

The Oregonian

New Police Chief Danielle Outlaw: Portland offers 'ability to be bold'

By Maxine Bernstein

October 3, 2017

It's only Day 2.

Portland's new Police Chief Danielle Outlaw made that clear several times throughout a roughly 20-minute interview Tuesday at the Police Bureau headquarters downtown, where she's meeting the people who work for her and some of the community members she serves.

Outlaw, 42, said she recognizes the tremendous learning curve ahead of her, leading a 950-member force that faces policy and training reforms required by the federal government and trying to rebuild community trust in officers who have reported to three different chiefs in the last two years. Not to mention that she's the first African American woman to hold the top cop's post in Portland and only the third chief hired from outside the city.

But her approach to the high visibility and expectations?

"If I go into this looking at it as a challenge or as a negative, then that's how it's going to play out. I don't necessarily see it that way," she said. "I hope it resonates as a time of change and opportunity, as opposed to 'here comes the big bad boogeyman Outlaw coming to change what we do.'"

Outlaw addressed officers at roll calls Monday and reiterated that she's here to strengthen the organization and identify gaps where police can do better. She said she plans to listen to and collaborate with those who are on the street doing the daily work.

She rose through the Oakland Police Department to deputy chief after 18 years before she took the job, but didn't come north for the title of chief, but for the chance to lead and have an impact, she said.

"It's because I'm passionate about what I do," she said.

That passion developed after early skepticism about the profession.

"Quite frankly I didn't grow up with a positive image of police in my mind," Outlaw said.

Then at age 14 when she was attending Holy Names High School in Oakland she went on a two-week "career exploration" at the Oakland Police Department.

"I got to see officers outside of their uniforms. I got to go on ridealongs," she recalled. "Some of them got on me about school or asked me about what my interests are, similar in the way a big brother or big sister would or even the way a parental figure would."

They chose some of the same lunch spots where she liked to eat. "Oh, they're not too bad," she said she started to think. "I was able to focus on what we had in common, and I saw beyond that uniform."

A follow-up visit to the school by an Oakland police explorer drew Outlaw's interest. She was intrigued that as a police explorer she'd get to wear a "cool uniform," help out with fingerprinting and crowd control and work at the popular Festival at the Lake event that she and her friends

liked to attend. During her last year studying sociology at the University of San Francisco, she worked as a paid cadet for Oakland police.

Shortly after she was hired full time by Oakland police in 1999, her dad, who worked for California Department of Transportation, made it abundantly clear that he had reservations about her career choice.

The second day of her police training academy was family day. Her father stood up.

"I don't think this is a good job for my daughter. I think it's a waste of a degree and she could be doing other things," he told all the trainers, recruits and their relatives assembled there, as Outlaw recalls.

As her dad continued, she said she remembered sinking in her chair. She said she could understand his concerns at the time, but they didn't deter her.

"It motivates me even more if somebody tells me I can't do it," Outlaw said. "Oh, oh OK, watch this."

After she completed the training academy and got the green light to patrol alone, she was assigned to the neighborhood where her father lived. He paged her about cars parked across the street that he didn't think belonged there and asked her to do something about it.

"Now all of a sudden you're calling me like I'm your personal police officer," she said she told him. By then, he was proud that she was a police officer and telling all his neighbors.

Outlaw said she expects all Portland officers to be committed to community policing, what she described as a philosophy, a "way of being." Officers should seek a "fellowship" with the people they serve, and strive to be seen as "legitimate in the eyes of the community."

Officers also should be able to accept criticism without being defensive.

She wants the bureau to show the public that the department can be introspective -- that "we're willing to hold ourselves accountable. We're OK taking criticism and negative feedback. ... Over time, as people see our willingness to be open, I think it will get better."

Outlaw's last day on paper with Oakland police was Sept. 29, but she took vacation time after she was named Portland's chief in early August. She's done some homework on the city and settled into her new home in the last two weeks.

She asked for material on the Portland police staffing levels, crime statistics and the settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice before she started, hoping to get up to speed on the big issues affecting the bureau.

"Mind you this is Day 2," she said, wearing a crisp white chief's shirt adorned with four gold stars and blue police dress pants, when asked how she'll work to address bureau problems following federal mandates. Outside consultants have said Portland police have failed to use their employee information tracking system to identify officers at risk and still haven't gathered accurate data on all their mental health-related calls.

