancer

Longtime council member diagnosed with cancer in his abdomen.

By Nigel Jaquiss

August 17, 2017

Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish announced this morning he's been diagnosed with cancer.

"Over the past few months, I experienced weight loss, poor appetite, indigestion, and abdominal pain," Fish wrote in an email to the public. "A recent CT scan rang a number of alarm bells. A follow-up laparoscopy this week confirmed our worst fears: adenocarcinoma of the abdomen.

I am in good hands at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. My doctors have prescribed regular outpatient chemotherapy treatments. The medicine will weaken my immune system, but should not prevent me from continuing to serve on the City Council.

This is the biggest challenge I have ever faced. I intend to fight this disease with every fiber of my body.

I am incredibly grateful to my family for their love and support. Please keep us in your prayers.

Thank you,

Nick"

Fish first won election to Portland City Council in 2008, replacing Erik Sten, who resigned. He faces re-election next year.

The Portland Mercury

Good Morning, News; the Stewart Apartments, PBOT's Nike Swoosh, and Larry O'Dea's Lies

By Doug Brown

August 17, 2017

The 66 residents of the affordable but dingy Stewart Apartments downtown may soon be evicted after the building's manager died, **Dirk VanderHart reports**.

"A retired Portland Bureau of Transportation employee who used his last day of work to troll athletic apparel giant Under Armour has paid up for his high jinks," we reported yesterday. "Kirk Kennedy recently sent the City of Portland \$266.16 in connection with **a rogue Nike 'swoosh'** he installed in thermoplastic on July 28 outside of Under Armour's new Southwest Portland outpost, according to PBOT spokesperson John Brady."

Former Portland Police Chief **Larry O'Dea is a big fat liar**.

Voter fraud hits home: "It has come to the *Mercury's* attention that someone has been **stuffing the ballot box** in the most recent round of our **Cutest Pet Photo Contest**. That's right: Louie, the dog who looks like David Lynch, received a suspicious number of votes from the same IP address."

Nike co-founder **Phil Knight just gave \$500,000 to Republican governor candidate Knute Buehler**, his largest donation yet to an Oregon campaign.

It's **going to be a fucking mess in Oregon** over the next week: "**Traffic slowed to a crawl** and gas stations were inundated with vehicles in Central Oregon Wednesday as the first wave of eclipse watchers descended on rural highways for a music festival near Prineville."

"At a time when many agencies in Oregon are moving toward greater transparency, Multnomah County District Attorney **Rod Underhill and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler have paved the way for more secrecy in the hiring of local officials** — arguing that Portlanders shouldn't have the opportunity to vet finalists who don't want to be disclosed publicly," **the Portland Tribune reports**. "With Underhill's backing, Wheeler didn't reveal that Danielle Outlaw of Oakland had been a finalist for the Portland police chief's job until Aug. 7 — when he announced she was the mayor's pick to replace Mike Marshman as top cop."

KATU: "Confederate war veterans migrated to Oregon by the hundreds following their loss in the Civil War. They followed the Oregon Trail west, landing in Oregon City and Salem. Many of them are buried in local cemeteries in the region."

Remember when Donald Trump says he surrounds himself with **only the best people**?

Former Police Chief Larry O'Dea Lied to City Investigators Multiple Times, Officials Conclude

*By Dirk VanderHart
August 16, 2017*

While employed as the city's police chief, Larry O'Dea lied to city investigators looking into his conduct and committed other violations of city rules, two internal investigations have found.

A letter [PDF] Mayor Ted Wheeler sent to O'Dea last month lays out five separate breaches of city policy by O'Dea, springing from two separate incidents during his less than two years at the helm of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). Since they include untruthfulness, the violations would have **been enough to warrant O'Dea's firing** if he still worked for the city.

"If you were still employed by the police bureau," the mayor writes—twice—in the letter, obtained by the *Mercury* via public records request, "I would terminate your employment."

The bulk of O'Dea's violations spring from an **April 21, 2016 hunting accident** in which he mistakenly shot his friend Robert Dempsey in the back.

On that day, the former chief and several friends were shooting at ground squirrels during a campout in Harney County, when O'Dea's .22-caliber rifle apparently misfired, dealing Dempsey a non-lethal wound. O'Dea—who appeared intoxicated to a responding deputy but denied drinking—at first claimed to authorities his friend had mistakenly shot himself. He told investigators he only came to realize that he was the guilty party days later.

Scrutiny from the incident led O'Dea to **retire in June 2016**, though a pugnacious former Mayor Charlie Hales told reporters the chief would be "**partially exonerated**."

He was sort of right. After an **investigation by Oregon State Police**, a grand jury indicted O'Dea on a single misdemeanor charge of negligent wounding, **but the matter was ultimately dropped**, per Dempsey's request. That makes the city's internal investigation, conducted by the Independent Police Review (IPR), the only inquiry into O'Dea's conduct during and after the shooting that hasn't been publicly resolved.

