

## **The Oregonian**

### **Portland's new Police Chief Jami Resch gets badge, says she's 'looking forward to what's coming up'**

*By Maxine Bernstein  
January 9, 2020*

Portland's new Police Chief Jami Resch on Thursday said she's "looking forward to what's coming up" with a "solid team" of command staff to support her as she received her chief's badge in a brief public ceremony at the Police Bureau's training center in Northeast Portland.

Along with Resch, Christopher Davis received a deputy chief's badge and Mike Frome, who was a commander of the transit division, was sworn in as assistant chief of operations.

All three had been recruits in the bureau's Operation 80, a large class hired in 1999.

Resch was formally sworn in as the city's 49th chief of police during a private ceremony at the Justice Center on Dec. 31 after predecessor Danielle Outlaw informed the mayor days earlier that she had accepted a job as Philadelphia's police commissioner. Outlaw, hired from Oakland after a national search in October 2017, served as Portland's chief for two years and two months.

Resch, 45, thanked family members and friends who attended for supporting her and the other police supervisors in their careers.

She said she chose Davis to serve as her deputy because of his trusted advice, decision-making and thoughtfulness -- traits she said she relied on extensively when serving as deputy chief the last eight months and Davis was an assistant chief.

She said Frohm has demonstrated an ability "to cut through issues and problem solve" with a calm, cool demeanor.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, called Resch "the right person at the right time," to lead the bureau. Resch's deep local ties to the community and knowledge of the bureau, he said, will be a huge benefit.

"With so many major community decisions before us, it's so important we have advancement at the Portland Police Bureau," Wheeler said.

City contract talks with the police union and budget preparation for the next fiscal year are getting underway. The city also is pushing for court approval of Police Bureau compliance with a federal settlement on police reforms. The 2014 agreement resulted from an investigation that found police used excessive force against people with mental illness and called for changes to police use of force policies, training and community oversight.

Thursday's ceremony was mostly attended by immediate family members and was in stark contrast to the large, ceremonial gathering the city organized for Outlaw's public swearing in at the Oregon Historical Society in January 2018, three months into her term as chief.

The ceremony also was held at the same time as a previously scheduled "Leadership Portland" class run by the Portland Business Alliance, on the topic of "law and public safety." That class met in a different room at the training center.

# The Portland Tribune

## Infill hearings set, vote uncertain

By Jim Redden

January 08, 2020

### No quick City Council vote expected on controversial neighborhood rezoning proposal

After four long years of planning and debate, the Portland City Council is finally scheduled to take public testimony on the controversial proposal to increase density in single-family neighborhoods.

The first hearings on the Residential Infill Plan are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 15 and 16. The first work session, at which public testimony will not be accepted, is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29.

But that does not mean the council is on the verge of passing the proposal that would allow up to four housing units on practically every residential lot in the city. In fact, a majority of the council has announced they will not vote for RIP — as it is commonly called — before they approve another plan to reduce the displacement of low-income and minority households it is expected to cause.

And that plan, called the Anti-Displacement Action Plan, is nowhere near ready for consideration.

"I cannot support RIP unless we have a meaningful anti-displacement policy in place at the time of the vote," Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said during a Dec. 11 briefing on the Residential Infill Plan by staff from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, which drafted the plan.

The proposed infill plan has divided the city. Affordable housing advocates, land use watchdogs, social justice activists and homebuilders argue it will encourage a greater range of less expensive homes, helping to reduce the affordable housing crisis. Neighborhood activists and preservationists say it could change the character of the city without providing the opportunity for many more Portlanders to afford a new home.

But although hours of public testimony are scheduled for Jan. 15 and 16, nothing anyone says seems capable of convincing the council to make a quick decision.

About an hour into the briefing, Eudaly and commissioners Amada Fritz and Jo Ann Hardesty all said they will not vote for the infill plan until the council first approves the anti-displacement plan. Eudaly even presented a list of policies she wants it to include. Among other things, she wants renters to have the first chance to buy their house if it goes up for sale at market value. In the case of multi-family housing, Eudaly wants the city to have that opportunity.

The problem is, the anti-displacement plan is supposed to be written by a community task force that has not yet been appointed and will not begin meeting until late summer 2020, at the earliest. And such a process usually takes years to complete in Portland, which values civic engagement over deadlines. That process also is being overseen by the planning bureau.

Even when the anti-displacement plan is written, Mayor Ted Wheeler suggested the council might send RIP back to the citizen Planning and Sustainability Commission, which oversees the bureau and referred it to the council last March. Wheeler, Eudaly, Fritz and Hardesty all said they were bothered that the commission approved RIP on a close 5-to-4 vote, with all members of color and those who live in East Portland voting against it.

