

The Oregonian

Portrait of Neil Goldschmidt Stolen from Portland Mayor's Office

*By Gordon Friedman
March 28, 2019*

An activist stole a portrait of disgraced former Oregon governor and Portland mayor Neil Goldschmidt from City Hall on Wednesday.

Portraits of Portland's 53 mayors, except for the several for which no portrait is known, hang in the foyer of the mayor's office on the third floor of City Hall.

Goldschmidt was mayor from 1973 to 1979 before serving as the U.S. transportation secretary and Oregon's governor. In 2004 he confessed to having sex with a then 13-year-old girl during his first term as mayor. He could not be prosecuted for rape because the statute of limitations had expired.

In a video posted to Facebook on Wednesday, a man approaches Goldschmidt's framed photo in the mayor's office and says "let's take that off the wall" before grabbing the photo and exiting City Hall.

"Did you guys see that?" the man says once outside. He continues: "You know guys, I thought I was getting arrested today and I'm not, I don't think, because I just got away with it. That was pretty funny."

The man uses the name Jeff Thomas Black online and frequently posts material critical of President Donald Trump, Republicans and other politicians, including the current mayor, Ted Wheeler.

Black, whose social media profiles describe him as a civil rights activist, said he took the photo because images of Goldschmidt should not be on public display.

A spokeswoman for Wheeler confirmed the theft and said a police report had been filed.

Revelations of Goldschmidt's abuse led to his political downfall and earned Willamette Week a Pulitzer Prize for exposing his sexual abuse. A painting of the politician was also removed from display at the Oregon Capitol.

Director of Portland's Police Oversight Office to Become Gov. Brown's Public Safety Adviser

*By Maxine Bernstein
March 27, 2019*

Constantin Severe, the director of the city's Independent Police Review, is resigning to serve as Gov. Kate Brown's public safety adviser.

Severe's last day will be April 5. He served as director since 2013, most recently earning an annual salary of \$132,768. He had joined the independent police oversight office as an assistant director in 2008.

The office is the intake center for complaints against Portland police. It also conducts its own investigations of alleged misconduct involving high-ranking officers and reviews Police Bureau policies.

Portland City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero, who oversees the office, said she plans to hold a national search for his successor.

"I am grateful for Constantin's dedicated service," Hull Caballero said. "As director, he was able to shepherd several major police accountability reforms through City Council and expand IPR's ability to conduct both complex investigations and systemic reviews."

Severe oversaw the office when its investigation of former Police Chief Larry O'Dea found O'Dea delayed reporting his off-duty shooting of a friend during a camping trip, lied to city investigators about the shooting while he was still chief and misled three assistant chiefs and former Mayor Charlie Hales about the shooting.

Severe was outspoken early as the office director, highlighting indiscretions by high-ranking command staff under former Portland Police Chief Mike Reese, now Multnomah County sheriff. In 2013, for example, he raised concerns about the truthfulness and credibility of Reese's Assistant Chief Eric Hendricks, who retired while under investigation, accused of trying to interfere in a captain's disciplinary proceeding.

Under his direction, the oversight office expanded from a staff of about nine to 16, with eight investigators. He pushed for several city code changes, including one that gave his office the authority to conduct its own investigations. The office also has conducted reviews of police crowd-control tactics and examined the relationship between the Police Bureau and hip-hop artists, in response to complaints received.

Last year, an investigation by the office declared that Portland police shouldn't detain groups of people or make mass arrests without a compelling government interest to protect life or property and a written policy guiding their actions. Its investigation, for example, found officers had neither legal justification nor any policies to support their decision on June 4, 2017, to kettle -- encircle and stop -- nearly 400 counter-protesters during a Patriot Prayer rally in downtown.

Severe is a Brooklyn native and former criminal defense lawyer who worked for Metropolitan Public Defenders. He called his work for the city "an enormous privilege" and said he was fortunate to have the support of the current and former city auditors during his tenure.

