

The Oregonian

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw accepts job as Philadelphia police commissioner

*By Maxine Bernstein
December 30, 2019*

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw has accepted a job to become Philadelphia's police commissioner after only two years and two months leading Portland's 1,000-member force during a time of mass political protests and community mistrust.

Outlaw, 43, on Monday thanked Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler for his support and her colleagues for their work, noting their commitment to keeping people safe and building public confidence in the Police Bureau.

"I will forever be appreciative of my experience here," she said.

"While there will always be work to be done toward improvement, that does not take away from the fact that the members of the Bureau are not only extremely talented, compassionate and professional, they are also resilient and accountable to themselves, each other, and to the community," she said in a statement.

But Outlaw said she's ready to jump into leading Philadelphia's troubled police department. She was chosen out of 31 candidates, including 18 from within the department. She starts Feb. 10.

"While I am new to Philadelphia, I am not new to the challenges of big-city, 21st century policing," she said before she was introduced to her new city at an afternoon news conference at Philadelphia City Hall.

"Modern policing is data-driven, but the paramount factor is not so easily quantified: trust — the trust residents have that their police force will keep them safe and treat them with respect," she said. "I am convinced that trust can be restored, here and across the nation. I am convinced community-police relations can be rebuilt and fortified through dialogue, transparency, and accountability."

Outlaw will run a much larger metropolitan department in Philadelphia -- the fourth biggest in the country with 6,500 sworn members and 800 civilian members -- that has been rocked by scandals in the past year. They included a sexual harassment lawsuit that led to the abrupt resignation of former Commissioner Richard Ross.

In Portland, she was selected in October 2017 as the first African American woman to lead the city's Police Bureau after a national search and made \$240,926.40 by the time she left. She also will be the first black woman to lead the Philadelphia department and will make \$285,000.

Wheeler congratulated Outlaw for "landing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" in Philadelphia and praised her work in Portland, where he said "she helped make a positive difference."

"She came to Portland exceedingly qualified for the position of police chief, and leaves more prepared than ever for her new position in Philadelphia," Wheeler said in a joint statement with Outlaw.

Outlaw said she doesn't think police chiefs ever have an ideal time "to transition on to our next role in life. However, I am making this transition on good terms, knowing the Bureau will be left in the hands of a strong leadership team."

Deputy Chief Jami Resch, who has been with the Portland bureau for 20 years, will become the city's new chief, Wheeler announced.

Outlaw will join the beleaguered Philadelphia department as a reformer, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said.

"I am appointing Danielle Outlaw because I am convinced she has the conviction, courage, and compassion needed to bring long-overdue reform to the Department," Kenney said.

"With our support, she will tackle a host of difficult issues, from racism and gender discrimination, to horrid instances of sexual assault on fellow officers," he said. "These are issues that too often negatively impact women — especially women of color — within the Department. Commissioner Outlaw will implement reforms with urgency, so that racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination are not tolerated."

Kenney said Outlaw also "will work relentlessly to combat crime, particularly homicides and other violent crime." Philadelphia recorded more than 350 homicides last year. Portland had 33 homicides in 2018.

Kenney picked Outlaw, he said, because of her "directness, intelligence and experience."

"It was time for an outside look and she wowed us in all the interviews," he said at the press conference.

He described the profound challenges facing Outlaw as she assumes the post.

"I can tell you that after meeting and speaking with her at length she possess the strength and integrity vital to the task ahead," he said.

Outlaw, wearing plain clothes and standing at a podium featuring the Philadelphia city seal, took a moment to acknowledge Wheeler. She called leading the Portland Police Bureau "an honor." She then turned her focus to the future, saying it "will be an absolute privilege to serve as Philadelphia police commissioner."

"I will work relentlessly to reduce crime, in particular the insidious gun violence that plagues too many of our communities," she said.

Daryl Turner, president of the Portland Police Association, said he wasn't surprised Outlaw landed "a job of this magnitude."

"She proved she could make hard decisions by making the tactical changes in the bureau that enforced the rules for protests and began the process of restoring order in downtown Portland," Turner said in a statement. "Her accomplishments are all the more significant because they happened at a time when Portland simply could not recruit and retain police officers. And we continue to face the worst staffing shortage in our history."

Outside observers had long suspected that Outlaw, who rose quickly through the ranks of Oakland's Police Department before arriving in Portland, would use the job here as a stepping stone to a big-city department.

She has been active in many national policing organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. While Portland's chief, she continued to network and travel to attend the groups' national conferences, often taking some of her command staff along.

While she pledged in Philadelphia to foster a foundation of “humanity in authority,” Outlaw’s tenure in Portland has been marked by criticism over how police officers deal with the public. As only Portland’s third chief hired from outside the city, she struggled to gain acceptance and support within the Police Bureau, within City Hall and in the community.

She took over from Chief Mike Marshman, a longtime bureau supervisor who held the top job for about a year after Chief Larry O’Dea retired amid a criminal investigation into his off-duty shooting of a friend during a camping trip in southeastern Oregon.

Tasked by the mayor to build trust between police and a swath of skeptical residents, Outlaw said in an interview in fall that she was still working on that goal.

The chief and the bureau also struggled with how to respond to major protests, continued police shootings of people in mental health crisis and a serious staffing shortage. She also had to work to gain support among City Council members.

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, a frequent critic of police tactics and bureaucracy, said Outlaw’s job “was not an easy one.”

“As an outsider, being asked to change the culture of the Portland Police Bureau required a herculean effort, as well as a support team which I fear she never found,” Hardesty said in a statement.

“While I appreciate the work done by Chief Outlaw, the fact remains that chiefs will come and go – but it is the culture they leave behind that matters most to our community,” she said. “There is still much work to be done to make PPB the organization we need it to be.”

A few months ago, Outlaw said she was most pleased that the city-hired team of overseers examining the 2014 Justice Department settlement with the city recently found the Police Bureau in “substantial compliance” with the agreement’s provisions.