The letter from Wheeler to O'Dea changes that. According to the document, the IPR investigation resulted in four allegations that O'Dea had breached city protocol, which were forwarded on to Human Resources Director Anna Kanwit. Kanwit found three of those allegations had merit.

The first was that O'Dea brought "reproach and discredit upon the city of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau by causing a negligent discharge of a firearm." That's a violation of a police **directive on professional conduct**.

Kanwit also found that O'Dea "failed to respond fully and truthfully" during a May 24 interview about the incident with IPR. The letter doesn't go into the substance of O'Dea's misrepresentations.

Responding to the *Mercury's* inquiries, Kanwit said she couldn't offer more details. "We don't release the disciplinary letters so... I can't really provide more information," she said.

City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero, who oversees IPR, said "I don't have any details to share." We've also reached out to Wheeler's office for more details.

Update, 1 pm: We asked Wheeler for more information about his decision at City Hall today. He said he wanted to re-review the findings before speaking about them at length.

"I don't want to do this one off the cuff," he said, but offered: "It was real clear cut to me."

Original post:

A third violation is less clear. The letter says O'Dea "failed to provide adequate notice" about the incident to some entity or another, but attorneys' redactions make details hard to glean, including what police directive O'Dea violated.

It's possible the allegation has to do with O'Dea not giving more complete notice to PPB internal affairs investigators or IPR that a shooting had occurred, and that he was a potential criminal suspect. While O'Dea's colleagues at the police bureau learned of the shooting four days after it occurred, an internal investigation into the matter **didn't launch until nearly a month later.**

O'Dea also faced a fourth allegation in the shooting incident: That he "improperly" instructed his assistant chiefs not to speak about the matter with anyone. Kanwit didn't agree the allegation had been proven, the letter shows.

The former chief's apparent dishonesty in the shooting incident wasn't a one-off. Also included in Wheeler's letter are findings from a separate incident, the details of which are also partly redacted.

According to the document, internal affairs investigators opened an investigation in 2016 that resulted in accusations that O'Dea "did not report allegations of possible misconduct related to statements made by [REDACTED] about a protected class." Another allegation said that O'Dea "was untruthful in his interview with [the Bureau of Human Resources] and Internal Affairs about his knowledge of possible misconduct" in the case.

PPB Assistant Chief Matt Wagenknecht recommended O'Dea be found in violation of police directives on both allegations, which Kanwit and Wheeler agreed with.

This second investigation has roots in the complaints of an administrative assistant at the PPB, who the *Oregonian* **reported** complained about inappropriate comments made by the bureau's diversity and equity manager, Elle Weatheroy.

According to the newspaper's report, the administrative employee brought the complaint to O'Dea, and became concerned when he didn't begin an internal investigation. So she wrote a memo that ignited a human resources investigation.

The ensuing inquiry led to turmoil in March, when former Chief Mike Marshman (who succeeded O'Dea), **placed the bureau's only Black assistant chief** on leave in connection with the investigation. Commissioner Dan Saltzman recently suggested that decision was out of step with discipline norms, and might have been racially motivated.

We now know the investigation would have cost O'Dea his badge.

So what's this mean for the former chief? The findings outlined in Wheeler's letter will go into O'Dea's personnel file. The *Mercury* asked Kanwit if they'd be shown to a prospective employer if O'Dea wants to get back into law enforcement.

"If we had a release we would provide that information to a prospective employer," she said. "We might even without a release."

Kanwit added that she believed the city had forwarded the findings to the state's **Department of Public Safety Standards and Training**, which certifies officers throughout the state implements training standards for police. She wasn't sure what the agency might do with the information.

The former chief had 30 days from the time he received the letter to file a response. On August 3, the *Mercury* requested any responses O'Dea had sent, and received none from the city. Kanwit says she doesn't believe O'Dea submitted one.

O'Dea collects roughly \$160,000 in annual pension payments, **according to** the *Oregonian*.

The PBOT Employee Who Installed a "Swoosh" in Front of Under Armour HQ Has Paid for Cleanup

By Dirk VanderHart
August 16, 2017

A retired Portland Bureau of Transportation employee who used his last day of work to troll athletic apparel giant Under Armour has paid up for his high jinks.

Kirk Kennedy recently sent the City of Portland \$266.16 in connection with a rogue Nike "swoosh" he installed in thermoplastic on July 28 outside of Under Armour's new Southwest Portland outpost, according to PBOT spokesperson John Brady.

"Mr. Kennedy paid the bill in full," Brady said this morning.

As we **reported earlier this month**, Kennedy, a former traffic crew leader at PBOT, spent his last-ever hour in the city's employ forcing his crew mates to watch him meld the plastic swoosh to the Barbur asphalt using a blow torch.