"I'm super happy working at IPR, but I got presented with a terrific opportunity that I couldn't pass up," the 43-year-old told The Oregonian/OregonLive on Wednesday.

Severe will fill the position in the governor's office vacated by Heidi Moawad, who Brown recently appointed to serve as a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge. Severe said he hopes to bring his local expertise to the state level and continue to work on equity issues and building bridges between different communities and stakeholders.

Moawad had worked as a public safety policy adviser in the governor's office for six years. She previously worked 14 years as a Multnomah County deputy district attorney, and is the daughter of state Rep. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha, a retired Portland police officer.

Portland Police Deputy Chief Robert Day to Retire in Early May

By Maxine Bernstein

March 27, 2019

Portland police veteran Robert Day will finish out one year of serving as Chief Danielle Outlaw's deputy chief before retiring on May 2.

"In football we often say it is better to leave a year early versus a year late," Day wrote to bureau staff this week. He referees Pac-12 football on the side.

"Although I still enjoy coming to work, and I am encouraged by the men and women I serve with each day, it is time for someone else to lead."

Day, 50, has spent 29 years with Portland police, joining as an officer in April 1990.

He was sworn in as deputy chief on May 3, 2018, filling a new position Outlaw sought after she was selected to lead the Police Bureau. Day was among five finalists recommended by a community panel.

Day said he informed the chief Monday of his plan to retire after returning from a three-week vacation with his wife to Africa, and a visit with his daughter, a college junior studying abroad this year in South Africa.

"I just came back with a clarity and a peace of mind," he said, in an interview Wednesday. "I'd rather go out on my own terms."

Outlaw had planned to start as Portland's chief with her own hand-picked deputy from outside the bureau, but the city wasn't able to make arrangements for the new position before she began on Oct. 2, 2017. With no salary or job parameters set, Outlaw's choice wasn't about to make the leap.

Outlaw's selection of Day for her second-in-command marked a resurrection for the police commander, who was removed as one of three assistant chiefs and returned to a captain's rank in July 2016 after getting caught up in the controversy surrounding Chief Larry O'Dea's off-duty shooting of a friend during a camping trip once it became public.

An investigation by the city's Independent Police Review office found the assistant chiefs under O'Dea and then-Mayor Charlie Hales ignored protocol that called for an immediate internal investigation of O'Dea, marking "an organizational failure of the highest order." O'Dea misled his assistant chiefs and Hales about the case, the independent review also concluded.

Day has been serving as head of training for the Police Bureau, working on required reforms as part of a city settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice after a federal investigation found that Portland officers too often used excessive force against people with mental illness. He also was the lead trainer for the bureau's "implicit bias" curriculum.

Day told staff in an email Tuesday that he's "unapologetically proud" to be a Portland officer and that his love for his career and the city had grown in the last several years. He said he intended to "finish well."

"We have and continue to make a difference in the lives of the thousands of people that call this area home or visit throughout the year," Day wrote to officers. "I have made my share of mistakes, but my desire was to lead in a manner that is clear and respectful of all."

Day told The Oregonian/OregonLive he's pleased to report that violent crime and property crime are down in the first three months of this year. He credited the bureau's decision to investigate every shooting, the addition of officers to the bureau's tactical operations division and focused enforcement missions resulting from regular reviews of crime data.

He said he's proud the bureau has expanded training for supervisors' development under his watch. He also pointed to his community involvement in the August Wilson Red Door Project, which brings police and members of the public together for discussions on personal biases, prejudice and racism, and his work with actor Kevin Jones to develop the play "Cop Out," which features monologues of officers.

Day said he doesn't have another job lined up, but he'd like to continue either doing consulting work, lecturing or teaching and remain involved in public safety and the criminal justice system.

"I definitely want to stay involved, stay purposeful," he said.

In late October 2017, the City Council approved the deputy chief's position, along with a new administrative assistant, at a cost of about \$364,000 a year, including salary and benefits. Day's salary is \$174,720, according to city records.

