

The Oregonian

Jami Resch, Portland's new police chief, introduced by mayor as 'best person for the job'

By Maxine Bernstein

January 6, 2020

Jami L. Resch pledged Monday in her first public outing as Portland's new police chief to be a "collaborative chief" who will work to be out in the community as much as possible.

Resch said she'll continue the momentum that predecessor Danielle Outlaw began and said she hopes to serve out the remaining five years of her career as the city's chief.

The 45-year-old police veteran will mark 21 years with the Portland bureau in February. She addressed news reporters from a 14th floor conference room of the Justice Center with Mayor Ted Wheeler by her side, a week after news broke that Outlaw had accepted a job as Philadelphia's next police commissioner.

Resch said she's dedicated to working to stem gun violence and traffic-related deaths, speeding up hiring to fill a growing number of officer vacancies, working to hold officers accountable, improving trust in the city and continuing to seek help from outside agencies as Portland braces for large protests in this upcoming election year. There are 100 vacancies in the bureau, leaving 901 sworn officers on the job.

"It's a little bit overwhelming but it's a very proud moment," Resch said. "I never wanted Chief Outlaw to leave, but I'm honored to take over."

Resch received a call from Wheeler on Dec. 27 offering her the top job, a day after Outlaw phoned him to say she planned to accept the Philadelphia post. On Saturday, Resch showed up at the bureau to attend its monthly Muslim Advisory Council meeting, a group she's been involved with for several years. Earlier Monday morning, she welcomed four new officers hired by the bureau.

Wheeler said he chose Resch because he believes she can "seamlessly" continue to make the improvements in the police force that he and residents want. He said she's been crucial in setting a vision for the bureau as deputy chief, demonstrated she can work well with city commissioners and is respected by rank-and-file officers and other command staff.

"I made an executive decision because I had my eye on Chief Resch for quite some time," he said. "I know what she's capable of ... I already knew her. I already trusted her and I believe she's the best person for the job."

Resch, a Montana native who grew up in the Beaverton area, graduated from Beaverton High School and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Portland, where she majored in allied health services with a minor in psychology.

She had a plan to become a doctor. When that didn't transpire, she ended up becoming part of the Police Bureau's "Operation 80," a large class of recruits hired at the same time in February 1999.

"In all honesty, it was something that I did almost to see if I could," she said of her switch to law enforcement. "I had never been on a ride-along. I had never shot a gun. I had never done anything related to police work."

Since then, she's enjoyed a quick rise in the bureau. She became deputy chief under Outlaw in May after serving a year as assistant chief of investigations. She was promoted to captain's rank in October 2016.

She was a captain at North Precinct and an acting commander there, a lieutenant at East Precinct and in the criminal intelligence unit, a sergeant of the gun task force, a manager of the Portland Police Honor Guard and a critical incident commander. She's also worked as a neighborhood response team officer and crime analyst for the former Gang Enforcement Team in the bureau's Tactical Operations Division.

Resch was sworn in as chief during a private ceremony last Tuesday at the Police Bureau, a day after Outlaw was introduced in Philadelphia as the next police commissioner. A public swearing-in ceremony is set for Thursday morning.

Serving under Outlaw, Resch said she was impressed by Outlaw's ability to relate to people.

"There were a lot of things that Chief Outlaw did exceptionally well," Resch said. "I tried to learn as much from her as I could while she was here. She was very articulate in her public speaking. She bonded well immediately with people. They got an instant sense from her that she was compassionate about her job and her relationships that she had with the community, and I would like to continue that."

Resch said she expects that her experience rising within the Portland police force and familiarity with the city could help her foster important community relationships.

"Having been here as long as I have been, I might be able to move some of these relationships farther, quicker," she said.

Outlaw, an outsider from Oakland, started in Portland in October 2017 after a national search and served two years and two months.

Wheeler decided against conducting another national search based on several factors, he said.

"There's a lot going on at the Police Bureau," he said. He cited budget preparations getting underway, police contract talks starting this month and called it a "delicate" time for the city in its effort to comply with a federal settlement arising from an investigation into police use of force against people with mental illness.

"Chief Resch is the right person to continue to drive that momentum," the mayor said.

