

## **The Oregonian**

### **Thieves swipe police bike in downtown Portland**

*By Jayati Ramakrishnan*

*January 16, 2020*

Cyclists are a dime a dozen in Portland, so you'll have to look closely to see if someone around you is riding a stolen police bike.

But somewhere out there, someone is. Portland police tweeted on Thursday night that an officer's bicycle had been stolen downtown.

BikeIndex Portland, a bicycle registration service, tweeted that the bike was stolen from in front of the county courthouse and posted some grainy photos of the thief .

The blue cycle has a velcro patch that identifies it as a police bike, which officers acknowledged is likely long gone.

Nevertheless, they asked Portlanders to keep a look out for the stolen bike — which belongs to a bike theft task force officer.

### **Former Portland Mayor Sam Adams' self-funded review of alleged sexual harassment 'only' way to vet claims, lawyer says**

*By Everton Bailey Jr.*

*January 17, 2020*

An attorney hired by former Portland Mayor Sam Adams conducted an investigation into allegations that Adams sexually harassed a staffer while in office, then the lawyer paid two legal experts to weigh in because he said it was the only way to get an independent review.

The experts, a retired Oregon judge and an employment lawyer, attested there was insufficient evidence to legally support the harassment claims.

Attorney Michael Fuller released a report Monday with the experts' opinions and a summary of the redacted information he submitted to them. He acknowledged that the report may not assure the public that Adams didn't sexually harass the aide while he was mayor.

"I get it. I get why people would be suspicious of a report by an attorney hired by the accused that found no wrongdoing," Fuller said. "But with the statute of limitations up and no court that can determine the veracity of these allegations, I think I did the only thing that could be done to determine what the truth was."

Adams, a long-time aide to the late Mayor Vera Katz and a former Portland city commissioner, was the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city when he was elected to the post in 2008 on the strength of his city government experience and coalition building skills. But the month he began his sole term as the Portland's top elected official, Adams admitted to lying about a sexual relationship with an 18-year-old he met while serving as city commissioner.

Fuller said he paid former Lane County Circuit Judge Lyle Velure, who retired in 2007, and Portland-based employment law attorney Rebecca Cambreleng "their hourly rates" to view

redacted copies of evidence his firm gathered. He asked them each to determine if the case would have warranted legal action had the statute of limitations not run out.

The allegations were made by Cevero Gonzalez, a former executive assistant who worked for Adams from 2008 to 2013.

Gonzalez declined comment when reached by The Oregonian/OregonLive, but said the report was “Mr. Adams’ and Mr. Fuller’s opinion.”

Fuller, a consumer protection attorney, said he redacted the names of the people and locations involved and didn’t tell Velure and Cambreleng who he represented. He said his firm collected nearly a thousand pages of documents that included Gonzalez’s published letter to city officials detailing the allegations, news articles and other materials, including emails, gathered through public records searches.

Gonzalez wasn’t contacted as part of the investigation. Neither he nor Adams were interviewed as part of the review, a step Fuller said he took to “eliminate the issue of credibility.” Former city mayoral office staff members were interviewed or gave statements.

The attorney said in lieu of speaking with Gonzalez, he relied on an October 2019 story published by Willamette Week about Adams in which Gonzalez said he didn’t have any documentation of the alleged harassment and wouldn’t provide the outlet with the names of anyone he confided in.

Fuller declined to publicly release any evidence he obtained in the case, saying he hadn’t gotten permission from everyone involved beforehand.

The report was released Monday as rumors swirled that Adams was considering running for Portland City Council. He announced Wednesday that he intends to challenge Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in the May primary.

Adams hired Fuller and his firm in October. Fuller, who specializes in representing people who claim they have been victimized, said this was the first time he represented someone accused of sexual harassment.

Gonzalez sent a six-page letter to city officials in Nov. 2017 with accusations that Adams sexually harassed him, including demanding he set up sexual encounters for him, questioning Gonzalez about his sex life and detailing his own sexual experiences and exposing his genitals to Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said one instance of harassment occurred with Adams when he picked the mayor up from a trip to China. Gonzalez said he also was assigned to prepare a briefing book for that trip that he said Adams insisted include information about where to find the best gay bars and bathhouses. Both the retired judge and the employment attorney said the evidence Fuller compiled showed staffers other than Gonzalez prepared the China briefing book and drove Adams home from the trip.