Day worked 10 years as a patrol officer before he was promoted to sergeant in 2000. In 2006, he was promoted to lieutenant and three years later to captain. As captain of North Precinct, he responded to a police callout at a Northeast Portland apartment, where officers had surrounded Aaron Campbell.

The Portland Police Association at the time argued that the encounter went sour when Day arrived at the scene without a ballistic vest and called away Sgt. Liani Reyna, the incident commander, to brief him on what was happening. That's when police at the scene fatally shot Campbell after he emerged from his apartment unarmed. Day didn't face discipline but Reyna and others did.

Day graduated last year with a bachelor of arts in organizational management and leadership from George Fox University. He holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from Clackamas Community College.

He, wife Lorna and daughter Natalie last year announced the formation of a new Portland-based foundation in the name of 15-year-old son, Sam Day, to raise money and awareness for rare pediatric cancers. Sam Day died in August 2016 of a rare bone cancer, Ewing's sarcoma.

One of the important lessons that he learned from his son's struggle with cancer, Day said, was the reminder to "dream big, laugh often and live well."

"Life is tough and certainly not fair, none of us get out unscathed, yet stories of resilience and hope abound," he said in his retirement announcement. "This is a family. I have felt it and lived it."

Day acknowledged the challenging times in the Police Bureau and in law enforcement nationally. "Portland is unique. This is a difficult city to police in. Portlanders have an unusually high expectation of their police. That expectation is what holds us accountable," he said.

He does believe the bureau, as the largest and most visible in the city, should remain under the mayor's authority, although he said the mayor's role as an elected city official and police commissioner is a difficult one to navigate.

Of working closely with Outlaw, Day said, "I have learned the benefit of having an outside perspective. It's been refreshing to have someone put fresh eyes on things."

He said the bureau also has benefited from Outlaw's involvement in national policing groups, such as the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. "I think it's raised Portland's stagger, given us some national recognition and opened some doors for the bureau," he said.

Day supports the need for a deputy chief in Portland to run day-to-day operations while allowing the chief to deal with larger policy and strategic decisions, interact with City Hall and do outreach to the community. He said he's never seen a chief who has been in such demand for speaking engagements. Community members have literally pushed him aside to try to get photos of the chief, he said.

It's unclear how Outlaw will fill the position. She said Wednesday she had no new information to share yet.

Andy Shearer, who Outlaw promoted to captain of the Tactical Operations Division last April, is someone who officers say may be considered for the spot.

Day told officers and staff that he was announcing his retirement now, "so that the guessing for my replacement can begin.....Gotta love this place!"

The Portland Tribune

Man Films Video While Taking Photo From Mayor's Office

*By Zane Sparling
March 28, 2019*

Facebook user Jeff Thomas Black livestreams taking portrait of ex-Oregon gov. Neil Goldschmidt.

A local activist has posted a brazen video that appears to show himself live-streaming while stealing the city's official photograph of disgraced ex-mayor of Portland Neil Goldschmidt.

A man with the Facebook username Jeff Thomas Black posted a video Wednesday, March 27 of a man narrating the apparent snatch-and-run from current Mayor Ted Wheeler's downtown offices inside City Hall.

"I just got away with it," the man says while exiting the building. "I thought I was getting arrested today, and I'm not, I don't think."

"That was pretty funny."

Goldschmidt, who rose to be U.S. transportation secretary and governor of Oregon in later years, fell from grace after he admitted to having a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old girl while mayor. Nevertheless, his portrait had hung alongside almost all of Portland's other 53 mayors in the office's unlocked foyer.

The video was first reported by The Oregonian. It begins with the man filming a City Council meeting, then walking outside the meeting room and complaining about Mayor Wheeler's tone regarding recent police shootings.

The Tribune has reached out to the Portland Police Bureau for comment

Willamette Week

Director of City of Portland's Independent Police Review Steps Down

*By Rachel Monahan
March 27, 2019*

Constantin Severe joined IPR in 2008 and became director in 2013.