Wheeler also had concerns that he'd be at a disadvantage in attracting other strong candidates in a year when he's up for reelection in May.

Resch took some of her time at the podium before news cameras to plead for community help to solve seven shootings that occurred over New Year's Eve and to spread awareness about traffic fatalities, urging motorists not to speed or drive while drunk or distracted. She also said she supports body cameras for police and that the policy is still being developed.

Wendi Steinbronn, who retired from the Police Bureau as North Precinct's commander and is now Washougal police chief, described Resch as "hard working, very humble and no-nonsense."

"She has a great sense of humor, and I can't think of anyone in the Bureau who has ever said anything negative about her," Steinbronn said. "That is a rare quality."

Steinbronn said she first met Resch when Resch was part of the bureau's "Operation 80" class. Mike Frome, who Resch appointed last week to serve as her assistant chief of operations, also was in that class.

Shortly after Resch was promoted to sergeant and working night shift at East Precinct, Steinbronn recalled how Resch's night crew of officers were complaining about their district assignments in the precinct territory.

"She showed up to roll call the next day and had all the district assignments on pieces of paper and each officer had to draw a slip and whatever they drew was their district for that shift," Steinbronn said. "This of course put a stop to the complaining."

Resch will set a great example, Steinbronn said. Yet Resch is also one not to take herself too seriously.

"I think she's had a great variety of assignments that will serve her well," Steinbronn said. She described Resch as a collaborative leader who will delegate responsibilities but ultimately will take responsibility for decisions made under her command.

"I'm very excited for her. She's a strong leader and very deserving of the role," Steinbronn said.

Resch also won praise for her work with vulnerable communities in Portland.

Musse Olol, vice chair of the bureau's Muslim Advisory Council and president of the Somalia American Council of Oregon, and Laila Hajoo, president of Islamic Social Services of Oregon who is on the advisory council's board, both called Resch a caring, trustworthy officer who has supported the council for years. She helped bring together different sects of Muslims to participate together in the group, which previously had been called the Arab-Muslim Advisory Council.

"She's very accessible. She's very easy to talk to," Olol said. He always admired how Resch would visit mosques in the city on Ramadan and introduce herself to worshippers to try to give them a sense of security, he said.

"She was instrumental in supporting us whenever we needed her to be there for us. She was the most reliable officer we saw from the Police Bureau," Olol said.

He was pleased to learn she was selected chief but not surprised, he said. "I knew that was the trajectory she was headed," he said. "She had that levelheadedness and humbleness and understanding and a willingness to learn."

At their Saturday meeting, Hajoo said, council members talked about a recent alleged hate crime against a Portland State University foreign exchange student who had her hijab grabbed from her head. They discussed the need to reach out to the university's public safety officers to encourage them to contact the council so members could provide support for the student. Resch has built that trust with council members, Hajoo said.

Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie, who served as director of Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program for two and a half years, said Resch often turned out at Portland International Airport to help welcome new refugee families. She would come in uniform and help grab their luggage, load it into cars and hand out welcome bags or water, Soneoulay-Gillespie said. She'd also encourage other officers to join her.

One night, a family was leery of putting their child in a car seat, but Resch helped in a friendly, fun way, making the child laugh as she explained how the seat worked, Soneoulay-Gillespie said. Resch also has annually attended Refugee Adjustment Day, helping serve food or watch children in the daycare area as refugees get help on how to apply for green cards, Soneoulay-Gillespie said.

"For Jami, it's not just showing up to show face," she said. "She comes to contribute."

Officer Daryl Turner, president of the Portland Police Association that represents Portland officers, sergeants and detectives, said he was Resch's last field training officer before she was allowed to work alone on patrol as a rookie cop. Turner called Resch smart and hard-working.

Salem Deputy Chief George Burke, who retired from the Portland Police Bureau as North Precinct commander in 2016, worked closely with Resch, who was a captain in the precinct under him. He said she worked to ensure that supervisors were meeting federal settlement requirements in writing after-action police reports.

"She would be the one who would make sure those things were done and done on time," he said. "She's very systematic, meticulous."

More than many top police commanders, Resch also is open to others' opinions and advice, Burke said.