Gonzalez’s letter also detailed allegations of other mistreatment by Adams such as being required to clean Adams’ house and do his laundry on the city taxpayers’ dime.

At the time Gonzalez went public, his letter was published by The Oregonian/OregonLive, Willamette Week and other local outlets and Gonzalez also publicly spoke about it at the time. He said he went along with whatever was asked of him because he feared retaliation and losing his job but was later encouraged by the #MeToo movement to provide an account to city officials.

Adams has maintained that he never sexually harassed Gonzalez. Tom Miller, Adams' chief of staff at the time, denied Gonzalez's account to The Oregonian/OregonLive that Gonzalez reported inappropriate behavior by Adams to him.

The statute of limitations on the sexual harassment allegations had expired by the time Gonzalez's letter was sent and the city attorney's office declined to investigate the claims.

In the earlier case against Adams, in which teen Beau Breedlove accused Adams of illegally luring him into a sexual relationship when he was 17, the then-mayor also was not prosecuted. Breedlove was deemed by prosecutors to have little credibility and a lack of evidence when it came to that claim.

For months, Adams vehemently denied ever having sex with the teen, who was more than 20 years younger than him. But he was eventually forced to acknowledge their relationship was sexual after the teen turned 18. He called that "inappropriate."

### **An 'independent' review**

Velure, the former judge who now has a commercial mediation practice, didn't respond to requests for comment.

He said in his opinion letter about the allegations that he reviewed the materials he was given by Fuller as if he were reviewing evidence as a judge in a court bench trial. He said he believed "no actionable sexual harassment existed."

"Having carefully reviewed the evidence in a light most favorable to the accuser, my legal opinion is that the evidence is insufficient to support a legal claim under state or federal workplace sexual harassment laws," Velure wrote.

Cambreng said in her opinion letter that she likely would have taken Gonzalez's case had he come to her office and presented his version of events as laid out in his letter.

She wrote that apparent contradictory information in the evidence she received from Fuller led her to conclude she probably would have subsequently dismissed Gonzalez as a client.

"Reviewing all the evidence presented as it is, I do not believe that sexual harassment occurred," she wrote.

Cambreng told The Oregonian/OregonLive that she wasn't aware of Sam Adams' involvement in the case until after Fuller's report was published.

"But knowing who was involved doesn't change anything," she said. "Given the information I had and assuming there was no statute of limitations, it's my opinion that there wasn't enough evidence to support a legal claim."

Judy Snyder, a prominent Portland employment attorney, said she didn't believe Fuller's methods were entirely unusual. She likened it to a large company hiring counsel to investigate allegations against a CEO by an employee.

"Sam Adams isn't a large corporation, but he has to turn to someone to defend himself," she said. "These are very serious allegations that have been made public, and the responsible thing to do is to say, 'It's being investigated and here are the results of that investigation.'"

Snyder said it is common for all parties involved to be interviewed, however. Some evidence viewed as contradictory could be cleared up through direct conversation, she said, and it could be possible Gonzalez detailed what he was experiencing to people outside of work.

Snyder said she likely would have come to the same conclusion as Velure and Cambreleng after reading a summary of the evidence in Fuller's report due to the apparent lack of corroboration of Gonzalez's account.

J. Ashlee Albies, a civil rights and employment attorney, said she felt uncomfortable that Fuller repeatedly labeled the review as an independent investigation in his report, due to Gonzalez' lack of participation and Fuller being hired by the person accused.

She described the report as "not a fully developed record" and said that it didn't appear the process was set up in a way for Gonzalez to properly defend himself or have legal representation. Albies said Gonzalez, for example, could have had legitimate reasons to withhold some information from a letter to the city council or a media interview.

"These cases are more complicated and life is more nuanced than the summary of this investigation shows," Albies said.

"I completely understand that the statute of limitations has passed and the accused wants to defend themselves and there doesn't appear to be a legitimate way to do that. But I don't think this is an adequate substitute for the civil legal system."

