



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

Danielle M. Outlaw, Chief of Police

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July 12, 2019

Mary Hull Caballero
City Auditor
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Auditor Hull Caballero:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Independent Police Review Division's report regarding how the Portland Police Bureau responds to persons in the houseless community.

News reports raised concerns about police criminalizing persons experiencing houselessness. In response to these reports, I requested this review to improve transparency around this important topic that affects so many in our city. A review of our policies and procedures was needed. While your report did not identify any actions by the Portland Police Bureau that criminalized persons experiencing houselessness, we recognize your recommendations can strengthen our existing policies and procedures and improve data collection for future analysis.

Thank you again for allowing for an ongoing collaborative effort to address such important issues in our community. I look forward to implementing these recommendations as well as our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

DANIELLE M. OUTLAW
Chief of Police

DMO/tws

Portland Police Bureau Responses to IPR Recommendations to the Homeless Policy Review

1. Seek direction from the Mayor and City Council to identify its role in addressing the City's homeless crisis.

Agree, in practice. *The Chief of Police and the members of the executive team meet regularly with the Mayor and other members to City Council to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Police Bureau. Within 30 days, the Chief's Office will meet with the Mayor's Office to clarify the Police Bureau's role. Any clarifications from this meeting will be communicated to the entire Police Bureau within 45 days.*

2. Develop and implement consistent direction for officers who interact with people experiencing homelessness.

Agree. *It is imperative to our mission to provide our members with consistent direction and expectations for their interactions with persons experiencing homelessness. Within 30 days, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will meet with subject matter experts and review Directive 835.20 – Established Campsites on Public Property and Directive 840.00 – Arrest with Warrant. The OIG will provide policy recommendations to the Chief of Police or designee within 90 days.*

Within 90 days, the Community Services Division (CSD) will develop reference materials for use by officers and community members related to interactions with people experiencing homelessness.

3. Improve data quality and usefulness of arrest data in RegJIN or a future database by:
 - a. Eliminating or limiting the use of "free form" fields;

Agree. *Within RegJIN, officers can enter the following words into the free form address field: Confidential, Refused, Houseless, or Unknown. Within 30 days, the Records Division will work with the Training Division to develop and distribute a Tips and Techniques clarifying the use of these terms within the free form address field. We believe this change will improve the quality and usefulness of the data within RegJIN.*

Additionally, the Police Bureau is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new records management system. We will incorporate this recommendation into our review of vendor responses.

- b. Recording and retaining more "at time of incident" information about arrestees;

Agree, in practice. *Members of the Police Bureau are trained to ask for current information at the time of arrest. A bureau-wide reminder will be incorporated into the Tips and Techniques generated in response to 3(a).*

- c. Consulting with the City Attorney and social service providers to develop consistent indicators related to mental health, housing status, substance addiction and other aspects of vulnerability.

Agree. *Within 30 days, the Community Services Division (CSD) will meet with our partners to develop a comprehensive list of indicators related to the aspects of vulnerability cited. Within 120 days, CSD will provide any recommendations from the group to the Chief of Police or designee.*

4. Work with Multnomah County criminal justice partners to identify and implement ways to minimize “failure to appear” warrants, which may increase suffering for vulnerable community members and lead to inefficient uses of police resources.

Agree to research. *We recognize the impact of warrants on the vulnerable members of our community. However, the issuance of warrants rests with the court system. Within 30 days, the Assistant Chief of the Investigations Branch will establish a workgroup that includes our criminal justice partners, to research and identify strategies to minimize “failure to appear” warrants. Within 120 days, the Assistant Chief of the Investigations Branch will provide any recommendations from the group to the Chief of Police or designee.*