The settlement followed a federal investigation that concluded Portland officers had a pattern of using excessive force against people with mental illness. It required changes to police use-of-force policies, training and oversight. A judge still must agree with the city overseers and community members have voiced concerns.

“I think it’s a huge achievement for our organization and our members here to show the work that’s been done since the inception of the agreement in a short period of time,” Outlaw said.

Yet members of a community group formed to monitor the reforms have been unconvinced by the compliance finding, pointing to police officers’ continued use of deadly force against people with mental illness. At least three of five people killed by police this year were suffering a mental health crisis.

After police shootings, Outlaw often has voiced dismay that by the time people in crisis encounter police, they often have fallen through the gaps of an underfunded mental health care system.

“It becomes extremely frustrating when we know that by the time we’re called to the scene, many, many systems have already failed them, two, three, four times over, and we get the headline obviously because the ultimate happened,” she told The Oregonian/OregonLive in October.

“But no one is questioning in the same manner we get questioned (about) what happened before this happened. Who failed this person? Why didn’t they get the services that they need? How do we even get called in the first place? Where is the same level of accountability?”

In another high-profile controversy, members of the Police Bureau were dismayed and discouraged when the mayor and some city commissioners immediately blasted friendly text messages made public between a police lieutenant who served as a crowd control liaison and Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson before an investigation got underway.

Gibson, a Vancouver-area resident, has led many of the right-wing marches and rallies in Portland that have drawn fierce opposition from progressive and radical activists, resulting in the violent street clashes that placed a spotlight on the city's protest movements as well as the police's response to them.

For some, the chummy text exchanges provided proof of a political bias held by Portland police, which some residents say have unfairly targeted left-wing activists with mass arrests and less-lethal weapons, including rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades. The bureau currently faces multiple lawsuits alleging police under Outlaw used excessive force against people protesting Patriot Prayer events.

An investigation by the city's Independent Police Review division ultimately found the crowd control lieutenant, Jeff Niiya, was doing his job by communicating with Gibson, but the bureau adopted more stringent standards for such exchanges.

Amid ongoing brawls at demonstrations, Outlaw called for an anti-mask law for protesters and changes in state law that would allow police to video-record demonstrations from start to finish. But she received little support from the city's elected commissioners or mayor for either. She said that she'd also still like to see a pilot project for body cameras get council approval. That hasn't happened yet.

Under Outlaw, the Police Bureau lowered its hiring standards to try to attract more applicants to fill the growing number of vacancies in an authorized force of 1,001. As of October, the bureau had 110 sworn officer vacancies, leaving it scrambling to fill patrol shifts each day.

Police supervisors are considering refiguring patrol shifts early next year to better align officers to hours when emergency calls are more frequent. Lowering the educational standard for new officers, the chief said in October, has resulted in an increase in applications – more than 950 eligible candidates this year compared to 809 last year.

Outlaw also pushed the city to add a deputy chief to her command staff and worked to focus enforcement based on crime data, having precinct commanders set priorities each quarter dictated by problems in their districts.

With a deputy chief, Outlaw sought to leave her second-in-command running day-to-day operations while she worked to control strategic policy and improve relations outside the bureau.

Resch, 45, is well regarded and provides “internal continuity we must have to keep moving in a positive direction,” Wheeler said. Resch's current salary is \$185,556.80.

Wheeler said he considered “all the options” for the next chief and settled on Resch.

Resch has had a quick rise in the bureau. Last year, Outlaw picked Resch, then a captain, to serve as assistant chief of investigations. In May, Outlaw promoted Resch to deputy chief, saying she brought a “strong balance of perspective and experience” to the job.

Resch previously served as an acting commander of North Precinct, a lieutenant in the criminal intelligence division and a sergeant of the gun task force. Resch also has served as manager of the bureau's Honor Guard and as a critical incident commander. She has been a member of the bureau's Muslim police advisory council and Slavic advisory council.

“She has my complete trust and a thorough understanding of my agenda,” Wheeler said. “She is the right person at the right time for the job.”

Portland Police Bureau insider Jami Resch picked for top job

*By Noelle Crombie
December 30, 2019*

A 20-year Portland police veteran will take over as the city’s next police chief.

Deputy Chief Jami Resch, 45, of Portland succeeds Danielle Outlaw as chief. Mayor Ted Wheeler made the announcement at the same time he announced Outlaw would step down to lead the embattled Philadelphia Police Department. Resch will be sworn in at noon Tuesday in a private ceremony.

Resch has had a quick rise in the bureau. Last year, Outlaw picked Resch, then a captain, to serve as assistant chief of investigations. In May, Outlaw promoted Resch to deputy chief, saying she brought a “strong balance of perspective and experience” to the job.

Resch was unavailable for an interview Monday, a bureau spokesman said, but she released a statement saying she was “grateful for this amazing opportunity to lead the members of the Portland Police Bureau and collaborate with the community.”

“Like many others in the agency, I have dedicated my career of service to the Portland community and I look forward to this new role,” she said.

Her main goal, Resch said, will be to “continue the positive work Chief Outlaw and the executive team were already undertaking and keep up the momentum. There is a lot to be done to continue to support the great work being done by our sworn and professional staff, to continue to build trust within the community, and to recruit and hire the best candidates to join the PPB team.”

Portland Police Officers Sarah Taylor and Jami Resch attend to a man that was found down by the river getting high sniffing gasoline. *The Oregonian/2001*

Resch previously served as an acting commander of North Precinct, a lieutenant in the criminal intelligence division and a sergeant of the gun task force. Resch also has served as manager of the bureau’s Honor Guard and as a critical incident commander. She has been a member of the bureau’s Muslim police advisory council and Slavic advisory council.

In announcing his pick for the top job, Wheeler said Resch “meets or exceeds” the bureau’s “leadership needs.”

“She has my complete trust and a thorough understanding of my agenda,” he said. “She is the right person at the right time for the job.”

Daryl Turner, president of the Portland Police Association, called Resch’s promotion “a good appointment.” He said he is looking forward to continuing the “good working relationship” the union had with Outlaw.