The director of Portland's Independent Police Review is leaving City Hall for state government.

Constantin Severe joined IPR in 2008 and became its director in 2013. He is leaving April 5 and will become Gov. Kate Brown's public safety adviser.

IPR is in the auditor's office and conducts some investigations of police misconduct. In 2013, WW interviewed Severe as he took over the office.

"As Director, he was able to shepherd several major police accountability reforms through City Council and expand IPR's ability to conduct both complex investigations and systemic reviews," said Portland City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero in a statement. "I plan to conduct a national search for the next IPR Director."

The Portland Mercury

Black Leaders in Portland Are Celebrating a City Bike Route Decision. Here's Why.

*By Blair Stenvick
March 27, 2019*

Two blocks.

That's the distance between NE 9th—the street the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) recently decided to transform in to a bike-prioritized “neighborhood greenway”—and NE 7th, which many biking advocates had hoped would be PBOT's choice.

The decision came down to access: Whether displaced Black Portlanders driving to longtime neighborhood businesses should be prioritized over the predominantly white cyclists wanting a slightly easier bike route.

Whether or not one street becomes more bike-friendly than another just two blocks away might seem like an largely inconsequential decision. But for many in Portland's Black community, this outcome represents miles of progress.

“We feel good about any gains we're getting working with the city,” said John Washington, chair of Portland's Soul District Business Association, after PBOT announced its decision last week. The association advocates for African-American owned businesses in Northeast Portland.

“After being victims for a long time,” he told the Mercury, “it is a refreshing experience to know that we can at least get some traction on an agenda.”

It's hard to understand the importance of PBOT's recent decision without talking about the history of the neighborhood it'll impact.

NE 7th and NE 9th streets cut through Albina, the historically Black neighborhood born from exclusionary real estate policies in the early 20th century, gutted by urban planning in the 1950s and 60s, and gentrified by developers and new residents in the aughts.

The constant revamping of the neighborhood has taken a toll on its residents—the once-majority African American neighborhood is now only 14 percent Black.

It's part of a citywide migration: According to a Portland State University study, at least 10,000 Black people have moved from central Portland to the outskirts in recent years, largely due to rising housing prices.

“The neighborhood has changed a lot over the years,” said Hannah Schafer, a spokesperson for PBOT. “A lot of people have left by choice—or not by choice—because they were priced out.”

Albina's changing identity is perhaps best represented in city's 2011 debate over N Williams' bike lanes.

As the Mercury reported back in 2011 and 2012, the N Williams Safety Project was an seemingly innocuous PBOT plan to make the one-way street to more accessible to bikes and pedestrians, reducing driving and parking space in the process. But while the project was celebrated by the city's myriad biking advocates, it was coldly received by many in Portland's Black community.

To many Black Portlanders, a N Williams makeover—geared toward predominantly white, middle-class cyclists—seemed like just another attempt to erase the neighborhood's history.

"I've seen the street change a lot, I've seen the community change a whole lot," said Jerrell Waddell, a pastor at N Williams' Life Change Christian Center, in a 2011 interview with the Mercury. "Portland wants to increase bicycle traffic and I think the bike community is forcing that on the community at large. I feel like this particular project is having an impact on gentrification."

Cyclists ended up getting their way with N Williams, to Black neighbors' frustration. That's not the case this time around.

The idea to make either NE 7th or 9th into a greenway comes from PBOT's Bicycle Plan for 2030, adopted by the city council in 2010. The lofty project introduced plans to create an easily-bikeable network of roads throughout Portland. Part of that meant creating greenways, or intentionally bike-friendly streets equipped with lime green bike lanes, speed bumps to slow down cars, and other design factors that discourage heavy vehicle traffic.

During this process, PBOT was tasked with deciding which street would be best for a greenway: NE 7th or NE 9th. City planners initially favored NE 7th, since the street is relatively flat and it offers an easy route to connect with a future bike bridge slated to cross over Interstate 84.