Federal investigators found in 2012 that city officers had a pattern of using excessive force against people with mental illness and also overused stun guns on suspects. The city entered into an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department in 2014 that calls for changes to Portland use of force policies, training on the use of stun guns and enhanced community oversight.

Outlaw said she hasn't "gone down into the weeds" of the settlement but is aware of the big issues. She said she first needs to learn where the bureau is and what must be done. She said she

also wants to go through the bureau's training on crowd control herself before she passes judgment on how police have handled city protests.

"I haven't had a chance to do a critical review of past incidents. That's certainly on my radar," she said. "Bottom line is we're here to protect people's First Amendment right to free speech."

She said she intends to support the city's stance as a sanctuary city and will make sure police policies and training are in line with that. "We do not enforce civil immigration laws," she said.

Outlaw kept details about her personal life close to the vest and wouldn't say what neighborhood she calls home now. Yet for living in the city of Portland, she'll receive a 5 percent boost added to her base salary of \$215,000, bringing her annual pay to \$225,750.

She has two sons, a sophomore in college and a junior in high school. She said she honored her younger son's desire to complete high school in California. He's flying back and forth on weekends.

"I'm not usually a secretive person but part of me, I am going to be," she said. "I want to make sure in my tenure here that the focus is on my performance here and the performance of the organization, not Danielle Outlaw the person."

She considers Portland a city where people have the "ability to be bold."

"You can come and just be yourself," she said. "You're not judged by social constraints at all. That's the culture. That's what I picked up on."

Recently, while shopping at a local Safeway, Outlaw couldn't help but notice the man next to her.

"His face is blue. His goatee is blue, and everything is blue and nobody even thought twice to look at him," she said, chuckling. "Hey, that's a blue guy. Ok, if they're not going to make a big deal about him, then I'm not going to make a big deal about it."

She said she loves that about Portland.

Officers quickly noticed that Outlaw has chosen to wear four gold stars on her uniform, a departure from the two stars past chiefs historically wore. As many other large metropolitan city chiefs do, Outlaw chose to wear four stars "like her counterparts in other major cities," her police spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley said.

But the big question: Golden State Warriors or Trail Blazers fan now?

Outlaw met fellow Oakland native and Blazers guard Damian Lillard earlier this summer in their hometown.

She couldn't deny her continued love of the national champion Warriors.

"Yep," Outlaw said, smiling. "And I told him that, too."

The Portland Tribune

Portland Public Schools won't displace KairosPDX

*By Beth Slovic
October 3, 2017*

The charter school catering to African-American students won't move from Humboldt Elementary School

The next version of Portland Public Schools' boundary proposal for Northeast Portland will keep KairosPDX charter school, a program that caters to African-American students, in the historic heart of Portland's black community.

That reversal came Tuesday during a school board discussion of PPS's current proposal to redraw school attendance zones, which school officials released in September. That proposal, which also includes the relocation of several school communities to new buildings, called for displacing Kairos at the former Humboldt Elementary School with ACCESS Academy, an alternative school for highly gifted students who aren't served well by their neighborhood schools.

A majority of students at Kairos are black. A majority of students at ACCESS are white.

And to several community leaders in Portland, PPS's proposal looked like the gentrification of a school. Add to that the fact that advocates for ACCESS didn't want to move to Humboldt, saying it was too small to serve its growing population adequately.

Mayor Ted Wheeler and House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, last month urged PPS board members to rethink the plan, which was put together by PPS staff after more than three years of public discussion.

This week, Rep. Diego Hernandez, D-Portland, and nine other school board members of color from districts around PPS joined Wheeler and Kotek in criticizing the proposed move. Hernandez also sits on the Reynolds School Board.

"PPS has a tragic and unfortunate history of displacing black students and their families, and of excluding black communities from the decision-making process," the school-board members from surrounding districts wrote Monday. "Let us not continue the legacy of displacement."

Tuesday, school-board officials with PPS signaled they would keep Kairos at Humboldt but they also voiced mild displeasure with the outside pressure they endured, saying the problems of uneven enrollment they face are complicated and they're doing their best to undo years of poor decisions.