Albies admitted if Adams had been her client, that she didn't immediately know what the right answer would be.

## **Willamette Week**

### **Candidates Are Piling into the Race to Succeed the Late Commissioner Nick Fish**

*By Nigel Jaquiss  
January 16, 2019*

**Margot Black, Sam Chase, Julia DeGraw and Dan Ryan have all filed paperwork or made formal announcements.**

The long line of candidates hoping to succeed the late Commissioner Nick Fish is forming.

Several candidates have either formed political action committees or made formal announcements that they are in the race. They include Julia DeGraw, who ran against Fish in 2018; Margot Black, a co-founder of Portland Tenants United; Dan Ryan, a former member of the Portland Public Schools Board and executive director of the educational non-profit All Hands Raised; and Metro Councillor Sam Chase.

Chase, who has deep roots in the affordable housing and low-income healthcare fields, served as chief of staff for Fish from 2008 to 2010, when Chase was elected to the first of his two terms on the Metro Council.

Another potential candidate with strong ties to Fish, former two-term Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, tells WW she is still pondering whether she'll enter the race.

Updated: The Oregonian reported late Thursday afternoon that Smith has also entered the race.

## The Portland Mercury

# Portland's New Police Chief Promises Stability and Status Quo Policing

By Alex Zielinski  
January 16, 2020

Portland ended the decade with an unsurprising—but abrupt—shakeup in police leadership.

On December 26, then-chief Danielle Outlaw informed Mayor Ted Wheeler she'd taken a job leading Philadelphia's police bureau. Five days later, Deputy Chief Jami Resch was sworn in as Portland's newest police chief.

In her first press conference as chief, Resch stressed her desire to earn and maintain trust in the community. It's a valid concern: After going through seven police chiefs in the past decade, Portlanders are hesitant to make any assumptions about a new leader's investment in the community. And although Resch is a 20-year veteran of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), she's remained out of the public eye for most of her career.

With the city weeks away from entering historically tense contract negotiations with PPB's rank-and-file union—negotiations that will be followed by equally contentious police budget talks—Portlanders need a chief with a clear understanding of PPB's policy history and the public's needs. Now the question is if Resch can fill that role.

Resch was born in Montana, but in her teens moved to Beaverton with her family. After graduating with an Allied Health Sciences degree from the University of Portland, Resch set out to be a doctor. It didn't pan out. Despite having no prior interest in policing, Resch's curiosity was piqued during a major 1999 recruiting effort by PPB.

"In all honesty, it was something I did almost to see if I could," Resch told reporters at a January 6 press conference. "But after I started going through training, I loved it."

Resch spent the 2000s climbing the ranks of the bureau, working as the head of an illegal firearms retrieval team, serving as the commander in charge during crisis situations (including a fatal 2018 police shooting), and running the night shift at the bureau's East Precinct—a role Resch says she was particularly fond of. In May 2019, Outlaw appointed Resch to be her second in command.

Resch says she intends to stay the course laid out by her predecessor.

"I pledge to continue to support all the great work that is already being done," said Resch. "Now is the time to continue the momentum. It is not the time to veer in a different direction."

That's one of the main reasons Wheeler, who took seven months to select Outlaw, was so quick to appoint Resch.

"When we were searching for a new chief in 2017, we knew we needed someone to come in and shake up the bureau," says Wheeler's chief of staff Kristin Dennis about Outlaw's hire. "But this time is different—we're happy with the trajectory we're on."

Like Outlaw, Resch is invested in a pilot program to require body cameras to be worn by PPB officers, supports adding more officers to the police force, and has no interest in changing the way PPB responds to violent protests. Resch has also shown strong support of the Portland Street

Response, a pilot program meant to dispatch mental health crisis workers, instead of police officers, to handle non-violent situations reported by Portlanders calling 911.

There are no obvious differences between Outlaw and Resch's policy goals and policing style, but Resch's history at the bureau—and recent comments on its future—offers hints at where she might focus her energy.

