



## CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



### Bureau of Police

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

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## INTRODUCTION TO 2019-20 PPB COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) is a 21st Century community policing agency, continuously striving to meet the needs and exceed the expectations of those who live, work and recreate in Portland while delivering vital services. PPB recognizes that effectively engaging with, and including, its community members in a variety of settings is a key element in achieving and maintaining mutual trust, understanding, and partnership. In 2017 we implemented my three organizational goals—Crime Prevention and Reduction; Community Engagement and Inclusion; and Organizational Excellence. Police legitimacy is cultivated and fostered as members display smart practices and continuously consult with community stakeholders on the efficacy of such efforts.

The Portland Police Bureau's commitment to enhancing its existing community engagement efforts was exhibited by the establishment of the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) in March of 2017 and, more recently, by the creation of the Community Services Division where the OCE resides. The OCE strategic mission states: *"To build and strengthen meaningful relationships between community members and the Police Bureau by providing opportunities to address and jointly resolve issues of livability and public safety affecting their neighborhoods."* This institutionalized approach to community engagement is intended to create a more defined and sustainable internal infrastructure that allows police officers to succeed in building meaningful and more inclusive relationships. These community-police collaborations also lead to new pathways and opportunities for mutual cultural awareness and empowerment, while jointly addressing emerging issues and trends that impact public safety and the livability of our community.

PPB values and respects participation and input from all stakeholders, especially those that have historically been marginalized such as the houseless, persons with mental illness, immigrants, refugees, and minority communities. The Bureau currently participates in hundreds of community functions such as educational workshops, neighborhood meetings, cultural festivals, sports events, faith-based meetings, immigration and refugee outreach as well as facilitating a number of advisory councils. As such, the Bureau has created a comprehensive community-police engagement strategy. However, I believe the PPB is a learning organization, constantly seeking more creative and effective ways of engagement in order to develop collaborative strategies that reflect the community's public safety concerns and obtain meaningful results.

This Community Engagement Plan provides clear direction for accomplishing our goal of Community Engagement and Inclusion and should be viewed as part of PPB's larger Strategic

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