Bike advocates, like Go By Bike founder Kiel Johnson, also favored NE 7th over NE 9th, a street that is less flat and less connected by comparison. In a guest post on BikePortland.org, Johnson lamented PBOT's recent decision.

“Since hearing the news that the Greenway is not coming I have felt the entire rainbow of negative emotions,” wrote Johnson, who also lives on NE 7th. “Anger, sadness, despair at a broken city process, and a looming sense that the world is inherently ruined.”

Johnson's emotions, which were echoed accross Portland's cyclist community, aren't new to Albina's Black residents who've regularly felt excluded from major city planning discussions.

According to Washington, past efforts by PBOT and other city agencies to engage Black Portlanders rang hollow.

“[The city] would use these token community engagement meetings where people would just walk in, sign their name on this list and say a few things,” he said. “And then PBOT would say things like, ‘Well, we had a meeting in that area, and no one showed up.’”

This time around, PBOT was determined to do a better job.

“It’s fair to say that we learned a lot from the Williams project,” said Schafer. “We really are making an effort to follow the city’s racial equity strategies and goals in our work.”

At an August 2018 open house, PBOT heard from Black community members who were concerned about the impact a NE 7th greenway would have on the area. The bureau then held two focus groups for Black Portlanders, and found that while the community favored making NE 7th safer, they didn’t want to see the street turn into a full greenway.

That’s partially because, unlike Albina’s population of African American residents, the institutions that have long-served the diminished Black community have remained in the neighborhood.

Those institutions, like the Albina Head Start, the Margaret Carter Neighborhood Network Center, and some businesses represented by the Soul District Business Association, are located on NE 7th. Leaders of those organizations and their clientele worried that redesigning NE 7th would cause logistical problems for Black Portlanders who have to drive from other neighborhoods to access services and business on NE 7th.

In addition to concerns about accessing services on NE 7th, Black Portlanders also cited a general lack of faith in city government, and the worry that a change in traffic flow could make commuting difficult for drivers.

“Transformative change often comes with unintended consequences,” reads PBOT’s report on the focus groups. “Participants highlighted that theirs was a community that time and again has been asked to weather the impacts of change for the ‘Greater Good’ and that the ‘Greater Good’ never seems to include the Black community”

Washington and other local Black leaders noticed the new effort. Washington said he was impressed with PBOT’s new equity and inclusion manager Irene Marion, who helped bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the city’s more bureaucratic elements and its minority residents.

“No one knew how to contact, no one knew how to navigate the system,” he said. “[Marion] has been a real catalyst in helping us navigate those systems.”

Using feedback garnered during those focus groups, PBOT decided to implement some safety changes to NE 7th—called the “Safer 7th” project—but make NE 9th the full neighborhood greenway.

“We’re building a more inclusive transportation system, and listening to everyone’s voices.”

Johnson of Go By Bike, while disappointed with the outcome, said he recognizes the importance of PBOT’s decision.

“Myself and every transportation planner would probably agree that a greenway on 7th would do a better job at increasing the number of people riding bikes,” he told the Mercury. “But what PBOT did is more important than that.”

No, a single city project outcome doesn't negate decades of neglect and abuse on Portland's part against the city's Black community. But it does suggest that the city's institutions are capable of change—and that PBOT can use this new framework moving forward.

“This is a really exciting moment for us, frankly,” Schafer of PBOT said. “We’re building a more inclusive transportation system, and listening to everyone’s voices.”

Director of Portland's Police Accountability Agency Resigns

By Alex Zielinski

March 27, 2019

Constantin Severe, the director of Portland's Independent Police Review (IPR), has resigned.

Severe, who has lead IPR since 2013, has accepted a job as Governor Kate Brown's Public Safety Adviser, according to a press release from the IPR. His last day will be April 5.

The IPR, which fields all public complaints about police office misconduct, has seen several major reforms under Severe's tenure, like the (partial) end to the "48-hour rule" and the ability for IPR to recommend discipline in an officer misconduct investigation.