The council might even ask the commission to vote on RIP again when they know the policies in the anti-displacement plan.

Although Commissioner Nick Fish has died, all remaining council members support the infill plan's goal of creating more and less-expensive homes by allowing so-called missing middle housing to be built in existing single-family neighborhoods. That includes duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes.

But Eudaly, Fritz and Hardesty are worried that developers could replace existing lower-priced houses with smaller but costlier rental units, forcing the existing tenants to move to the edges or out of town. They fear only wealthier households could afford what might be predominantly smaller but more upscale housing units.

Staff of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability admitted previous city zoning and redevelopment decisions have led to displacement. An estimated 10,000 longtime African-American households were forced out of North and Northeast Portland when projects like the Memorial Coliseum and Interstate MAX line demolished existing homes and encouraged the construction of higher-priced housing. Even when the council later approved policies to fight housing discrimination, racial displacement still happened. Eudaly, Fritz and Hardesty all want guarantees such displacement won't continue if RIP is approved.

The three council members also questioned whether nearly all single-family neighborhoods in the city should be rezoned, as RIP proposes. An economic analysis predicts most displacement caused by RIP will occur in East Portland neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of low-income and minority renters. Hardesty asked whether they should be exempt. Fritz suggested the density increases should be concentrated along major transportation corridors and around transit centers, something Eudaly said she might consider, too.

Despite the questions, the council is facing a deadline to adopt the Residential Infill Plan, or something like it. The 2019 Oregon Legislature passed a bill requiring Portland and other large cities to allow duplexes on nearly all residential lots by July 1, 2022. The RIP recommendations allow more density, but could legally be scaled back in all existing single-family zones.

But Wheeler and Fritz suggested that should be enough time for the planning bureau to propose specific anti-displacement strategies for the planning to consider and revote on RIP with them in mind.

### **Residential Infill Project recommendations**

Current suggestions include:

- Increase the range of permissible housing types (such as duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and additional accessory dwelling units) in single-dwelling zones.
- Reduce the maximum allowable sizes of new single-family homes to 2,500 square feet
- Allow structures with multiple units to be larger than single-family homes, up to 3,500 for a fourplex.
- Remove minimum parking requirements and adding new garage design requirements.

To learn more, go to [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/67728](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/67728).

# Sources: Wheeler support tepid, but others fare worse

*By Jim Redden  
January 09, 2020*

## **Plus, Online petition fights Gable appeal and Portland police chief politics**

Although Mayor Ted Wheeler is vulnerable, no strong re-election challenger has yet emerged.

That's the conclusion of a DHM Research poll conducted last fall. It found only 27% would vote for Wheeler at that time. But his strongest opponent to date, community activist Sarah Iannarone, only had 4% support. Even Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, who is not running against him, was only preferred by 10%.

Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, who also is not running for mayor, got just 2%.

The largest block was "Don't know" at 40%.

Despite the lack of enthusiasm, 44% approved of the job Wheeler is doing, compared to 39% who disapproved. Wheeler has the most support among older Portlanders, who historically have voted at higher rates than younger residents.

## **Online petition fights Gable appeal**

The brothers of slain Oregon Department of Corrections Director Michael Francke have started an online petition to keep his formerly convicted killer free.

A federal judge reversed the conviction of Frank Gable for the 1989 murder, ruling he probably is innocent and did not receive a fair trial. Gable has been released while the Oregon Department of Justice appeals the ruling.

But Kevin and Patrick Francke have started a Change.org petition calling on Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum to drop the appeal. It features claims developed in the later episodes of the ongoing podcast "Murder in Oregon." They include charges that former Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt interfered with the original investigation to prevent state and federal law enforcement from learning he had raped a child when he was mayor of Portland. It also accuses Rosenblum of being part of the cover-up.

You can find the petition at [change.org/p/ellen-rosenblum-set-frank-gable-free](https://change.org/p/ellen-rosenblum-set-frank-gable-free).

## **Police chief politics**

It should be no surprise that Mayor Ted Wheeler's quick decision to replace Police Chief Danielle Outlaw with former Deputy Chief Jami Resch became a campaign issue. Wheeler conducted a national search before choosing Outlaw in October 2017. In contrast, he promoted Resch the day after learning Outlaw had been named police commissioner of Philadelphia.

Mayoral candidates Sarah Iannarone and Teresa Raiford promptly issued statements accusing Wheeler of being hasty and not involving the public in the process.