Resch announced that Chris Davis, assistant chief of operations since June, will become her deputy chief. Commander Mike Frome will replace Davis in the operations role.

In other moves, Capt. Erica Hurley will be promoted to commander and assigned to the Transit Police Division, Capt. Craig Dobson will move from East Precinct to the Training Division and East Precinct will have an acting captain for now.

What people are saying about Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw's new job in Philadelphia

December 30, 2019

Here's what Danielle Outlaw and others said Monday about her new job as commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department:

Danielle Outlaw's Portland statement:

"Mayor Wheeler placed his confidence in me to be the Police Chief after conducting a meticulous selection process," said Chief Danielle Outlaw. "I am profoundly grateful for his continued support and acknowledgement of how challenging the work of law enforcement can be for all of us. He has been a PPB advocate since day one; championing the Bureau's needs for additional resources and understanding that one can be supportive of police and supportive of police accountability at the same time. "For police chiefs, I don't think there is ever an ideal time to transition on to our next role in life. However, I am making this transition on good terms, knowing the Bureau will be left in the hands of a strong leadership team, led by Chief Jami Resch. And while there will always be work to be done toward improvement, that does not take away from the fact that the members of the Bureau are not only extremely talented, compassionate and professional, they are also resilient and accountable to themselves, each other, and to the community. We have accomplished a lot during my tenure and it would not have been possible without them. "I leave knowing the Bureau will remain committed to community safety while building trust. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Portland's Police Chief, serving alongside the members of the Bureau and partnering with countless, remarkable individuals within Portland's community. I will forever be appreciative of my experience here."

Danielle Outlaw's Philadelphia statement:

"I am honored by the faith that Mayor Kenney is placing in me to lead the Philadelphia Police Department. While I am new to Philadelphia, I am not new to the challenges of big-city, 21st century policing. I encountered and dealt with the issues of employee health and wellness, equity, contemporary training, crime, fair and just prosecution, community trust, homelessness, substance abuse, police accountability, and innovation and technology — just to name a few — as I worked various assignments and rose through the ranks in Oakland, California. And I directly addressed these issues while leading the police force in Portland, Oregon.

"Modern policing is data-driven, but the paramount factor is not so easily quantified: trust — the trust residents have that their police force will keep them safe and treat them with respect. I am convinced that trust can be restored, here and across the nation. I am convinced community-police relations can be rebuilt and fortified through dialogue, transparency, and accountability.

"It will be a privilege to serve as Philadelphia Police Commissioner and to serve all who live and work in this great city. I will work relentlessly to reduce crime in Philadelphia — particularly the insidious gun violence that plagues too many communities. And I will do so in a way that ensures all people are treated equitably regardless of their gender identity, race, ethnicity, or

sexual orientation. I am convinced there can be humanity in authority; they are not mutually exclusive. That was true in Oakland and in Portland, and I know it is true here in Philadelphia.”

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler:

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Outlaw for landing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We thank her for her service to the City of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), where she helped make a positive difference. She came to Portland exceedingly qualified for the position of police chief, and leaves more prepared than ever for her new position in Philadelphia."

Officer Daryl Turner, president of the Portland Police Association:

“I was notified today that Chief Outlaw has accepted the position of Police Commissioner in Philadelphia and that Deputy Chief Jami Resch will be named our new Chief of Police. Although this comes as a surprise to me at this juncture in her tenure, I am not surprised that she was offered a job of this magnitude. Chief Outlaw supported the women and men working for the Portland Police Bureau which was evident in her press release regarding the last officer-involved shooting.

“She proved she could make hard decisions by making the tactical changes in the Bureau that enforced the rules for protests and began the process of restoring order in Downtown Portland. Her accomplishments are all the more significant because they happened at a time when Portland simply could not recruit and retain police officers. And we continue to face the worst staffing shortage in our history.

“Chief Outlaw had to navigate a history of uniquely difficult political dynamics in regards to policing while leading an organization that was both severely understaffed and under-resourced.

“We wish Chief Outlaw all the best and look forward to working with Chief Resch.”

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney:

“I think constantly about what it takes to be a police officer. Our men and women in blue leave home each day knowing they are about to put their lives at risk to protect our community, and that even on a good day they are likely to encounter extremely challenging and disturbing situations. I know officers take on this sworn duty, first and foremost, to help Philadelphians. Their devotion to public service is never forgotten.

“But make no mistake: while I have tremendous respect for our officers, the Philadelphia Police Department needs reform. I am appointing Danielle Outlaw because I am convinced she has the conviction, courage, and compassion needed to bring long-overdue reform to the Department. After meeting and speaking with her at length, I came away confident that Danielle Outlaw possesses the strength, integrity, and empathy vital to the tasks ahead.

“With our support, she will tackle a host of difficult issues, from racism and gender discrimination, to horrid instances of sexual assault on fellow officers. These are issues that too often negatively impact women — especially women of color — within the Department. Commissioner Outlaw will implement reforms with urgency, so that racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination are not tolerated.

“At the same time, she will work relentlessly to combat crime, particularly homicides and other violent crime. This will include a focus on our multi-departmental effort to stem the tide of gun violence that plagues our city. Commissioner Outlaw’s commitment to restoring the community’s trust in our police will be equally strong. She understands the history of race relations in Philadelphia, particularly the distrust that many residents justifiably harbor in the wake of decades of injustice. She will be devoted to listening and encouraging constructive

exchanges of ideas and concerns from all Philadelphians. Danielle Outlaw will tackle divisiveness with dialogue.

“These have been trying times, with fear and anger fueled by decades of injustice and, more recently, abhorrent rhetoric at the national level. I know Philadelphians can rise above it. Whether you are a longtime resident worried about crime on your block, an African American man who fears being unlawfully stopped for a broken taillight, or a patrol officer who feels unappreciated by those you serve, I ask for your help. Put aside your preconceptions and your anger — and support our new Commissioner as she leads the Department through the tremendous challenges ahead. As we approach the new decade, I am optimistic these reforms will usher in a new and better era for our city.”

Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty:

“Over the last two years I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Danielle Outlaw while she served as Portland’s Police Chief. Her job was not an easy one, but it is a vital one for our city. As an outsider, being asked to change the culture of the Portland Police Bureau required a herculean effort, as well as a support team which I fear she never found. Chief Outlaw came to Portland because she was a visionary leader and I truly wish her well in her next role. While I appreciate the work done by Chief Outlaw, the fact remains that Chiefs will come and go – but it is the culture they leave behind that matters most to our community. There is still much work to be done to make PPB the organization we need it to be, and I look forward to working with Chief Resch as she takes on this charge.”

Jami Resch, Portland’s new police chief:

“I am grateful for this amazing opportunity to lead the members of the Portland Police Bureau and collaborate with the community. Like many others in the agency, I have dedicated my career of service to the Portland community and I look forward to this new role. I am humbled and appreciative of the support of Mayor Ted Wheeler and the City Council. My primary goal is to continue the positive work Chief Outlaw and the executive team were already undertaking and keep up the momentum. There is a lot to be done to continue to support the great work being done by our sworn and professional staff, to continue to build trust within the community, and to recruit and hire the best candidates to join the PPB team.”

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler on new Police Chief Jami Resch:

“We have considered all the options for what the next police chief should bring to the Bureau and after thoughtful, in-depth discussions, Jami Resch meets or exceeds all of the Bureau’s current leadership needs. Having served as the Deputy Chief of Police, I have complete confidence that Chief Resch will excel as our next police chief. She has my complete trust and a thorough understanding of my agenda. She is the right person at the right time for the job,” Mayor Wheeler said. “Having steadily risen through the ranks within the PPB for more than 20 years, she is well-known, well-respected and trusted bureau-wide, and gives us the internal continuity we must have to keep moving in a positive direction. Chief Resch is also highly engaged within the community, serving as an active member of Police Bureau’s Muslim Council, Slavic Advisory Council and Refugee Integration Program. She has also volunteered her time with Camp Rosenbaum, Shop with a Cop and acted as a mentor for the Zman Scholarship Foundation. I am proud of the leadership team that has been established at PPB and we are fortunate to have a leader like Chief Resch ready to be our next police chief.”

The Portland Tribune

Sources: Does council have tax hike for parks in the works?

By Jim Redden

December 31, 2019

In other news, Mayor Ted Wheeler says special mayoral debates not needed, and free transit remains expensive.

Could the City Council raise taxes to provide more funds for parks next year — or ask Portlanders to do so?

Former Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz seemed to say "yes" in a recent email exchange with Southwest Community Connection editor Bill Gallagher.

Portland Parks & Recreation officials said the bureau has a \$450 million "system backlog" during a City Council work session in November. Several potential funding sources were discussed, including raising taxes on hotels/motels, cell phones, and food and beverages. Fritz seemed to rule out raising property taxes, but not all of the others.

Gallagher subsequently emailed Fritz, who will retire from the council at the end of 2020.

"It seems like long-term funding for Portland parks is going to be an important issue in the coming months. Do you think the challenge can be met while you're still on the council?" Gallagher asked.

"Yes, I hope we will vote on a funding mechanism in 2020," Fritz replied.

Wheeler: Special mayoral debates not needed

Mayor Ted Wheeler is sidestepping a challenge from 2020 primary election candidate Sarah Iannarone to schedule a series of debates on pressing issues.

Iannarone issued the challenge in a Dec. 10 news release, noting that Wheeler had made a similar challenge to Mayor Charlie Hales before Hales chose not to run for reelection.

The advantages for Iannarone for such a debate series is obvious — higher visibility in the increasingly crowded field of mayoral candidates.

But Wheeler's campaign replied that he is satisfied appearing at the debates and other public forums that will be scheduled by the media and civic groups before the May 19 election.

"We're excited to hear from the community and to work with all the candidates in the field on how we can best engage our Portland community on a variety of issues," Wheeler said a week later in a prepared statement.

If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote at the primary election, the top two vote-getters will face off in the November 2020 general election.

Free transit is expensive

Transit advocates and others arguing that TriMet rides should be free are facing a big hurdle — coming up with the \$100 million per year to replace the lost fare revenues.

During the Dec. 11 meeting of the TriMet board of directors, two members, Travis Stovall and Kathy Wai, said the regional transit agency was talking about the issue. Earlier in the month, the transit system in Kansas City, Missouri, voted to go fareless.

But after the meeting, TriMet General Manager Doug Kelsey said eliminating all fares was a low priority for the agency. One reason is that it would cost a lot more for that to happen here than it did at the smaller Kansas City agency, which only has to come up with \$12 million to close the funding gap.

TriMet has expanded its low-income fare discount program with help from the 2017 Oregon Legislature and promised not to raise fares next year.

Chief Outlaw leaving Portland for Philadelphia

By Jim Redden

December 30, 2019

Mayor Ted Wheeler will appoint Deputy Chief of Police Jami Resch to replace Outlaw, effective Jan. 1.

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw is leaving Portland to take the job of police commissioner for the city of Philadelphia. Deputy Police Chief Jami Resch will be sworn in as her replacement.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said Monday morning, Dec. 30, that the opportunity put Outlaw in a position to lead the fourth-largest police agency in the nation, with more than 6,500 sworn and 800 civilian members.

Outlaw's last day with Portland is Tuesday, Dec. 31. At noon that day, Resch will be sworn in during a private ceremony as Portland's next police chief.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Outlaw for landing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Wheeler said in a statement. "We thank her for her service to the city of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau, where she helped make a positive difference. She came to Portland exceedingly qualified for the position of police chief, and leaves more prepared than ever for her new position in Philadelphia."

Outlaw will earn \$285,000 in her new post, compared to her current salary of \$240, 926.40 in Portland, where she oversaw a department one-sixth of Philadelphia's size.

Outlaw's departure comes 26 months after she began in October 2017. In a May 2018 interview with the Portland Tribune, Outlaw shrugged off officers' suspicions that the job would be a brief stepping stone in her career.