Resch has spent her years in PPB leadership working to help Portland's refugee and immigrant community feel safe. She regularly joins volunteers in welcoming refugees at the airport, has tailored PPB classes for immigrants on basic traffic laws and crime reporting, and sits on the police bureau's Muslim and Slavic advisory councils.

It was Resch who, after hearing concerns from Portland's immigrant community, penned a letter to the federal government ending a contract that allowed immigration enforcement agents to train on PPB property.

Laila Hajoo, a member of the Muslim Advisory Council, says she's "relieved" that Resch was Wheeler's pick for chief.

"Jami has proven herself," Hajoo says. "We can trust her. For a community like ours, one that is always sitting on the edge of safety, that's a huge compliment."

Under Resch's leadership, PPB sponsored its first Iftar meal for the local Muslim community during Ramadan, and worked closely with mosque leaders to address fears around potential terror attacks.

"Resch is very serious about educating and providing support for community leaders," Hajoo says.

At her first press conference, Resch mentioned an interest in diverting those charged with illegal gun possession from prison sentences. It's a nuanced idea coming from a bureau that often draws a hard line between "good guys" and "bad guys."

"There are more options available... not just jail," Resch said. "Using all the tools we have available to us is important."

Perhaps the most stark difference between Resch and Outlaw is their familiarity with Portland. Resch has 18 more years of experience working in the PPB than Outlaw did when she resigned.

That's heartening for both rank-and-file cops, who have already expressed trust in their new leader, and veteran police accountability advocates.

"It's a good sign," says Debbie Aiona, a longtime police reform activist and board member of Portland's League of Women Voters. "Her longevity here makes it seem like she's not just trying to get a track record here in Portland and get a job somewhere else."

Lakayana Drury, chair of the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing (PCCEP), the group of Portlanders who oversee the police bureau's court-mandated community engagement work, is hopeful a new chief means new conversations on issues that Outlaw wouldn't budge on.

"For regular people in the community, it's not going to feel like a big change," he says. "But new leadership means new decisions on how police policies are carried out. It'll be interesting to see what [Resch] does with that."

# Hall Monitor: Fish & the Free Press

*By Alex Zielinski*  
*January 16, 2020*

The news of Commissioner Nick Fish's abrupt death on January 2 came as a gut punch to Portland. The community response to Fish's passing showed just how valued he'd been in his adopted city, with messages of gratitude and grief coming from affordable housing advocates, civil rights lawyers, homeless groups, environmental activists, law enforcement officials, and everyone from lifelong Portlanders to immigrants—even from strangers who had once sat before him in City Hall and felt heard.

His departure is also a loss to Portland newsrooms.

Generally, politicians and journalists are equally wary of each other. That's why, as a new City Hall reporter in Portland, I was skeptical of Fish's immediate eagerness to introduce himself and get to know me.

I had my first meeting with Fish a week after I started this job, in March 2018. Wearing a colorful floral tie and clutching an oversized mug labeled "FUCK CANCER," Fish flipped through past achievements in his decade at City Hall and pointed to a few goals on the horizon (he was particularly delighted with a plan to fuel city vehicles with human poop). He interrupted himself halfway through the conversation. "Enough about me," he said. "What are you interested in writing about?"

I didn't buy it. I was convinced Fish's unguarded optimism and supposed curiosity in my own career had to be a ploy to butter up a naïve reporter for positive coverage, especially considering it was an election year.

But Fish wasn't interested in winning me over. As weeks turned into months, I learned this was how he treated everyone in Portland media—with a genuine sense of curiosity and respect. He wanted to see us succeed.

Here's how Fish's chief of staff Sonia Schmanski puts it, in broader terms: "What he wanted was everyone always to remember that they could be better than they imagined."

Fish cared about the integrity of a free press and prodded reporters to hold him accountable. He'd call to report a misplaced comma in a news story, pitch me stories on council items I'd otherwise skip over, and send me text messages (signed "Nick") thanking me for stories critical of his work.

And his passion for Portland made reporting fun. His council comments added texture and nuance to otherwise binary debates. His unexpected but well-reasoned decisions brought a ripple of excitement to mundane votes. And his off-the-record rants about government logjams inspired investigations.

