

***Commissioner Dan Saltzman's Statement
Regarding the James Chasse Settlement***

I truly believe that this settlement is in the best interest of our City and our community. It is my hope that by settling this case, we as a community can continue to heal from the tragic death of Mr. Chasse.

Although nothing can ever make up for the loss of Mr. Chasse's life, his death has led us all to take a serious look at the way we as a community treat the mentally ill – and it has prompted the Portland Police Bureau to examine and improve many of its policies in an effort to improve interactions with those with mental illness - including a program to pair mental health workers and officers in tandem service.

As the report the Auditor commissioned on Chasse Internal Investigation notes ... the Portland Police Bureau of 2010 is not the same bureau as in 2006 when this tragedy occurred.

Chief Rosie Sizer took great strides to ensure the overhaul of many policies, and I believe Chief Reese and the men and women of the Portland Police Bureau will continue to build upon these improvements.

In addition to the dramatic and important changes at the Police Bureau - the City itself is doing more to fill the serious gap in services that exist for those in mental health crisis by collaborating with Multnomah County to open a new mental health treatment center.

As elected officials for the City of Portland, it is our job to be prudent when it comes to the City's funds. At the same time, we must also stand up and acknowledge when mistakes are made and work hard to make sure we learn from those mistakes.

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As I did when I originally announced this proposed settlement, I would again like to express my deepest apologies – on behalf of the City - to the Chasse family for the loss of their son and brother. I know words are of little consolation, but we are truly sorry for your loss.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge Judge Ann Aiken for her role in settling this case. And, acknowledge the hard work of Chief Rosie Sizer, who not only made dramatic policy changes, but personally worked very hard in the settlement negotiations. And, finally, I'd like to thank City Attorneys Linda Meng and Jim Rice for their hard work to bring this settlement to reality.