"When I got here I asked for a five-year contract," she told the Tribune. "My thing was this: given what I'm being asked to do, it doesn't happen in three years. ... I have stuff to do."

Though tasked with being an ambassador to the public in a way that other chiefs had not, Outlaw prized her privacy, telling reporters to never call her personal number. At times she seemed to visibly chafe at the politics swirling around policing in Portland, as well the scrutiny — and even alleged stalking — that came with her job. In August 2018, she told conservative radio talk show host Lars Larson that protesters' complaints about police crowd control were like whining and complaining after someone lost a fight.

Still, she did more than most chiefs to hear from critics, said Dan Handelman, a volunteer with Portland Copwatch, which has monitored the bureau since 1992. "We just had our sixth meeting with her," he said. "That was an unusual thing about this chief, that she was willing to listen."

Rumors that her departure was imminent persisted throughout her tenure.

"Mayor Wheeler placed his confidence in me to be the police chief after conducting a meticulous selection process," Outlaw said in the written statement. "I am profoundly grateful for his continued support and acknowledgement of how challenging the work of law enforcement can be for all of us. He has been a PPB advocate since day one; championing the Bureau's needs for additional resources and understanding that one can be supportive of police and supportive of police accountability at the same time."

'Brought new ideas to Portland'

During a Philadelphia press conference Monday afternoon introducing Outlaw, Mayor Jim Kenney said he believed the city's nationwide search had "all of that led us to a truly outstanding individual."

"I think this is the right choice," Kenney told reporters.

Philadelphia is the nation's sixth-largest city, with about 1.6 million people. It covers most of Philadelphia County, which has more than 6 million residents. The city's police department has about 7,000 employees, with 6,400 officers covering nearly 142 square miles in 21 districts.

City officials said the search for a new police commissioner included 31 candidates, including 18 people already in the Philadelphia department. About 4,000 citizens offered ideas and opinions to the city on what kind of police commissioner they wanted the city to hire.

Outlaw told reporters that she was "very comfortable with the legacy I left behind in Portland. I got a lot accomplished there." She also thanked Mayor Wheeler and Portland police officers for working with her on difficult issues and in tough situations.

"I brought a lot of new ideas and change to Portland," she told reporters.

Outlaw said she became interested in the Philadelphia position after she was contacted by city officials. Taking the job "was a no-brainer," she said. Her new job pays \$285,000 a year.

She told reporters she would "work relentlessly to reduce crime here in Philadelphia." She also talked about being the first African-American woman to hold the commissioner's job.

"I was also a first in Portland, and frankly it was a distraction," Outlaw told reporters. "I've been a black woman all my life. I'm a black woman who chose a life in law enforcement. I do not take lightly that I am a first here. While I appreciate the honor, I want to be very clear that I am one of many. There are many, many people out there like me who just need their moment."

Right person for the job

Wheeler's statement said Outlaw had worked with city government to "build community trust and public confidence in the PPB." Wheeler said she "exceeded all expectations of her as police chief."

"For police chiefs, I don't think there is ever an ideal time to transition on to our next role in life," Outlaw said. "However, I am making this transition on good terms, knowing the bureau will be left in the hands of a strong leadership team, led by Chief Jami Resch."

Outlaw said it was "an honor and a privilege to serve as Portland's police chief."

She added, "I will forever be appreciative of my experience here."

Wheeler praised Resch, who he said was chosen after "thoughtful, in-depth discussions."

"Jami Resch meets or exceeds all of the bureau's current leadership needs," Wheeler said.

"Having served as the deputy chief of police, I have complete confidence that Chief Resch will

excel as our next police chief. She has my complete trust and a thorough understanding of my agenda. She is the right person at the right time for the job."

Wheeler said Resch rose through the police bureau ranks for more than 20 years, earning respect from fellow officers and the community. "She is well-known, well-respected and trusted bureau-wide, and gives us the internal continuity we must have to keep moving in a positive direction," he said.

City Commissioner Jo Anne Hardesty said Monday that she "appreciated the opportunity to work with Danielle Outlaw while she served as Portland's police chief." Hardesty said she also looked forward to working with Resch to improve the police bureau's "culture."

"(Outlaw's) job was not an easy one, but it is a vital one for our city," Hardesty said in a statement. "As an outsider, being asked to change the culture of the Portland Police Bureau required a herculean effort, as well as a support team which I fear she never found. Chief Outlaw came to Portland because she was a visionary leader and I truly wish her well in her next role.

"While I appreciate the work done by Chief Outlaw, the fact remains that chiefs will come and go, but it is the culture they leave behind that matters most to our community. There is still much work to be done to make PPB the organization we need it to be, and I look forward to working with Chief Resch as she takes on this charge."

Portland Police Bureau reassignments announced

By Jim Redden

December 31, 2019

Acting Portland Police Chief Jami Resch makes changes even before being sworn in as the permanent chief replacing Danielle Outlaw

Acting Portland Police Chief Jami Resch wasted no time reorganizing the Portland Police Bureau. She announced bureau reassignments shortly after Mayor Ted Wheeler announced her appointment on Monday, Dec. 31.

Resch is scheduled to be sworn in as permanent chief at noon on Tuesday. She will replace former Chief Danielle Outlaw, whose appointment as Police Commissioner of Philadelphia was also announced Monday.

Resch appointed Assistant Chief Chris Davis to be her Deputy Chief. Davis has served as the Assistant Chief of Operations since June of 2019. Before that, he was the Assistant Chief of Services since December 2016.

"I am appointing Chris Davis as the Deputy Chief. He has been a key member in the Chief's Office for several years and his experience and expertise will be invaluable in this new position," said Resch.

Assistant Chiefs Andrew Shearer and Ryan Lee will remain in their current positions. Resch said they are "valuable leaders in their respective roles."