"I think she knows what she doesn't know," he said. "For a person who is the chief executive of the Police Bureau, she's a very humble person and really willing to hear from her people. She's much more open in seeking input from others."

Resch, who made \$185,556.80 as the bureau's No. 2 cop, will be paid an annual salary of \$215,000.

During her career, she's also been a member of the bureau's Slavic advisory council and active in the Catholic Charities' Refugee Integration Program. Resch also volunteered her time with Camp Rosenbaum, Shop with a Cop and acted as a mentor for the Z-man Scholarship Foundation, according to the bureau.

Resch was married to a Portland firefighter for 22 years before their divorce in 2017. They have two sons. She's now dating a recently promoted Portland police lieutenant, David Michaelson.

The bureau confirmed the two have been in a long-term relationship and said they're registered as domestic partners with the Bureau of Human Resources. "Even before her promotion, there has been a plan in place to ensure that she will not play a role in any decisions regarding him," police spokesman Sgt. Kevin Allen said in an email.

Homeless campsite clean-ups stopped during Portland commissioners divide over contract

By Molly Harbarger

January 6, 2020

The City of Portland has halted all homeless camp clean-ups while officials debate whether to authorize a new contract for the work. According to a memo, the city has not responded to complaints about camps for at least a week now.

City Council was supposed to vote on the new contract in mid-December, but it was pulled from the council agenda the day of the meeting. Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty criticized the contract for some of its new additions -- changes the mayor's office says will make the clean-up work more humane and useful to the city.

The contract is back on the Jan. 8 agenda, and Monday, it seems the commissioners found a compromise that will enable clean-ups to start after the Wednesday vote.

The stakes are reminiscent of a six-month stretch under former Mayor Charlie Hales, who ordered a stop to homeless camp sweeps under what he called a “safe sleep” policy. It was roundly criticized by Portland residents, business leaders and police for what they said resulted in rampant trash and tents near shopping districts, pedestrian paths and neighborhoods.

Currently, through the city’s hotline, One Point of Contact, every complaint about a homeless person, camp or RV is vetted by a team of people who rate the site on a variety of metrics, such as the appearance of drugs and needles, how many yards of trash are visible and if there is obvious criminal activity.

If the camp scores above a certain threshold, a crew of biohazard cleaners are dispatched to move the people living there, then go through the remaining belongings, sorting it into trash and useable property, which is stored in a police facility.

The system has undergone significant changes since it was first implemented. In the last fiscal year, the program cleaned 3,122 campsites, removed 8,400 gallons of human waste, 1,300 tons of garbage, and removed 28,909 hypodermic syringes.

Those numbers have generally increased since the program started in 2014.

City officials have long said that the clean-ups are necessary to make conditions more safe and sanitary for people living outside and to appease business owners and neighbors who are upset about homeless camps.

Portland's housed and unhoused neighbors try to live with each other

Although the city and Multnomah County are devoting unprecedented levels of money and staffing to lessening the effects on homeless and housed people alike, the two groups' coexistence remains uneasy in most neighborhoods where it occurs. Currently, it ranges from a reluctant truce in North Portland's Overlook to a crackdown-induced retreat of homeless from Laurelhurst to a caldron of complaints and mistrust in Lents.

But the people who clean up have also clashed with people living in camps. They’ve also been the first to find three people who died from drug overdoses in the last six months, according to the mayor’s office.

Officials with the mayor’s office say they have listened to homeless people, advocates and workers to make the scope of work in the new contract more compassionate and effective.

The new contract adds language that says clean-up workers “must be polite, diplomatic and professional at all times, and treat all persons with dignity and respect. Discrimination and harassment shall not be tolerated in any form.”

It also requires that they be trained to administer the drug to reverse opioid overdoses, commonly called naloxone or Narcan, and CPR.

When the weather turns freezing and snowy, those clean-up crews then become outreach workers who are supposed to check on campers’ safety and well-being, distribute hand warmers and trash bags and help them get to shelter.

“We can effectively address public health, environmental, and public safety issues in problematic camps while also being compassionate in our approach,” said Mayor Ted Wheeler in a statement Monday. “This contract achieves both goals. This is the case that I will make to my City Council colleagues on Wednesday.”