The swoosh was installed at the end of the work day on a Friday, and Kennedy's (former) crew mates reported the delightful vandalism to their superiors the following Monday morning. PBOT was not pleased.

"From our standpoint, the motive is almost beside the point," Brady told the *Mercury* earlier this month. "This is something that went beyond the pale and never should have happened in the first place."

Beyond apologizing to Under Armour, which insists it found the prank funny, the city sent Kennedy a bill for the cost of cleaning up the swoosh, and threatened "to pursue all legal recourse" if he did not.

Brady says Kennedy paid by check. He didn't include a letter of explanation.

Portland's Incoming Police Chief is a Rare Outside Hire

That's Going to Mean a Steep Learning Curve for Danielle Outlaw, Observers Say

By Doug Brown

August 16, 2017

It's been just over a week since **Oakland Deputy Police Chief Danielle Outlaw** was named **the city's next top cop**—a rare instance of an outsider being tapped to lead the Portland Police Bureau (PPB).

A **quick press conference on Thursday**, August 10, was the public's first, and so far only, glimpse of Outlaw, whose tenure will officially begin this fall.

The new chief's identity caught many off-guard. Her name was kept secret before it was announced last Monday, despite Mayor Ted Wheeler's earlier promise that finalists would be vetted publicly. But in her largely unremarkable, 17-minute introductory presser last Thursday, one hesitant line from Outlaw gave many observers a notion of what to expect.

"I'm not here to—I don't want to say 'reform'—I'm here to strengthen the good work that's already been done" by the PPB, Outlaw said.

In her next breath, she mentioned the necessity of holding officers "accountable to the community" and shoring up "vulnerabilities" in the bureau, but the "reform" line got all the attention—raising concerns among activists, who viewed it as an endorsement of police behavior under former Chief Mike Marshman.

"The press conference was pretty bad," said **Portland's Resistance** co-founder **Gregory McKelvey**, who's otherwise satisfied with Outlaw's hiring (particularly, he says, because she's not Marshman, who will officially retire after his vacation time is up). "She should be here to reform because our police desperately need reform. It sounded like something the police union would be happy with her saying."

The city's rank-and-file police union, which had been advocating for Marshman to keep his job, was, as McKelvey predicted, pleased with Outlaw's first public statements.

"She did a good job in the press conference," said **Portland Police Association (PPA) President Daryl Turner**. Outlaw met with Turner and the president of the Portland Police Commanding Officer's Association (PPCOA) union earlier in the day.

Outlaw also met with two Portland City Council members individually—Commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz—and with Dan Saltzman's chief of staff, Brendan Finn (she hasn't met Commissioner Chloe Eudaly or her staff yet).

"We met with her for a good 15, 30 minutes, and I talked to her about Portland City Hall because I've been here for 18 years," says Finn. Saltzman's top aide says the new police chief expressed her desire to actually live in Portland—specifically the Pearl District—unlike a good portion of the officers who'll be working for her.

Nearly everyone the *Mercury* has spoken with about Outlaw over the last 10 days has described the 41-year-old as a competent and capable law enforcement professional. How she adapts to Portland—with its fraught police reform efforts, unique city government, complicated history, and vocal activist community—will be a central question early on. Outlaw spent almost her entire adult life with the Oakland Police Department.

Finn says he stressed to Outlaw the pitfalls of Portland's commission form of government, which he believes "is really weird for someone to just walk into."

"Here, the politicians run the city bureaus," says Finn. "I said, 'It can get sticky.'"

Turner, the PPA leader, said, "I think it'll be more of a learning curve for her, to be able to learn about the organizational structure and political landscape more. There's always going to be critiques from the community about the incoming police chief. Anxiety is expected from both sides—the community and internally."

John Burris, a prominent Oakland civil rights attorney who's familiar with Outlaw in her role as deputy chief there, **told the *Mercury* last week** that her transition to PPB chief "won't be the easiest thing, because when you're from the outside and/or there was a strong association [by current cops] with the previous chief, you have to overcome that and gain the trust of officers—that you're for them."

Activist **Teressa Raiford of Don't Shoot Portland** says she would have preferred the new chief come from the Pacific Northwest—someone with deeply rooted knowledge of racism in the region. "I don't think we'll get a lot of engagement from someone who has to learn the community first," Raiford says.

McKelvey, who was happy that a woman of color was hired as police chief ("even if they are a cop"), says he's going to invite Outlaw to a Portland's Resistance forum where he hopes she'll field questions from activists.

It's still unknown how much of Outlaw's command staff will be holdovers from the Marshman era, and how many will be promoted or entirely new faces. But the new chief's got a good reason to get her house in order quickly.

In November, not long after her October 2 start date, Outlaw's PPB will likely face a status conference in federal court, in which the feds will weigh in on the bureau's compliance with the United States Department of Justice-spurred reforms.

Outlaw's got a busy fall ahead of her.