Julie Esparza Brown, the only person of color on the PPS board, pushed back on community leaders' criticism, saying during Tuesday's discussion that she and her colleagues always intended to base their final decision on what is most equitable for PPS students.

Julia Brim-Edwards, the board chair, said after the discussion there was no sense continuing to talk as if displacing Kairos were an option.

"My sense is there's not support [on the board] to move it from Humboldt," she said.

Staff is expected to return to the board with a modified proposal with a new home for ACCESS in mid-October. A vote on a final boundary proposal is expected by the end of the month.

Neighborhood growth recommendations released

*By Jim Redden
October 4, 2017*

Residential Infill Project report includes limits on new home sizes, construction of some multi-family housing in single-family neighborhoods

City planners are recommending that maximum home sizes be reduced and more types of them be built in single-family neighborhoods in the future.

The recommendations are included in Residential Infill Project staff report released by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on Wednesday.

Public forums on the recommendation begin on Tuesday, Oct. 10. Comments will continue to be collected until Nov. 20. The Planning and Sustainability Commission will consider them next spring. The City Council will consider them next summer.

The recommendations are intended to help Portland better accommodate the additional people expected to move here over the next 20 years.

"By 2035, Portland will grow by approximately 123,000 households — or 260,000 people. About 20 percent of this growth is expected to be in single-dwelling residential zones. The composition and housing needs of Portland's population are also changing. The city is becoming more diverse, the overall population is aging and the number of people per household is getting smaller. In the future, the average Portland household will be smaller with fewer children per household," reads the report summary.

Among other things, the recommendations reduce the maximum allowable size of new homes from 6,750 to 2,500 square feet. The reduction is in response to complaints about so-called McMansions replacing smaller homes in established neighborhoods.

The recommendations also allow duplexes, triplexes and multiple accessory dwelling units to be built in large portions of existing single-family neighborhoods. A new Additional Housing Opportunity overlay zone would allow them to be built within one-quarter mile of designated centers, MAX stations, streets with 15-minute bus service, inner city neighborhoods, and areas with such amenities as jobs, schools and parks.

Parts of East Portland are exempt because infrastructure is lacking to support the additional housing.

The first public forum will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10, on the second floor of the 1900 Building, 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave., Portland. The presentation will start at 6:30 p.m.

Six additional open houses are scheduled in different parts of town through Nov. 27.

Comments will also be accepted by mail and through an online survey. For additional information, go to www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/657754?

Interview with the Outlaw

*By Nick Budnick
October 4, 2017*

New Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw talks about lessons learned and her philosophy for Portland

Danielle Outlaw just turned 41, and she's taking over command of 1,000 officers in a city not known for its friendly relations with its police.

How does Portland's newest chief feel about that?

On Tuesday, her second day after getting sworn in, Outlaw spent her day giving media interviews. In a sit-down with the Portland Tribune, she expressed eagerness to get to know her officers and the community.

She projected confidence, and showed a ready sense of humor, too. For instance, how tall is she? She's 5' 4." But Outlaw added, "I'm 6'7" in my heart."

What month was she born? "Are you going to send me flowers? I like flowers," she said, after disclosing it was September. "You're laughing; I'm serious."

If the past is any guide, Outlaw will need humor in a city that has had three chiefs in just the last two years.

She also has relevant experience.

She helped investigate officers' screw-ups during the Occupy Oakland protests in 2012, and was untainted by several major police scandals that hit her old department, including an underage prostitution-and-rape scandal that's led to criminal charges against several cops.

Like Portland, Oakland has been under federal oversight, and she also was part of a U.S. Department of Justice team that investigated controversies at the Chicago Police Department.

In Portland, however, Outlaw will be the only African American to hold a rank above sergeant in the entire bureau she oversees.

Her command staff she directs will be for the most part white, older, and — in many cases — taller than herself.

The interview excerpts that follow have been edited for brevity and clarity.

On taking over a command staff that's very different than you:

I think it's all in how you look at it. If you come in looking at it like it's something that's working against me, I think that just sets the tone. I don't see it that way, I see it as an opportunity for people to be around someone not like them. I think there's a lot of value in diversity and I'm not just talking about me being a black female. I'm talking about diversity in our thinking, in other ways of doing things ... That's why diversity is so important, because it brings different creative ways to solve a problem, right?