These duties would all fall to Rapid Response Bio Clean, which has been doing the city's camp clean-ups for the past five years. The city had a second contractor, Pacific Patrol Services, but let that contract expire at the end of November without renewing it.

The city was only authorized to spend \$5 million on clean ups for the past five years. During that time, the city absorbed the clean-up responsibilities of the Oregon Department of Transportation. While that work came with an extra infusion of money, the city has still spent more than was allocated.

When City Council approved drafting a new contract with the intent to sign it at the end of December, another \$5 million was set aside for the next five years.

But when Wheeler pulled the new contract from the December agenda in the midst of criticism from Hardesty and homeless advocates, the city spent down the rest of the money.

Lucas Hillier, the program manager for the city's clean-up coordination system, wrote in a memo dated Jan. 2 to the council that Rapid Response employees had been told to stop working, and can't resume until the council decides what to do.

The council could also choose to temporarily extend the current contract, but that would mean Rapid Response employees would not be beholden to the additional stipulations.

Few have taken issue with the changes to the contract. Instead, criticism focuses on those doing the work.

Hardesty said that she doesn't think one company, created around cleaning up biowaste, should also be entrusted to act as outreach workers and medical first responders.

She said she is also concerned about the trauma homeless people experience from constantly being moved and often losing their belongings during the moves.

She joined Street Roots Executive Director Kaia Sand in calling for a reconsideration of the contract. Sand, a homeless advocate with the newspaper of the same name, asked for a six-month delay before approving a new contract to allow advocates and others to figure out an alternative to the One Point of Contact system.

However, that would likely mean no clean-ups would happen for six months.

But Monday, after a meeting with Wheeler, she announced that she was willing to vote for the new contract -- for the time being.

The contract only covers one year, after which it must be voted to be renewed for the following four years. Hardesty said she is willing to let the work happen for that first year as laid out in the contract, because the new stipulations make it more palatable than extending the current contract.

In the meantime, the commissioners will discuss the camp clean-up system in a work session and hold community meetings to get feedback. She also said she got assurance from Wheeler that he is open to splitting up the Rapid Response contract into smaller ones that assign some of the tasks the biohazard company performs to other groups.

"There is no easy solution to this issue, but I do believe we can and should address it with compassion," Hardesty said in a statement. "I remain committed to working on a long-term solution with the Mayor and my colleagues that minimizes trauma and public health concerns that ultimately is rooted in our city's housing crisis. As always, I know that complex problems are best addressed with many voices and I thank those of you that have reached out or met with me to have your voice heard. I am always willing to change my mind and we are best able to address problems when we listen to each other and work together."

The Portland Tribune

Portland office-seeker slams campaign finance complaint

*By Zane Sparling
January 06, 2020*

Mayoral hopeful Ozzie González one of three candidates subject to complaint regarding \$500 cap on campaign donations

Portland mayoral candidate Ozzie González pushed back against a complaint that his campaign accepted donations above the limit approved by voters — saying candidates of color do not get the same level of press or fundraising as their white counterparts.

"The complaint filed against me is working against inclusion," González said at City Hall on Monday, Jan. 6. "If I am to become the next mayor of Portland, the wrong thing for me to do is to put additional limitations on my campaign."

Portland voters approved a \$500 cap for individual donations to campaigns — and a \$10,000 limit for political committee expenditures — in late 2018, following in the footsteps of a similar ballot measure approved for Multnomah County elections in 2016.

But in both cases, Multnomah County judge Eric Bloch found the limits unconstitutional, hewing to the legal doctrine that money is a form of free speech. Portland's limits were struck down in June, and the decision to uphold or overturn that decision now rests with the Oregon Supreme Court.

In the meantime, advocates contend that the rule is still in effect.

"If they wanted to, any one of them could file a lawsuit and ask for an injunction, and nobody's done it," attorney Dan Meek told the Tribune. "Adopting limits on contributions is a means of leveling the playing field and it definitely harms incumbents more than anyone else."