Wheeler's chief of staff, Kristin Dennis, defended the speed by saying Outlaw had put the bureau on the right trajectory. She also said the bureau needs stable leadership as negotiations over the next union contract begin with the Portland Police Association.

The second-guessing undoubtedly will continue in the 2020 primary election.

## **The Portland Mercury**

# **Communities of Color Will Help Lead Effort to Replace Portland's Form of Government**

*By Alex Zielinski*

*January 9, 2020*

Local nonprofit Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) has been hired to help gauge Portlanders' interest in overhauling the city's current form of government through a November 2020 vote.

CCC was selected by the City Club of Portland, a civic-minded nonprofit that's been researching the downsides of Portland's unique government structure for years and, more recently, has considered launching a campaign to replace that structure in the general election.

The decision to hire CCC, an alliance of local organizations advocating for communities of color, to gather community-level feedback about this potential campaign is significant, as non-white Portlanders have been particularly isolated by the city's 106-year-old system.

Portland is the only town of its size that has a "commission" form of government—a structure that tasks five Portland commissioners, including the mayor, with overseeing a number of massive city bureaus such as parks, transportations, and police.

Unlike the vast majority of modern city governments, commissioners are not elected to represent a specific region of the city, where they would be required to live. Instead, commissioners are appointed through a citywide election, where those with money and name recognition usually have the best chance of winning.

More often than not, those victors are upper-middle class and white.

In November, City Club announced it was looking to hire organizations to research if a 2020 ballot measure calling for a new form of city government would be a success. On Thursday, it chose CCC—along with campaign strategist Hilltop Public Solutions—to do the job.

In an email to the Mercury, CCC advocacy director Andrea Valderrama said her organization is invested in shifting the distribution of power in Portland politics.

"We are excited to be working in partnership with City Club of Portland, Hilltop Public Solutions, and others in the community to run a robust and meaningful community engagement program to gather the perspective of stakeholders about their priorities for this important conversation," Valderrama wrote, "particularly the perspectives of communities that have been historically underserved by city government like Black, indigenous, and other people of color."

This won't be CCC's first foray into campaign research and advocacy work. In 2018, CCC played an integral role in passing a ballot measure that created the Portland Clean Energy Fund, a city program that taxes major retailers to create renewable energy jobs for minority Portlanders.

CCC and Hilltop have until February 28 to gather community feedback and create a detailed campaign plan to effectively get a measure on the November 2020 ballot. At that point, it's up to City Club to decide whether to go forward with a ballot measure—which would have to be submitted as an initiative petition and approved by the city no later than July 6.

## **The Skanner**

# **Community Surprised at Police Chief's Departure, Concerned by Quick Replacement**

*By Sandra Sorenson*

*January 9, 2020*

When news hit that the end of the year would also bring Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw's term to a close, it took community members and even colleagues by surprise.

Outlaw had marked just over two years in the position when she announced she had accepted an appointment as Police Commissioner in Philadelphia, Pa., starting February.

"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," Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said in a statement.

In Portland, such calls for reform echo the hopes many had when Outlaw was hired two years ago, during a time allegations of police misconduct--specifically criticisms of police procedure and unprofessional conduct--were on the rise.

Don't Shoot PDX organizer and 2020 Portland mayoral candidate Teresa Raiford said Outlaw's 2017 hiring "was an investment in police promotion" rather than in police reform.

"They got the promotion of public interest, they got the promotion of civic participation.

(Outlaw) gave a face to the mayor, for a city that was in turmoil," Raiford told The Skanner.

"That's what we received as a return on investment, and that was to the detriment of all of us."

Raiford didn't believe Outlaw was given enough time to improve trust between the public and the police.

"She had asked for a five-year contract," Raiford told The Skanner. "We have to ask our mayor, why didn't he think that was a good investment? I think if there was a real investment in public safety, he would've given her the five-year contract. That's the ball dropping on an early measure where (the city) could've been proactive."

Raiford further argued that Outlaw wasn't given the resources she needed to promote diversity in a department so understaffed, Outlaw recently decided to relax hiring standards to fill its 128 officer vacancies.

It is a sentiment shared by Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, who wished Outlaw the best in her new position.

"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.

Mayoral candidate and activist Sarah Iannarone agreed that Outlaw was not set up for success in Portland.

"During her tenure, trust in the police department did not improve as we saw continued deaths at the hands of the police, mismanagement of protests, and friendly communications between officers and white nationalist groups," Iannarone told The Skanner. "At the end of the day, the mayor is the police commissioner and the buck stops there. I believe Outlaw is a qualified

professional but unfortunately, in her short tenure, she was unable to complete the progressive reforms that the Portland Police Bureau desperately needs.”