On lessons learned from the Oakland police department's botched response to the protests in 2012:

It ranged from how we tactically manage civil unrest and manage demonstrations, to use-of-force policy and less lethal munitions, how we deploy strategically, how we use our resources and

when. We also looked at officer accountability, supervisor accountability, incident command accountability

So, a lot of good things came out of that. And it's not just with Occupy, I would say with any critical incident that we do, the first step is just being introspective and acknowledging [that] there's always ways to improve. And that's what I hope to bring here.

On tackling racial disparities in criminal justice here in Portland:

The overall goal is to improve relationships and for the community to see us as legitimate in their eyes, so that the trust is there, and that when they give us their authority they know that they are in good hands and they can trust us with the authority that they give us. Collecting stop data is only one part of that, but it's something that shows that we are willing to be introspective and that we value that as an organization, that we are willing to be critical of ourselves if necessary. And that we are open to feedback that might not necessarily be favorable.

This is a marathon and not a sprint for me. So, while it's very easy to say 'I'm going to do this and this and this and this,' we're going to be methodical about it because I want to make sure that when I put time and effort into something that it's going to be meaningful.

On making change:

I can have the best strategy in the world ... but if I don't have the people to do it it's all a moot point. So, my very first priority — it's still day 2 — is to make sure that people ...see me and I see them. So, I'm headed out and meeting people within the organization to find out why we do what we do, why we do it. Same thing with the community.

On whether she'll follow the example of former Chief Mike Reese, who used to regularly work patrol shifts:

I do plan to work at the strategic level. I will not be way down in the weeds. But every now and again I'm going to hop in the [patrol] car because I am still a cop, and still want to get out and remind myself this is why I'm here.

On the accusations of a double standard for disciplining police commanders that arose over the bureau's handling of the off-duty shooting that took down former Chief Larry O'Dea:

I think it's very important to make sure that accountability is balanced across the board.

I am very sensitive to that and will do everything that I can to make sure that there's fairness there.

On "community policing" — is it just a buzzword, and how do you achieve it:

It's something that we don't talk about enough... It's a philosophy it's a way of being, it's a way of existing. And it's my role to show that it's valued here and it's rewarded.

Are we rewarding those who coach during their off time? Or [do] a food drive or did some sort of service that shows that they have the ability to be empathetic towards others? Are we evaluating that in performance appraisals?

On the number of police in Portland:

Again, It's day 2. But I am very sensitive to the fact — and this isn't just a Portland thing, this is an issue for all the major cities across the country — we don't have enough bodies.

That's one of the many things that, yes, is on my radar as a priority to address because it's not necessarily something that can be fixed in the short term.

On deleting her Twitter account the day she was named chief, and what she'll do differently now that she's a public figure:

I did that because those were private, they weren't for work use. I'm the one that applied for this job, not my family, not my friends.

It doesn't mean you won't see me anymore, you'll probably just see me on the professional end so I can maintain and preserve the privacy of my loved ones.

On what she plans to do after Portland, and whether those ambitions will change how she leads the bureau:

I don't know what I'm going to do when I leave here. My priority is to focus on what I have in front of me now, and to make sure that anything that I touch is better than when I first found it.

My work ethic, the way I function, I hit the ground running, I go a mile a minute and I have to remind people to remind me to sit down sometimes.

So, I can't even tell you where I'll be 10 years from now, five years from now. But while I'm here, you got me, you've got all of me.

Willamette Week

A Developer Dangles the Possibility of 500 Affordable Apartments—in Exchange for the Right to Build Downtown Skyscrapers

*By Rachel Monahan
October 4, 2017*

Few civic changes anger Portlanders like the threat of tall buildings blocking familiar views.

Now a Portland-based real estate investment and development company has arrived at City Hall with a proposal to crowd the skyline with skyscrapers as tall as 40 stories on the downtown waterfront.

In exchange, it's offering to build up to 500 affordable apartments with no public cash. All it wants is the rights to the sky.

It's by far the largest proposal floated under the city's new inclusionary housing policy, which requires developers to set aside affordable units in projects of 20 apartments or more.

And it threatens to agitate an already heated debate over how high Portland's skyline can go.

Four members of the City Council, including the mayor, have expressed preliminary interest.