The executive team collaborated and also made the following promotions and movements, effective Jan. 9:

- Commander Mike Frome will be appointed to the role of Assistant Chief of Operations

- Captain Erica Hurley will be promoted to Commander and assigned to the Transit Police Division
- Captain Craig Dobson will move from East Precinct to the Training Division in the Captain role
- East Precinct will have an Acting Captain for now who was not named

"I am grateful for this amazing opportunity to lead the members of the Portland Police Bureau and collaborate with the community," said Resch. "Like many others in the agency, I have dedicated my career of service to the Portland community and I look forward to this new role. I am humbled and appreciative of the support of Mayor Ted Wheeler and the City Council. My primary goal is to continue the positive work Chief Outlaw and the executive team were already undertaking and keep up the momentum. There is a lot to be done to continue to support the great work being done by our sworn and professional staff, to continue to build trust within the community, and to recruit and hire the best candidates to join the PPB team."

Portland continues to churn through police chiefs

*By Jim Redden
December 30, 2019*

Danielle Outlaw is only the most recent Portland police chief to leave unexpectedly

Danielle Outlaw is just the most recent Portland police chief to leave after only a few years — or less — in the office.

Mayor Ted Wheeler announced on Monday, Dec. 30, that Outlaw is leaving at the end of the year to take the job of Police Commissioner of Philadelphia. Wheeler hired Outlaw after a nation search. She was sworn in on Oct. 2, 2017, and left a little less than 26 months later.

Outlaw will be replaced as chief by Deputy Chief of Police Jami Resch on Jan. 1, 2020.

Outlaw replaced Chief Mike Marshman, who had been appointed by former Mayor Charlie Hales on June 27, 2016. Marshman replaced Larry O'Dea, who left after accidentally shooting a friend during an April hunting trip and not officially notifying anyone in the Portland Police Bureau about it, as required by bureau procedures.

But the politically sensitive chief's post had become a revolving door years before that.

Shortly after being elected mayor, Neil Goldschmidt in 1974 appointed Bruce Baker as chief. Baker retired for health reasons in 1981.

Baker was replaced by Ron Still, who remained chief until 1985.

Then-Mayor Bud Clark appointed Portland police Capt. Penny Harrington, only to dismiss her in 1986 after her husband, a police officer, was accused of compromising a drug investigation.

Clark appointed Jim Davis to replace Harrington, but fired him in April 1987 after squabbling about the bureau's budget.

Davis' replacement, Richard Walker, lasted until November 1990, when he left after being accused of slapping a female subordinate.

Clark appointed Capt. Tom Potter to replace Walker. Potter retired in June 1993.

Charles Moose served until August 1999, to be replaced by former Los Angeles police official Mark Kroecker, who resigned under pressure in August 2003.

Derrick Foxworth lasted until June 2006, when Potter, who had been elected mayor, removed him over an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate.

Potter appointed Commander Rosie Sizer, who was dismissed by Mayor Sam Adams on Jan. 10, 2019, after she publicly criticized Adams' proposed budget.

Adams appointed East Precinct Commander Mike Reese to replace Sizer. Reese retired after more than four years, to be replaced by 28-year PPB veteran O'Dea.

And this history does not include the interim chiefs between many of the permanent ones.

A Decade Done - The city that marches

*By Nick Budnick
December 30, 2019*

Portland has become famous for its protests, rallies, marches and political gatherings; mostly from the left side of the political spectrum.

In recent years local leaders have fretted and fixated on violence between protesters of different stripes on the streets of Portland.

But the recent attention to the ugly side of protests has distracted from a basic fact that where we live is not like other cities: Portlanders turn out to speak their mind publicly, in rallies, marches and public protests.

The record-breaking Obama rally of 2008, the anti-Trump rallies on election night 2016, the gigantic Women's March in 2017 and the students' March for our Lives in 2018 have all solidified Portland's reputation as an activist, leftist enclave.

For Barack Obama's campaign appearance, an estimated 75,000 people took over Portland's waterfront — more than double his previous record in Philadelphia.

In 2016, when Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential election, protesters took to the streets three nights in a row.

On Jan. 21, 2017, the day after Trump's inauguration, the local version of the national Women's March was expected to draw 20,000 to 30,000 people, but instead drew between 50,000 to 100,000.

On March 24, 2018, the student-led March for Our Lives rally filled the streets of down Portland.

The event, organized by students and calling for an end to illegal gun violence, drew about 12,000 people, police estimated.

All this free speech came with a cost: Portland police released figures in late 2018 showing spending of \$3.5 million on policing protests between 2016 and 2018.

Portland has been known for protests before. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush reputedly called the city "Little Beirut" based on protests of his visit here.

Then, on May 1, 2000, hundreds of protesters who marched for workers' rights on May Day were met with what some observers called a "police riot."

This, in turn, led to several years of active anti-capitalist protests, punctuated by drummers and dancing, organized by members of what was informally known as The Movement.

In 2004 the protest scene faded for a time, coinciding with tensions between labor activists and environmentalist wings of Portland's anti-capitalist scene.

The tensions stemmed from worker unrest at an upscale vegan restaurant set up by a prominent local environmental activist and protest figure, Craig Rosebraugh, a spokesman for the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front.

Workers at the restaurant struck and were fired, which became a focal point for organizing by Portland's vibrant chapter of the Wobblies, the Industrial Workers of the World — who themselves were stalwarts of Portland's protest scene.

The dispute exposed Rosebraugh to accusations of hypocrisy and of being a "petit-bourgeois capitalist."

Willamette Week

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw Will Become Police Commissioner in Philadelphia

*By Nigel Jaquiss
December 30, 2019*

The first black woman to lead the Portland Police Bureau always had her eye on a bigger job and moves on after a little more than two years here.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw is moving to a bigger job. Later this week, she'll be sworn in as the Philadelphia police commissioner.

It's a huge move up for the chief, who arrived here in August 2017 from Oakland, where she was deputy chief. Portland has about 900 police officers; Philadelphia has the nation's fourth largest police force with 6,500 officers.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Outlaw for landing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Mayor Ted Wheeler said in a statement. "We thank her for her service to the City of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau, where she helped make a positive difference. She came to Portland exceedingly qualified for the position of police chief, and leaves more prepared than ever for her new position in Philadelphia."