The local advocacy group that pushed the reforms, Honest Elections, filed complaints with the City Auditor's office on Dec. 19, highlighting donations to four candidates:

- González, an architect, is accused of accepting four contributions over the limit, including one \$10,000 donation from Rick Stanley, for a total of \$14,000.
- Incumbent Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler is accused of accepting 15 contributions of cash and in-kind donations over the limit, for a total of roughly \$40,000
- Jack Kerfoot, who is running for Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's seat, is accused of accepting four donations he made by transferring his own money to his campaign, for a total of \$106,000.
- Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, who is up for re-election, is accused of accepting 17 donations over the limit or made by corporations rather than individuals, for a total of about \$9,000.

Wheeler's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but announced in November that he would set voluntary donation limits of \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for unions or organizations.

At City Hall, González pledged to follow the fundraising limits set by the city's Open & Accountable Elections program, which is a total of \$380,000 raised for the primary and an

additional \$570,000 for the general election. He then challenged Mayor Wheeler to adopt the same voluntary limit.

"This race will not be won by the person with the most money," González said.

So far, the only mayoral candidate certified by the Open & Accountable Elections program, which provides a six-to-one match for every dollar donated, is Sarah Iannarone.

Portland mayor candidate Michael Burleson suspends campaign

By Zane Sparling

January 06, 2020

The candidate announced Monday, Jan. 6 that he would suspend his campaign for mayor of the city of Portland.

Michael Burleson appears to be out of the race for mayor of Portland.

"I am announcing today the suspension of my campaign for mayor," the 26-year-old candidate wrote on Monday, Jan. 6 "I appreciate everyone's support. More details to come."

Burleson's platform included support for the Green New Deal, criminal justice reform, a new public bank and taxes based on "ability to pay," according to campaign website. That likely would have placed Burleson to incumbent Mayor Ted Wheeler's left during the run-up to the primary election in May.

The Burleson for the People campaign has of shortfall of \$166.07 due to outstanding personal expenditures, records report. He is not currently employed, according to a statement of organization filed with the Secretary of State's office, but wrote on LinkedIn that he studied environmental law at Lewis & Clark.

He told KATU in an interview last year that he is a native of Garland, Texas.

Other candidates challenging Mayor Wheeler include Teressa Raiford, Ozzie González, Sarah Iannarone, Michael O'Callaghan, Herbert Bruce Broussard and Cash Carter.

New police Chief Resch vows to continue improvements

By Nick Budnick

January 06, 2020

Mayor Wheeler says he didn't need a national search, decided known quantity would be best police bureau leader.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said Monday that he chose new police Chief Jami Resch because he and Resch wanted to continue bureau changes started by former Chief Danielle Outlaw.

"I pledge to continue to support all of the great work that is already being done," Resch told reporters in her first public appearance since accepting the job in late December. "I plan to continue the commitment to ever-improving PPB and our relationships within the community. Now is the time to continue the momentum. It is not the time to remain status quo or veer in a different direction."

Wheeler told reporters during a Jan. 6 press conference that the goal was "seamlessly continuing the great work that's already taking place within the Portland Police Bureau."

Resch, 45, became police chief Dec. 31, one day after Outlaw was named police commissioner in Philadelphia. Resch was hired by the bureau in 1999 and has worked in several bureau positions. She became a sergeant in 2008. She was promoted to lieutenant in 2012 and became a captain in 2016. Outlaw promoted her to assistant chief in May 2018, and then to deputy chief on May 23, 2019.

"I have five years left here and I would love to spend every last one of those standing right here in this position."

Resch said she would continue to improve community relationships and would focus on reducing gun violence, citing the seven shootings that took place early on New Year's Day. She promised transparency and expressed support for equipping Portland officers with body-worn cameras. As other chiefs have before her, she expressed concern about police staffing levels, saying the bureau faces waves of new retirements that could worsen to the situation.

But she struck a very positive tone, repeatedly complimenting police officers and members of the public she's worked with.

"The best part about this job 100% hands down is the people," Resch told reporters. "The people who work for the Police Bureau, the people I've got to meet, the friendships that I've made. You know, when everybody retires from the Police Bureau, that's what they miss the most. And I know that that's what I'll miss the most when I do leave, which is not going to be anytime soon."