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman says he's "heartened" by a project pledging to use inclusionary housing. Many private developers, he says, "are saying that inclusionary housing is killing our city. Here we have a big development stepping forward and providing affordable units in a big way. That's counter to a lot of naysaying we're hearing."

The investment company bringing the proposal, NBP Capital, says it wants to build as many as eight apartment towers of at least 100 feet on the streets surrounding RiverPlace, a sleepy low-rise 1990s development along Southwest Naito Parkway that's now home to a marina, a boardwalk and flocks of Canada geese.

The height limit at RiverPlace in the latest city proposal is 200 feet. But NBP Capital wants to max out at 325 feet—plus one 400-foot tower.

The project could create 2,500 units, up to 500 of them priced to be affordable for people making 80 percent of the median income or less. (By way of comparison: Prosper Portland, the city's urban renewal agency, expects to spend millions of public dollars to build roughly the same number of apartments on the old U.S. Post Office site in Old Town.)

For seven years, the city's Planning and Sustainability Commission has been weighing a blueprint—called the Central City 2035 Plan—to allow some developers to build higher.

Raising height limits allows more flexibility in how to build—and these developers apparently favor having open space with stunning views for their own buildings.

Planning commission member Chris Smith calls the debate over height limits the "Vancouver-versus-Paris debate"—Vancouver, B.C., epitomizes the tall towers approach, and Paris the lower heights.

"There is a strong set of voices in the debate advocating for limiting heights even below what exists," says Smith. "The anti-height voices did not get a lot of traction, even though I think we tried to listen very carefully.

The loudest anti-height voice in City Hall is Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who has called for a case-by-case review of many of the height increases proposed under the Central City Plan.

Fritz did not respond to WW's requests for comment on whether the affordable apartments offered by the RiverPlace proposal would sway her to accept higher height limits.

NBP Capital first presented city planners with a proposal in August 2016. But the investment group dramatically expanded its ambitions after the City Council passed its inclusionary housing policy, which includes density incentives for affordable units.

The project's backers have deep pockets.

NBP Capital says its portfolio is worth a half-billion dollars. The company was founded by the brother-sister team of Lauren Noecker Robert and Spencer Noecker. It is majority-owned by investors for the trust of a German-American dual citizen and philanthropist Nicolas Berggruen. Berggruen was nicknamed the "homeless billionaire" for having no base of operations and living in hotels.

The developers and architect declined to answer questions about their plans. But opposition to new tall towers isn't going away.

"I fear what would happen if more older structures were to be torn down and replaced with tall buildings," a West End resident named David Dixon testified to the City Council on Sept. 7. "Would my walks become more perilous through Pearl District-like traffic, sunless wind tunnels and cold concrete and glass storefronts?"

Multnomah County Is Pressing for Big Changes in Portland's Response to 911 Medical Calls. That Doesn't Sit Well with Powerful Unions.

*By Nigel Jaquiss
October 4, 2017*

A minimum of six highly trained, well-compensated first responders are racing to incidents with sirens howling and lights flashing. Is that necessary?

Every seven minutes, 365 days a year, a fire crew—often four firefighters in a very expensive fire truck—and a two-person ambulance crew both respond to a medical call.

That usually means a minimum of six highly trained, well-compensated first responders racing to incidents with sirens howling and lights flashing.

Sometimes it's necessary: Car crashes, heart attacks and other life-threatening incidents require an emergency response. But nearly a third of the 90,000 annual calls for medical service, according to Multnomah County, are not emergencies and do not require a response by firefighters.

Doctors in the county health department want to address this puzzling and expensive anomaly.

To do so, they are picking a fight with one of the city's most unassailable powers—Portland Fire & Rescue—and one of the city's most embattled agencies: the Bureau of Emergency Communications.

The battleground? The ambulance contract Multnomah County administers. That contract, which expires in August 2018 and is currently held by American Medical Response, serves all county residents. The contract is also very large: It will pay the winning bidder around \$750 million over the next decade.

In return, county officials are seeking a big change in the status quo. They want the winning bidder to build a private, independent 911 call center that would more precisely evaluate what medical services callers truly need and dispatch first responders more efficiently.

The likely result, if the contract moves forward as the county proposes, is a substantial reduction in the role of firefighters in the response to medical calls—and a potential threat to the city's Bureau of Emergency Communications.