Outlaw's departure, first reported this morning by The Oregonian, is not a great surprise. Prior to taking the job in Portland, the high-flyer from Oakland interviewed for other chief's jobs around the country and continued to network in a variety of national forums after Wheeler hired her.

A November 2018 WW cover story noted Outlaw's heavy travel schedule and speculation within the bureau that she was a short-timer.

Outlaw denied at the time she was seeking to move to a bigger job.

"People are seeing in me something that I'm not even thinking about," she told WW then.

Outlaw sounded a different note today.

"For police chiefs, I don't think there is ever an ideal time to transition on to our next role in life. However, I am making this transition on good terms, knowing the Bureau will be left in the hands of a strong leadership team," Outlaw said in a statement. "I leave knowing the Bureau will remain committed to community safety while building trust. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Portland's Police Chief, serving alongside the members of the Bureau and partnering with countless, remarkable individuals within Portland's community. I will forever be appreciative of my experience here."

Much of Outlaw's energy in her two years in Portland was directed at controlling the violent confrontations between extremist protesters that have rattled Portland. A right-wing group called Patriot Prayer regularly visits Portland, seeking bloody fights with local antifascists.

In 2018, she championed an ordinance that would have allowed her and the mayor to decide when and where protesters could gather. City Council rejected it. This year, WW revealed emails between a police lieutenant and Patriot Prayer organizer Joey Gibson; an outside investigation found Outlaw and other top police officials knew about those communications but failed to defend their officer.

After a freelance writer named Andy Ngo was assaulted by masked leftist protesters in June, right-wing groups from across the country pledged to descend on Portland to restore "law and order." Police began arresting longtime political brawlers who had attacked people—and that, combined with other new tactics, seemed to have a chilling effect on the violence. But Portland remains a target of violent right-wing groups.

In December, the fatal police shooting of a troubled, knife-wielding man named Koben Henriksen outside a Starbucks renewed longstanding questions about police use of force against people with mental illness.

Those problems now fall to another chief.

Wheeler has already chosen Outlaw's successor: Deputy Chief of Police Jami Resch, a longtime PPB veteran.

"We have considered all the options for what the next police chief should bring to the Bureau and after thoughtful, in-depth discussions, Jami Resch meets or exceeds all of the Bureau's current leadership needs," Wheeler said.

"I have complete confidence that Chief Resch will excel as our next police chief. She has my complete trust and a thorough understanding of my agenda. She is the right person at the right time for the job," Wheeler said.

The Portland Mercury

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw Has Resigned

*By Alex Zielinski
December 30, 2019*

Danielle Outlaw has shut the door on her career as Portland's chief of police, just over two years after accepting the job.

On Friday, Outlaw informed Mayor Ted Wheeler that she accepted a job as Philadelphia's police commissioner. Tuesday is Outlaw's last day of work at the Portland Police Bureau (PPB).

According to the Oregonian, who first reported the news this morning, Outlaw had requested to stay in her position as chief until January 1, but the city rejected that request. Instead, Deputy Chief of Police Jami Resch—who's spent the past 20 years climbing ranks within PPB—will be sworn in during a private ceremony as Portland's next police chief Tuesday afternoon.

“For police chiefs, I don’t think there is ever an ideal time to transition on to our next role in life,” said Outlaw in a morning press release. “However, I am making this transition on good terms, knowing the bureau will be left in the hands of a strong leadership team, led by Chief Jami Resch. And while there will always be work to be done toward improvement, that does not take away from the fact that the members of the Bureau are not only extremely talented, compassionate and professional, they are also resilient and accountable to themselves, each other, and to the community.”

Outlaw will begin her job in Philadelphia on February 10.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said he's expecting Outlaw to guide serious reforms within a police bureau that's been fraught with sexual assault charges against high-up officers, and rampant racism.

“While I have tremendous respect for our officers, the Philadelphia Police Department needs reform,” wrote Kenney in a press statement. “I am appointing Danielle Outlaw because I am convinced she has the conviction, courage, and compassion needed to bring long-overdue reform to the department.”

Kenney mentioned Outlaw's work addressing excessive force against Portlanders experiencing a mental health crisis. Portland is close to meeting all of its requirements set out in a 2012 settlement agreement with the US Department of Justice meant to improve police officers' disproportionately violent interactions with mentally ill Portlanders.

And yet, 2019 saw the highest number (four) of fatal shootings of people in a mental health crisis by PPB officers since 2010. Outlaw has blamed that number on the flaws within Portland's mental health system.

The abrupt transition comes a month before the City of Portland is expected to enter contract negotiations with PPB's rank and file union, the Portland Police Association (PPA). In an interview with the Philadelphia Inquirer, PPA President Daryl Turner said, “You’re getting a damn good chief. We hate to lose her.”

Outlaw's departure doesn't come as a surprise to many Portlanders who suspected the 43-year-old to be using her time in Portland as a mere stepping-stone between her longtime career at Oakland’s police department and a position as police chief in a city larger than Portland.

“I knew it was probably going to be a temporary job for her,” says Teresa Raiford, a candidate in Portland's 2020 mayoral election and founder of Don't Shoot Portland. “I said from the start, we got to look to hire a chief that's local. Someone who's invested in this community.”

Wheeler appointed Outlaw to be Portland's chief of police in 2017, making her the first African American woman to hold the position, after a rigorous three-month search.

Raiford says she believed Outlaw's hire was an act of propaganda from Wheeler's office.

“She was hired because we had protests focused on black lives,” says Raiford, pointing to the national coverage of Portland's Black Lives Matter rallies. “The city's response was to say, ‘We have a black chief of police, so we aren't racist.’ The representation was important, but she didn't show up for the Black community.”

Outlaw will also be the first African American woman to be appointed police commissioner in Philadelphia.

Portland Copwatch's Dan Handelman tells the Mercury, "I guess my first reaction is this is both expected and unexpected."

"We didn't think she was going to last long, since she was coming from outside the city. It's always harder when a chief isn't already part of the community," Handelman says. "But she did seem to be made inroads with the community. So this was a little out of the blue."