Outlaw left after two years as chief. Resch noted she has five years until she qualifies for retirement.

"I have five years left here and I would love to spend every last one of those standing right here in this position," she said.

Willamette Week

Nick Fish's Last Campaign Contribution? Re-Gifting Gordon Sondland's Money to a Women's Crisis Hotline.

By Nigel Jaquiss

January 6, 2020

Filings show Fish made up a \$250 deficit by writing a personal check to his campaign.

Contribution of the Week

HOW MUCH: \$1,500

WHO GAVE IT? Late City Commissioner Nick Fish

WHO GOT IT? Call to Safety (formerly Portland Women's Crisis Line)

WHY IS IT INTERESTING? Fish, who died of cancer Jan. 2, clearly sensed late last year that his days in office were drawing to a close. In November, he learned Portland Monthly would soon report allegations that U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland had sexually harassed three women, including former Fish staffer Natalie Sept. (Sondland denied the allegations.)

Sondland gave Fish \$1,500 a decade ago. On Nov. 18, Fish donated \$1,500 from his campaign fund to Call to Safety, which helps women suffering from domestic violence.

Filings show that was more than Fish had in his campaign account, so he made up the \$250 deficit by writing a personal check Nov. 25 to his campaign. "Nick represented the Portland Women's Crisis Line [as a lawyer] before he was elected to the council," says Fish's chief of staff, Sonia Schmanski. "He took the offense very seriously and wouldn't have been comfortable with himself if he had kept that money."

Portland Mayor Defends Choice to Promote New Police Chief Jami Resch

*By Tess Riski
January 6, 2020*

"I had my eye on Chief Resch for a long time," Ted Wheeler said. "I know what she's capable of."

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler today defended what he described as an "executive decision" to make an internal hire for police chief in the wake of former Chief Danielle Outlaw's sudden departure.

During a press conference this morning, Wheeler said his decision to promote Deputy Chief Jami Resch wasn't sudden.

"I already knew her, I already trusted her, and I believe she's the best person for the job. So that's why I made the decision that I did," Wheeler said. "I had my eye on Chief Resch for a long time. As the deputy chief, I've already developed a working relationship with her. I know what she's capable of."

Outlaw left the department last month to become the police commissioner in Philadelphia. Wheeler's decision to forego a national search with public input—like the one he conducted for Outlaw—drew some criticism in the wake of the announcement, including from his leading opponent in the upcoming mayoral race, Sarah Iannarone.

"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," Iannarone said in a statement to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Resch, who is a 21-year veteran of the Portland Police Bureau and the former deputy chief, today described her approach to policing as "collaborative" and emphasized the need to draw on the resources of other agencies and bureaus in the event of protests. She also signaled that she expects more of the violent dueling protests that have made Portland a national target for right-wing groups.

"2020 is an election year and we will anticipate demonstrations," she said. "We're reaching out. We're not trying to do it on our own. We're trying to gather as much information ahead of [demonstrations] and really establish whose responsibility is what."

Among the few tidbits of news Resch dropped: She said she is "very supportive" of police body cameras, and that she would like to see the creation of a pilot program for such cameras during her tenure as chief.

"We must remain accountable, transparent and continue to improve our trust within the community," Resch said. "I am excited to lead an organization that has such dedicated individuals doing this work."

The Skanner

New Community Themed Mural Unveiled at Portland Fire & Rescue

January 6, 2020

On January 3, a new piece of public art was installed at Portland Fire & Rescue's main administrative building at SW Ash Street and Naito Parkway. The colorful mural by Portland artists Addie Boswell and Antwoine Thomas was commissioned by Portland Fire Chief Sara Boone and managed by the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC).

When Fire Chief Sara Boone was sworn in, she communicated that the three areas she considers to be the pillars of Portland Fire & Rescue are community, service, and sacrifice.

In her first weeks, Chief Boone installed new lighting and painted an accent wall behind the portrait of Chief David Campbell, one of Portland Fire & Rescue's most notable former chiefs. She wanted Chief Campbell's portrait to be an area of focus because Campbell, who died in a fire, symbolizes the service and sacrifice every firefighter commits to when they are sworn into duty. Chief Campbell tragically died in the line of duty during a 1911 fire when he entered a building to make sure all firefighters had retreated; the building collapsed upon him before he could get out. Chief Campbell made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure his firefighters were safe.

