

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Portland Copwatch <copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 11:10 AM
To: Commissioner Saltzman; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Eudaly; Wheeler, Mayor
Cc: Moore-Love, Karla; News Media; Portland Copwatch
Subject: COMMENTS on appointments to Portland Comm. on Community Engaged Policing

Mayor Wheeler and members of Council:

Portland Copwatch acknowledges that you will be voting on the initial membership of the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP) this Wednesday, and once again expresses concern that there will likely be no public testimony since it is being heard as a "Report."*

Wednesday marks 603 days since the Community Oversight Advisory Board (COAB)-- the original community group set to oversee the Agreement-- was disbanded.

Judge Simon is holding a status conference next Thursday, October 4 at 9 AM in the Federal Courthouse to see whether the City has made progress in replacing the COAB with a reasonably functional alternative. Since the PCCEP probably won't even have received their training by then, it is going to be a hard sell for the City.

When testifying about the changes to the PCCEP structure earlier this month, PCW suggested that the Mayor appoint as alternates all of the people who were finalists but did not make the final cut. There is no mention of alternates in the documentation. COAB burned through all five of its alternates within a year, and then attrition along with Council's refusal to fill empty seats led to COAB's demise.

The PCCEP members' staggered terms see five of the 13 members could be leaving in 2019-- the two High School students, community organizer Sharon Gary-Smith, "Cool Islam for Youth" participant Aden Hassan, and "Art of the Tough Talks" creator Michelle Lang.

The eight who get two year terms include a formerly houseless person who has a background in community organizing (Patrick Nolen), two people who work as Peer Support with the mental health community (Yolanda Clay and Lakeesha Dumas), a social worker with Multnomah County (Zacharay Thornhill) and a teacher from Rosemary Andersho High School who runs a "Word is Bond" program for black men-- including one of the two student members (Lakayana Drury).

The three remaining people have histories or present-day roles that lead to some questions here.

Bob Dye is the General Manager of Lloyd Center. While he brings diversity in the sense that he can represent the business class and he is a native Hawaiian, the only thing his biography points to in terms of dealing with police is helping institute the use of dye packs in bank money.

Andrew Kalloch's past history working with Legal Aid and the ACLU of New York makes for a good pedigree, however his current job is as policy manager for AirBnB, a company that contributes to the gentrification of Portland and the tight squeezed housing supply here. This in turn contributes to houselessness and the overpolicing of houseless persons.

Finally, Sam Sachs, whose biography notes he has had a 20 year career in law enforcement, was the chair of the Community/Police Relations Committee (CPRC) before it folded up shop. Under his leadership the Committee alternately had meetings at which no actions were taken, and cancelled meetings enough times that the important group stopped existing in early 2016. This is despite being written into the US Department of Justice Settlement Agreement, which the PCCEP is supposed to oversee.

Mr. Sachs' main focus at CPRC, continued in his "Breaking Bread with Police" dinners, was to build personal relationships between community members and police. While this is an important goal, as with the PCCEP, creating personal relationships will not undo years of problematic behavior, policies that lead to disparate treatment, or the end of community outrage when police use force/deadly force inappropriately.

Thank you

dan handelman
Portland Copwatch

*- despite the fact that the Mayor is requesting confirmation, when in general there is no action to be taken on Reports.