The last time Portland hired a police chief from outside the metropolitan area—Mark Kroeker, in 2000—he lasted only three years.

Since joining PPB, Outlaw has advocated for expanding the city's 1,000-member police force. Philadelphia, which is just over twice the size of Portland, has a police force of 6,500—more than six times Portland's size.

In a press statement, Wheeler thanked Outlaw for her work in Portland and shared his confidence in incoming Chief Resch.

"[Resch] has my complete trust and a thorough understanding of my agenda. She is the right person at the right time for the job," Wheeler said. "...She is well-known, well-respected and trusted bureau-wide, and gives us the internal continuity we must have to keep moving in a positive direction."

OPB

Danielle Outlaw Is Out As Portland Police Chief

*By Lauren Dake and Rebecca Ellis
December 30, 2019*

Chief Danielle Outlaw, who led the Portland Police Bureau for a little more than two years, is leaving to serve as the Police Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia.

Outlaw was the first African American woman to lead the police bureau in Portland and will also become the first African American woman to lead the much larger Philadelphia police force.

Philadelphia's police department is the fourth-largest in the nation, with a police force greater than 6,500, compared to Portland's 1000-member force. Mayor Ted Wheeler congratulated Outlaw in a statement calling her new position a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Outlaw's last day with the city of Portland will be Tuesday. Wheeler announced Deputy Chief of Police Jami Resch will serve as the next police chief.

Outlaw said in a statement there is never "an ideal time to transition on to our next role in life," but she added, she's leaving the transition "on good terms" and is confident Resch will serve as a strong leader.

Daryl Turner, the president of the Portland Police Association, said he first heard about Outlaw's departure early Monday morning, along with the rest of the city. He said that while he was surprised to hear Outlaw was departing so soon, it did not come as a shock that she had caught the attention of the fourth largest police force in the nation.

“As Portland has been in the national spotlight for the last year or so, obviously that puts a spotlight on the chief of police and how they react to those issues. And I think, nationally, that was seen as a positive for Chief Outlaw,” he said.

Asked about what he saw as Outlaw’s largest accomplishments over her two years, Turner said he was most impressed by her ability to maintain “the same level of service” while the bureau continued to be plagued with severe staffing shortages.

In her short tenure, Outlaw found herself in the midst of controversy more than once. In one, friendly text messages between a police lieutenant and Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson surfaced, prompting criticism from the mayor and some commissioners. An investigation eventually cleared the officer at the center of the controversy, noting he was doing his job by cultivating a relationship with the right-wing group organizer.

Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty who has criticized the police force, most recently questioning why officers targeted two black protesters in a crowd of student activists in September, called Outlaw a “visionary leader.”

“As an outsider, being asked to change the culture of the Portland Police Bureau required a herculean effort, as well as a support team which I fear she never found,” Hardesty said in a statement, adding later, “While I appreciate the work done by Chief Outlaw, the fact remains that Chiefs will come and go – but it is the culture they leave behind that matters most to our community. There is still much work to be done to make PPB the organization we need it to be, and I look forward to working with Chief Resch as she takes on this charge.”

Dan Handelman, leader of advocacy group Portland Copwatch, said he believed Resch made an “unusual” pick for police chief, as she had quickly risen through the ranks. But he also said it was important to get the position filled and not leave more instability with the bureau.

“I think one of the problems both for the officers and for the community is the instability that we have at the Bureau,” he said. “We’ve been at this for 28 years and I’ve lost count of how many chiefs there have been.”

There have been 11 police chiefs since 1990 – not including soon-to-be chief Resch. Handelman said Outlaw stood out from her predecessors in meeting with CopWatch six times over her tenure – triple the rate of her predecessors.

But Handelman said he’d been disappointed not to see more progress when it came to the bureau’s treatment of people with mental health issues. He pointed to the recent death of 51-year-old-Koben Henriksen, who was fatally shot last month by police and suffered from schizophrenia, and the statement made by Outlaw after in which she said the case “highlights the systemic failures of the mental health system, which continues to recycle individuals rather than resolve the underlying issues.”

“It was almost identical to what chief [Rosie] Sizer said after James Chasse was killed in 2006, blaming the mental health system for the behavior of the officers that caused the death of a community member,” said Handelman. “And so it brings us back 13 years to be back in the same place. You know, I’m still blaming others for what the police are doing. So I’m not sure how much of lasting legacy that is.”

Before arriving in Portland, Outlaw was the deputy chief in Oakland, California for four years. Outlaw is from Oakland, and worked her way up from patrol officer to a deputy chief in charge of more than 400 people. She served nearly 20 years with the Oakland Police Department. Now, she’s reported to be leaving a job she had told reporters she was committed to for the long haul.

Her replacement, Resch, has been with the Portland Police Bureau for two decades and has been serving as deputy chief since May of this year. In a tweet Monday, Wheeler called Resch “well-respected, trusted” and said he looked forward to her leadership.

In a statement, Portland mayoral candidate Sarah Iannarone wrote that she was alarmed Wheeler had named Outlaw’s successor so quickly.

“I’ve been a vocal critic of Wheeler’s staffing choices throughout his administration, so it’s difficult for me to trust his snap judgment in this instance,” she wrote. “In the hiring of the last chief, Wheeler promised Portlanders a transparent process which we did not get; it’s not clear to me how this is an improvement over that.”

Outlaw will begin her new role in February. Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said Outlaw was picked after a four-month search in which more than 30 candidates were considered.

The Philadelphia police force has been marred by scandal in recent years. Kenney said Outlaw was chosen because he is convinced she has the conviction and compassion to bring much-needed reforms to his police force.

“With our support, she will tackle a host of difficult issues, from racism and gender discrimination, to horrid instances of sexual assault on fellow officers,” Kenney said in a statement. “These are issues that too often negatively impact women – especially women of color – within the Department. Commissioner Outlaw will implement reforms with urgency, so that racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination are not tolerated.”

Outlaw has a bachelor’s of arts in sociology from the University of San Francisco and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.