But E.D. Mondaine, president of the NAACP Portland, said the timing of Outlaw’s departure was fitting.

“I think her time in Portland polished what she had learned in Oakland, gave her a broader scope with how to deal with community issues in an interpersonal way, and how to become a bit more broader viewed, because of the constituency she served here,” Mondaine told The Skanner.

“And she brought an edge to us, and it prepared us for something greater.”

Mondaine sat on the hiring board that offered Outlaw her position in Portland in 2017.

“She was my pick from the very beginning,” Mondaine said. “She was tough, she was smart, she was intuitive, she was a mother, and she was engaging.”

“Especially for a woman in an overly populated White environment dominated by males, in the Whitest city in America, in the only racist state in America that was incepted in racism,” Mondaine added. “(Outlaw) learned some things here that I think she’s going to be able to use and take with her to Philadelphia. I think she cut her teeth on some diplomacy that’s going to help her in the fight she’s got. I think she needed this nesting place, and we needed her and her progressiveness to bring us again to another level of readiness, and I think that those that come behind her will follow in step pretty well.”

Outlaw was sworn into office in October 2017 as Portland’s 48th Police Chief, and the first African American woman to hold the position. Her hiring was the result of a nationwide search, and several rounds of interviews with representatives from the Urban League of Portland, the NAACP Portland Branch, the Portland Police Association and the Portland Business Alliance. She had previously served as deputy chief with the Oakland police.

Outlaw’s new position is a considerable promotion, with her overseeing more than seven times as many law enforcement employees as she did in Portland. Her hiring is also the result of a four-month search, which has many questioning what they see as a rushed process to name Outlaw’s replacement.

The day after Outlaw announced her departure, 20-year PPB veteran Jami Resch was promoted to chief. Outlaw had promoted Resch to deputy chief in May. Resch has said she intends to serve in the position for the next five years, until she is eligible to retire.

Raiford criticized the mayor’s decision not to name Resch as interim chief, which would have allowed the city to conduct a more public search for candidates.

“We were not engaged in that as the public,” said Raiford, who launched Don’t Shoot PDX to confront gun violence in 2014, four years after her nephew was shot outside an Old Town nightclub.

“I feel again our interest has been avoided.”

Raiford, who sued the City of Portland in 2016 for her arrest the previous year during a Black Lives Matter demonstration, said, “What our city doesn’t have is transparency. There is a lack of public process and engagement, and a lack of infrastructure and process available to people (for personal safety). I think we need to prioritize taking care of each other as a public standard, and we haven’t had the leadership for that. My family and my life depends on it, and a lot of people’s lives depend on it--on having someone in a position of power who is not actually afraid of the people, and who is willing to engage.”

Iannarone agreed.

“In the hiring of the last chief, Wheeler promised Portlanders a transparent process, which we did not get,” she told The Skanner. “While the process was secretive, he did at least conduct a national search and did his due diligence in selecting a chief. It’s not clear to me how this snap decision-making with zero public input is an improvement. As we wrap up the deadliest year from police use of force in nearly a decade, our mayor should have taken great care selecting a progressive chief committed to reforming the Portland Police from within the bureau and alongside the community.”

“I would hope the new chief has expressed an unwavering commitment to addressing PPB’s use-of-force problem, to rethinking public safety for our homeless and other vulnerable community members, and to eliminate racial bias in policing while eradicating white nationalism from our city,” Iannarone added.

## **Portland Approves Contract for Homeless Camp Clean-ups**

*January 9, 2020*

Portland lawmakers have approved a \$4.5 million contract with a hazardous waste removal company to clean up homeless encampments around the city.

The City Commission unanimously voted to give the contract to Rapid Response Bio Clean on Wednesday after the agenda item was pulled late last month over concerns from homeless people and their advocates, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported Thursday.

Opponents said the clean-ups are traumatic for homeless residents and cause them to lose their property.

Under a modified deal, Rapid Response workers will get training in non-violent conflict resolution and to carry naloxone, an injection that can reverse drug overdoses.

The workers generally disposed of the needles, shopping carts, trash and human waste that are left behind after a homeless camp is cleared. Notices about a clean-up must be posted at least two days before the work begins.

The city has contracted with Rapid Response since 2016. But in recent weeks, the contract, which expands the scope of the company’s responsibilities and significantly increases the amount of money approved for campsite cleanups.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said the new contract strikes an “excellent balance” between keeping the city clean and respecting the homeless.

Rapid Response was to resume its work by Thursday.