“It has been an enormous privilege to serve the City and Auditor as IPR Director,” Severe wrote in the press release. “I am proud to have served with an amazing, dedicated staff that works hard for this community.”

Severe, a former public defender, joined the IPR in 2008 as an assistant director.

Portland City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero, who oversees the IPR, says that she'll be conducting a national search for Severe's replacement. IPR's assistance directors, Anika Bent-Albert and Rachel Mortimer, will serve as IPR's interim directors until a permanent director is chosen.

Portland Copwatch's Dan Handelman, who's closely followed the IPR's work since its creation in 2001, says Severe's departure is "very unexpected." Handelman, a regular at IPR-related public meetings, says he didn't get a sense that Severe was wanting to leave.

And yet, Handelman adds, "He was getting it from all sides."

"The police didn't like IPR's criticism of their bureau," he says, "and the community wanted IPR to do more police accountability work."

Handelman says he hopes the next director is more engaged in the community.

"Severe would deliberately not invite community groups like [Portland Copwatch] to meetings and turn his back on us when we would testify," he says. "We need a director who prioritizes public involvement."

Severe did not immediately respond to the Mercury's request for comment.

Portland's First Trans Day of Visibility Will Focus on Housing Issues

By Blair Stenvick

March 27, 2019

The Portland City Council will formally recognize International Transgender Day of Visibility for the first time at Thursday's council meeting.

The day is an opportunity to celebrate and draw attention to transgender people and issues across the globe. In Portland, that means talking about how the trans community is impacted by the city's struggle to create affordable and equitable housing.

During a 90-minute afternoon panel, the council will hear from five trans people of different ages and races about their experiences with housing and homelessness.

"Houselessness and housing insecurity can really affect the trans community in ways that people don't really see," said Mikki Gillette of Basic Rights Oregon, who helped the city plan the panel. "You have this idea of Portland being a haven for trans people ... but then you have Portland as a place where many people struggle to support themselves financially. And the trans community, because of discrimination, can be hit especially hard by that."

According to the 2015 US Trans Survey, nearly a third of trans people in the US have been homeless at some point in their lives. Twelve percent of survey respondents said they had experienced homelessness in the past year specifically because they were trans.

Gillette, a trans woman, said that while the Oregon Equality Act prevents housing discrimination on the basis of gender identity, she doesn't think it always results in "lived equality."

"We at Basic Rights Oregon have heard from community members about how landlords will sometimes try to push them out of housing if they're transgender," Gillette said. "They might not want to be seen as a place that has a lot of transgender people, or they worry that transgender people might not be able to pay rent as consistently as cisgender people."

That can be compounded by employment discrimination, something trans people also face more frequently than their cisgender peers. Gillette was working as a substitute teacher when she transitioned, and almost lost her source of income in the process.

"Groups of parents never tried to get me fired before I transitioned," she said. "It was something I was expecting, but it was a sign of transphobia."

Because homelessness doesn't always look the way people expect it to, Gillette said, it can be difficult to get a sense of just how pervasive the problem is for trans Portlanders. She brought up a trans woman she knows whose roommates at Lewis & Clark kicked her out of their home when she came out to them.

"She spent the rest of the semester in her car," Gillette said. "I don't think you can get statistics on something like that, but it is a phenomenon."

Trans youth are also impacted by homelessness—one study estimates that 40 percent of homeless youth in the US identify as LGBTQ. After being ostracized by their family of origin, Gillette said, trans youth can then also face discrimination in the foster care system. She said she's heard anecdotally that many homeless trans youth travel to Portland from other, less queer-friendly cities, which could mean Portland has a disproportionately large population of homeless trans teens.

By kickstarting the conversation around trans homelessness in Portland, Gillette hopes the panel will lead to action on the city's part. City hall has indicated it's open to exploring homeless services tailored to trans people. That's important, because homeless shelters can often be gendered and present unsafe situations for trans people.