Related: Portland loves its firefighters. That's allowed the fire bureau to become one of the most wasteful operations in the city.

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman oversees the fire bureau and has long wanted to reduce the number of firefighters deployed to routine medical calls. He applauds the county's idea.

"It's an innovative approach the county is envisioning," Saltzman says. "It's been tried elsewhere, and it's worked."

The county issued a document formally requesting bids Aug. 7. Since then, county officials have instead been fielding expressions of outrage from parties invested in keeping the system from changing.

The firefighters' unions in Portland and Gresham have both filed protests, calling the county's proposal, in a Sept. 7 letter, "deeply flawed."

Most of the people involved in the battle don't want to talk: Multnomah County officials, the fire chiefs of Portland and Gresham, and the acting director of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communications all declined to be interviewed for this story.

But documents fill in some of the blanks.

To support its course change, the county is drawing on a 2016 study published in the journal *Annals of Emergency Dispatch & Response*. That study, based on eight years of data in six large EMS districts, undercuts the rationale for firefighters responding to nearly every call.

Today, firefighters respond first because they can. There are more of them deployed in more places around the county than there are ambulances. But researchers found there's often scant benefit in that rapid response.

"With the exception of the relatively few cases of sudden cardiac (or respiratory) arrest, there exists very little evidence that incrementally shorter EMS response times actually improve patient outcomes," the study concluded.

"Many calls require neither two sets of responders nor a high-speed response," says county spokeswoman Julie Sullivan-Springhetti. "Such unnecessary responses reduce the capacity of the system to quickly respond to true time-sensitive life-threatening emergencies."

But fire officials have told the county in writing that creating a new 911 system could slow response times and put citizens' lives at risk.

"The duplication of a call center in a private setting is not an efficient or effective use of taxpayers' money and may result in the delay of first responder dispatching," Portland Fire Chief Mike Myers wrote to county officials Sept 8. In his Sept. 7 letter, Gresham Fire Chief Greg Matthews warned the changes could result in "dire consequences to our citizens."

For years, Portland Fire & Rescue has resisted large-scale changes to how it operates. The clannish bureau is popular with the public and protected by savvy union leadership.

"The stranglehold fire unions have over local governments is very strong," Saltzman says.

In 2012, a consultant concluded Portland Fire was unique in the nation in responding to every medical call with a four-member fire crew and was "responding to exponentially growing numbers of non-emergency medical calls...creating inefficiencies and costing the City of Portland significant dollars."

Since then, the bureau has added two-person "rapid response vehicles," which are dispatched to about 5,000 less-serious medical calls annually. That's still a small percentage of the bureau's calls, and fire officials have regularly tried to scrap the RRVs at budget time.

Last year, ambulances in Multnomah County responded to 90,000 calls. In about 79,000 cases, firefighters responded to the same call.

The county's emergency medical staff doesn't think that's necessary. In fact, documents show they think changing the way operators respond could cut the number of incidents to which firefighters respond by nearly a third—almost 25,000 calls.

Long term, such a reduction could threaten firefighters' paychecks and job security.

Alan Ferschweiler, president of the Portland Firefighters Association, says he fears a private 911 system would be duplicative and slow. He also notes that medical calls have nearly doubled in the past 15 years with little staffing increase.

Ferschweiler says firefighters would welcome giving up non-emergency calls. But he worries if that happens, city commissioners would try to cut jobs. "If call volume goes down 20 percent, then City Council will want to cut our staffing 20 percent," he says.

It's also threatening to Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communications, the troubled agency that currently holds a monopoly on fielding 911 calls.

The union that represents BOEC workers says having a contractor build a parallel 911 system makes no sense. "It just seems to make the system more complicated without making it better," says Rob Wheaton of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 88, which represents 70 BOEC employees. "We oppose it."

But an onslaught of criticism from inside and out has left BOEC reeling.

Last year, WW reported that the bureau's staffing had fallen sharply even as call volume soared, leading to employee exhaustion and a worrisome growth in wait times. A city ombudsman's report released in June blasted the agency for losing tens of thousands of calls and reporting false response times. The report found the agency was performing "well below accepted standards."

Multnomah County plans to award the ambulance contract in December. Ferschweiler worries the county is headed down the wrong path.

"What they're proposing won't work," he says. "It's a slap in the face of the citizens of this county."

