

I want to open this press conference by thanking Portland Police officers for work they do every day. They perform admirably in the most trying of circumstances and often in the face of enormous criticism.

Two themes to this press conference:

1. Yet again, the spotlight is on police training. Use this as an opportunity to call for City leaders to fund a police training center.
2. To rebut the inference that the Portland Police Bureau simply lurches from crisis to crisis. To show rather that the Bureau has been working hard on issues of force, with demonstrable results.

A Regional Training Facility--

The Portland Police Bureau--with our metro-area law enforcement partners--has placed on the table a proposal for a Regional Training Center.

Prior to the onset of the recession, the City of Portland has earmarked money for the purchase of the land for the center. Unfortunately, the money that was set aside in 2008 was used to fill a budget hole when revenue to the City faltered.

It is my hope and expectation that the City of Portland will soon re-engage on the creation of the Regional Training Center.

The Portland Police Bureau Training Division has many fine and talented individuals. Some of the best trainers in the country. The Training Division, however, spends an inordinate amount of time and energy to find places to train over a three county area.

Too often, the training is by necessity designed to fit the space. Wouldn't it be ideal that the training was better designed to mimic real life in a more realistic setting. Portland police officers deserve better and Portland deserves better than what recent community academy participants describe as "ramshackle" and "embarrassing" facilities.

### Improvements in the Use of Force—

Portland Police officers handle roughly 400,000 calls for service annually.

They make about 35,000 arrests annually. In addition, they take several thousand people into custody on civil holds because they are a danger to themselves or others based on the effects of alcohol or drugs or mental crisis.

From November 2007 to November 2008 (the last period subject to independent analysis in partnerships with the Independent Police Review Division and the Citizen's Review Committee:

PPB officers used force in .27% of calls for service (down from .36% in 2005) and 3.07% of arrests (down from 4.18%). In 2007-2008, injuries to officers were down by 16%. Injuries to suspects was down by 5%, following a 15% drop the year before.

Since 2004, complaints of excessive force are down by 56%.

Use of deadly force by Portland Police Bureau has dropped as well. See chart in packet.

Between 1998 and 2001, PPB averaged 9.5 officer involved shootings a year.

In 2007 and 2008, we had 2.

In 2009, we had 1.

Why the drop in use of force? I would assert because we are working hard on the issue and have been for several years.

- Four PARC (Police Assessment Resource Center) reports looking at how the Portland Police Bureau investigates and reviews officer involved shootings.

As part of our review of officer involved shooting and in-custody death cases, we look for ways to improve policy, training and practices. (See handout of some of the changes we have implemented as a result of these cases reviews.)

In the Third Follow up report, PARC wrote, “This Report describes an increasingly excellent police department. Chief Rosanne Sizer and her command staff have worked diligently and in good faith to improve the Portland Police Bureau...The PPB is indeed in a progressive mode, with an increased capacity for self-critical identification of issues and formulation of solutions.”

- Two Use of Force Reports with the Independent Police Review and the Citizen’s Review Committee

Between 2007 and today, we have implemented some fifteen recommendations that range from changes to our force policy to what data we collect on force.

- We also have a Tort Review committee that looks at civil lawsuits and recommends changes based on any trends that are seen.

We have done a lot.

I believe that we will do a lot as we review and analyze the Aaron Campbell case.

What I cannot promise is perfect outcomes. I cannot promise that every police action will be perfect. I cannot promise that our jobs cannot be done without risk.

- Risk to police officers, risk to suspects, and risk to the community.

What I can promise is that we will strive to do our work within the framework of the law and policy and, as much as possible, meet community expectations.

Director of the Office of Accountability and Professional Standards Leslie Stevens will be outlining the process we will use in the review of the Aaron Campbell case.

Also available are Patricia TenEyck and David Deinecke, both of whom serve as community members on the Use of Force Committee.

Our goal is to have the Use of Force Committee review this case and forward recommendations to me and Commissioner Saltzman sometime this June.