I certainly wasn't the only reporter with this experience—dozens of longtime City Hall reporters have their own anecdotes about Fish's drive to build a sincere, trusting relationship with the press, and, by extension, his constituents. But the fact that Fish was still invested in new reporters after spending a decade on council—not jaded by the constant stream of new reporters asking him clunky questions about a city government he knew front and back—meant something.

Once, after noticing a Mercury newspaper box covered with graffiti, Fish called my cell phone. "I hate to see our city's esteemed press treated that way," he said, without a hint of sarcasm.

In the midst of a national cultural movement driven by our country's top politician to discredit and devalue the free press, Fish used his shrinking energy reserves to lift up Portland's scrappy news industry. He knew the limitations of overworked newsrooms, and he didn't expect more than we could give. But, just as he believed in the sanctity of city government, he expected reporters to respect the sanctity of a free press.

Many public figures build a wall between themselves and the media—some for understandable reasons (I see you, Meghan Markle) and others out of fear of being seen as an imperfect human being who could lose their job.

Fish, though, put the public before his own ego—and, perhaps, his own health—by allowing his imperfections and decisions to inspire healthy debate and strengthen public trust in independent journalism. He wanted us to be better than we imagined.

## **Metro Councilor Sam Chase Joins Portland City Council Race**

*By Alex Zielinski  
January 16, 2020*

Metro Councilor and former Portland City Hall staffer Sam Chase has officially announced his bid for Portland City Council. Chase is running in the special election for Commissioner 2, the seat previously held by Commissioner Nick Fish.

"I've always followed my heart to where I can have the greatest impact," said Chase in an email announcing his campaign. "Now, I'm ready to bring my success fighting to address affordable housing and homelessness, protect the environment, and create living wage jobs to the city I love."

Chase has served on the regional government council since 2013, where he represents Northwest, Northeast, and North Portland. Before joining Metro, Chase served as chief of staff for former Portland Commissioner Nick Fish and a housing policy advisor to former Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury.

Prior to joining the public sector, Chase was the director of two nonprofits geared toward affordable housing: the Clackamas Community Land Trust (now Proud Ground) and the Oregon Opportunity Network (now Housing Oregon).

Chase's career has centered on affordable housing policy, an issue area that had been relatively untouched by Metro before he joined its council. Chase is credited for steering Metro towards the creation of a \$652.8 million affordable housing bond, which was approved by voters in 2018.

"We need to keep the momentum going on housing and homelessness," Chase told the Mercury on Monday. "This opening feels like an opportunity for me to continue my commitment to affordable housing."

Chase said he'd been interested in running for City Council in the past—but the timing didn't feel right until now.

Chase is one of dozens who've been rumored to join the race to finish the remaining two years of Fish's term. Tenant rights advocate Margot Black, progressive activist Julie DeGraw, Portland State University environmental science student Robin Castro, immigrant and refugee rights advocate Ronault 'Polo' Catalani, and sexual assault survivor advocate Diana Gutman have

already announced their run. Former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith is rumored to enter the race later today.

**OPB**

## **Former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith Joins Race For Portland City Council**

*By Rebecca Ellis  
January 17, 2019*

The number of candidates vying for the seat on the Portland City Council left open by the late Commissioner Nick Fish keeps growing.

Former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith filed Thursday to run for the seat.

Smith, who ran unsuccessfully for Portland City Council against Jo Ann Hardesty in 2018, is one of six to notify the city's election office of plans to run for the position. Ryan Farmer also dropped off his filing Thursday. Four local activists — Julia DeGraw, Robin Castro, Margot Black and Diana Gutman — also filed this week, according to Deborah Scroggin, an election officer at the City Auditor's Office.

Metro Councilor Sam Chase announced Thursday afternoon he plans to run for the seat as well. Though he has yet to file with the city's election officials, he said he has notified the city's Open and Accountable Elections programs that he plans to take part in public campaign financing.

"I'm ready to bring my success fighting to address affordable housing and homelessness, protect the environment, and create living wage jobs to the city I love," Chase tweeted Thursday.

The special election will coincide with the regular May 2020 primary. Candidates have until March 10 to file.