Chief Boone also wanted to add a mural on the wall leading to the chief's office to showcase the bureau's deep connection to the community it serves. She wants to make sure that everyone who walks down the hallway to the chief's office knows that they are welcome and included. The bureau engaged RACC to manage the project. The project was funded with percent-for-art dollars that earmarks the costs of certain City improvements for public art.

'It takes everyone to create community'

Through a paneled public process, Boswell and Thomas's submission themed "It takes everyone to create community" was selected and commissioned. The colorful painting, now titled "Vibrant Cities Don't Burn," creates a bright tapestry of Portland imagery stitched together with symbolic threads denoting PF&R's history and work. A flutter of 36 butterflies representing each of the 36 Portland Fire & Rescue firefighters lost in the line of duty (as noted by the downtown firefighters' memorial) fly in the direction of Chief Campbell's portrait down the hall. Among the scenes of nature and people working in harmony are roses, which are both a symbol of the city and the centerpiece of PF&R's logo. The work honors the sacredness of the land and people who came before us. The piece is imbued with so many surprise bits of symbolism that a key will accompany it on the wall.

"I want to thank the artists for creating this celebratory, inclusive, and engaging piece of work that will greet those who head down the hall to the chief's office. I appreciate the level of commitment and understanding that the artists put into this work as visual and visceral representations of service and community," says Fire Chief Sara Boone. "Images are powerful and they play a meaningful role in who feels welcomed in certain spaces. Those who head down

this hallway will understand our history and know that we are going into the future together. This artwork highlights the best of our city and Portland Fire & Rescue.”

OPB

New Portland Police Chief Jami Resch Introduces Herself

By Rebecca Ellis

January 6, 2020

In the six days since Jami Resch was sworn as Portland’s newest police chief, requests for interviews and meetings with the new chief have flooded the bureau.

She’s getting around to them.

“I ask for patience,” Resch told reporters at a Monday press conference. “I am new to this role, and before I can accept some of the invitations already coming from the community, I will need a little time to settle in.

“But I make a pledge that I will try to be out in the community as much as possible.”

Portland’s new chief was sworn in last Tuesday, just a day after former Chief Danielle Outlaw resigned to become Philadelphia’s police commissioner.

In her first public remarks, Resch outlined some of the challenges the Bureau faces. Some issues cropped up recently — like a yet-to-be solved-series of shootings on New Year’s Eve — and some have plagued the bureau for years, such as a critical staffing shortage.

The press conference also gave Resch a chance to get some basic biographical information on the record. She told reporters she’s originally from Montana but grew up around Beaverton and attended Beaverton High School. She graduated from the University of Portland with a bachelor’s degree in allied health sciences and a minor in psychology, thinking she’d become a doctor. But in 1999, the Police Bureau was making a big recruiting push to hire 80 officers, known as Operation 80. Resch threw in an application.

“In all honesty, it was something that I did almost to see if I could,” she said. “I had never been on a ride along. I had never shot a gun. I’d never done anything related to police work.”

As Resch recounted, she found her groove, steadily rising through the ranks over the last two decades. Since 2016, she’s moved from lieutenant to captain to assistant chief of the investigations branch. This May, she was named deputy chief.

Some have criticized the speed with which Mayor Ted Wheeler decided to promote Resch after Outlaw announced plans to leave. Unlike Wheeler’s search for a police chief in 2016, which took more than two months and involved candidates from across the country, this decision was made in a matter of days.

But Wheeler said Monday that he wanted someone he had a history of working with, and that Resch had proven herself during her short tenure as deputy chief.

He said she has played a significant role in bringing the bureau into compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice settlement agreement regarding the bureau’s treatment of people with mental illness, in the upcoming contract negotiations with the Portland Police Association and in budget discussions.

“I made an executive decision because I’ve had my eye on Chief Resch for quite some time as the deputy chief,” he said. “I’ve already developed a working relationship with her. I know what she’s capable of.”