The trans flag will be flying outside City Hall all day on Thursday.

"Even though we'll be talking about the struggles," Gillette said, "it's also nice that Portland will be taking a day to celebrate that we have a vibrant, diverse community, and trans people are a part of that."

The Portland Business Journal

City Should Work Collaboratively to Reduce Barriers to Housing

*By Deborah Imse
March 28, 2019*

Rental screening can't solve the city's many housing problems

Let's start where we agree. Portland has a housing problem, and its effect has been to displace vulnerable citizens and build barriers too many can't overcome.

The first step to solving such complex problems is to work collaboratively to develop good public policy. Unfortunately, that isn't happening.

On April 3 and April 4, Portland City Council will consider Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's rental screening ordinance, a proposal that is unnecessarily onerous and ignores the carefully considered and collaborative work that's been done on this topic.

In 2017, Multifamily NW applied for and received a two-year grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust to work collaboratively to develop a resident screening process that will make housing more accessible to all. We worked with housing authorities, which are the leading provider of affordable rentals, and the nonprofit Legal Aid Services of Oregon to develop a new resident screening process. Our process ensures rental applicants know their rights and know how to appeal a denial. We are rolling it out statewide this year.

Our new, collaboratively developed process is a better way to screen rental applicants because it is fair, easy to follow and still allows rental providers to maintain community safety. Multifamily has forwarded these suggestions to Portland's City Council. We believe the criteria and process proposed by Commissioner Eudaly could not only adversely affect safety, but affordability as well. We also believe it will increase barriers to housing in some cases. Among our concerns with Eudaly's proposed ordinance:

Anyone denying a new applicant will need a high level of legal expertise to issue the formal Notice of Denial, resulting in the need to consult attorneys. The flow chart developed to explain the process resembles an engineering chart with three different sections, 35 arrows, and 30 steps. This complex process will increase costs and, therefore, likely increase rents in market-rate housing while decreasing services in nonprofit housing.

The ordinance limits income as a screening requirement. Income benchmarks are set for a reason, and if you're forced to rent an apartment to someone who can't really afford it, the

problems could multiply in the future. If a resident is evicted for non-payment of rent, that record will follow them in the future as they try to rent again. We believe vouchers and subsidies are a better way to increase access.

Resident safety will suffer. Rental housing providers will be required to accept applicants with criminal backgrounds where previously they did not. Rental providers need flexibility to consider criminal backgrounds to maintain safety in our communities.

This proposal comes immediately after the passage of rent control — Senate Bill 608 — on the state level, and the city’s relocation ordinance. Rental providers are already struggling to implement and follow the new rules.

We fully support the goal of increasing access to rental housing for all Oregonians. The current proposed ordinance from the city is convoluted and confusing, reduces safety, adds unnecessary burdens to providers and increases costs to everyone. We urge the council to delay this vote until our alternative, developed through careful collaboration, can be reviewed and discussed.

The Skanner

Constantin Severe Resigns as Independent Police Review Director

March 27, 2019

Constantin Severe, who has served as the director of the Independent Police Review since 2013 and has worked for the agency since 2008, has resigned to take a job with the governor’s office, according to a press release issued by IPR Wednesday. His last day will be April 5.

“I am grateful for Constantin’s dedicated service,” said Portland City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero in the release. “As Director, he was able to shepherd several major police accountability reforms through City Council and expand IPR’s ability to conduct both complex investigations and systemic reviews. I plan to conduct a national search for the next IPR Director.”

Severe said, “It has been an enormous privilege to serve the City and Auditor as IPR Director. I am proud to have served with an amazing, dedicated staff that works hard for this community.”

IPR was created in 2001 as the City of Portland’s civilian oversight agency of the Portland Police Bureau. IPR is a division of the City Auditor’s Office and is authorized to investigate allegations of misconduct by Portland Police Bureau members. Additionally, IPR is tasked by city code with conducting reviews of Police Bureau policies and practices.