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw: "We Can Still Do Our Jobs Without Federal Immigration Laws"

*By Katie Shepherd
October 4, 2017*

The first black woman police chief in city history takes questions about Jeff Sessions and cracking down on protesters.

Danielle Outlaw took the helm at the Portland Police Bureau on Oct. 2, becoming the first black woman police chief in this city's history. Outlaw comes from the Oakland Police Department, where she gained a reputation as a reformer.

On her second day on the job, she sat down with WW to discuss her goals. Outlaw identified four policies she wants to tackle right away: staffing, police interactions with homeless Portlanders, strategies at protests, and implementing the city's settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

What is your position on working with federal immigration agents?

This organization does not enforce civil federal immigration laws. This is a sanctuary city. And it is my role to make sure that all of our policies, actions and directives are in alignment with just that. We're still a law enforcement agency. We can still do our jobs without federal immigration laws.

Do you worry the DOJ might pull its support for the settlement agreement under the Trump administration?

Regardless of if there is DOJ oversight or not, I think it is incumbent on us as leaders within the city and the organization to continue to be introspective. That's how we raise the bar. And that's

how we contribute in a positive way to the national dialogue about how we police in this country. Regardless of whether the DOJ was here or not, we would still be at the forefront in trying to do the absolute best in how we police.

Will police use of force at protests change under your leadership?

I don't know. It's day two, so I am no position whatsoever to say what I'm going to come in and change right away. But that's on the absolute top of my list.

Are there any elements of Oakland's highly regarded crowd-control policies you would bring to Portland?

There might be. But it's not a cookie cutter. Everything doesn't work for everybody.

What is the most interesting thing you've heard from a Portlander so far?

I won't share that here. But to me it speaks to the fact that folks are just bold. They'll say whatever is on their mind regardless of how tactful it is. But it's OK because that's one of the things that drew me here. There's a tenacity and a boldness about Portland. And that suits my personality well.

Dan Saltzman Isn't Tipping His Hand in the Race for His City Council Seat

*By Rachel Monahan
October 4, 2017*

He's full of surprises.

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman surprised Portland with the announcement last month he wouldn't seek re-election in 2018. The announcement, well in advance of the May primary, means the open seat has a wide array of viable contenders.

Now Saltzman is saying he won't try to anoint his successor.

"My general idea is not to do an endorsement at all," he says, before leaving the door open—"not to say that might not change."

The latest name floated in the race? Mayoral staffer Andrea Valderrama, who considered but did not enter the race to challenge state Sen. Rod Monroe (D-East Portland).

The Portland Observer

Affordable Leasing at Alberta Commons

*By Danny Peterson
October 3, 2017*

Minority and women-owned businesses get priority

Prosper Portland, the city of Portland's newly named economic and urban development agency, has developed an Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program to support minority and women entrepreneurs at the site of the new grocery store and retail complex coming to the center of Portland's historic black community.

Approximately 20,000 square feet of leasable space at Alberta Commons at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street will be available at a discounted lease rate. The Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program is also available at two Prosper Portland sites at Lents Town Center in southeast Portland.

Project coordinator Alison Wicks told the Portland Observer that the program is aimed at assisting underserved businesses—owned by people of color or women—to stay afloat in the face of recent increases in retail rents and a shortage of commercial leasing opportunities is across the city. Tenants will also benefit from the program by receiving a year of technical assistance for their business from Prosper Portland.

Construction of Alberta Commons is set to be completed this November by Colas construction, a black-owned contractor from northeast Portland.

Natural Grocers is the “anchor tenant,” and they plan on having a grand opening around February.

Prosper Portland hopes to fill the remaining spaces in Alberta Commons by spring.

Wicks said tenant applications are currently being screened based on four criteria: Business owners who are underrepresented in the business community, like women or people of color; businesses that will be “active destination uses” that bring a lot of foot traffic to the area; businesses that have a solid business plan; and business owners who have multiple years of experience in their field.

“Tenanting is more of an art than a science. So a lot of this [is] finding the tenants, finding the synergy, where it fits for them,” Campbell said. “We really want to be conscientious of curating space that provides some unique amenities for the community or ones that have been sorely missing.”

To learn more and fill out an application on the Alberta Commons Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program, visit prosperportland.us.