

## **Appointee bios**

### **Taji Chesimet**

Taji Chesimet is a vivacious, motivated, and self-driven young man, who uses his understanding of self, inside and outside of larger social identities, to navigate his work. Interacting with people of all backgrounds, to address the most complex and uncomfortable issues with a candid, direct approach.

Taji served on the Multnomah Youth Commission for about a year and a half on their Youth Against Violence and Youth Education/Voice sub-committees. For the past year or so, Taji has been the youth representative on the City of Portland's 3.96 Code-Change Committee. Engaging with City Council through the outlets of commissions, public testimony, and proclamations has been a tool Taji has used to amplify his voice and the voices of others.

Taji also worked at The CENTER, a youth-focused space and coalition that works with Black United Fund, Latino Network, Urban League of Portland, and more, to allow youth to have space to talk about the issues that matter to them — working with the community to engage in interpersonal problems, such as gentrification, race, and white privilege. Previously, Taji was the Project Manager at the Office of Equity & Human Rights Black Male Achievement for two summer cohorts. He has been a speaker at the ACLU of Oregon's Gala and currently works as an intern with their Policy and Development teams. He has held workshops at Oregon Students of Color Conference, Black Student Success Summit, and a co-organizer for multiple events.

Taji is currently a senior at De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, Oregon, and this fall, he will be a freshman at the University of Chicago studying Global Relations with a concentration on Human Rights in Latin America.

### **Jamari Etherly**

Jamari is a senior at Benson Polytechnic High School who is incredibly involved in his community demonstrated by his role as a Word is Bond Community Ambassador. He has been boxing for many years and in addition to pursuing education he hopes to take the boxing world by storm.

## **Thabiti Lewis**

Thabiti Lewis is an associate professor at Washington State University in Vancouver and Interim Associate Academic Vice Chancellor. He is a literary scholar whose work engages critical race theory and masculinity via sport culture. He is the author of *Ballers of the New School: Race and Sports in America* (2010). Lewis has also produced two books about the life and fiction of feminist and Black Arts Movement writer Toni Cade Bambara (*Conversations with Toni Cade Bambara*, 2012, and *Black People Are My Business: Practices of Liberation in the Fiction of Toni Cade Bambara*, 2020). His essays have also appeared in journals, newspapers, and magazines on topics ranging from literature, sports culture and hip hop to racism and social justice.



**Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler  
City of Portland**

January 29, 2020

As Mayor and Police Commissioner, I request Council confirmation of the following appointments to the Portland Commission on Community Engaged Policing:


<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
Taji Chesimet	2/1/20-10/1/20	Sebastian Chevalier
Jamari Etherly	2/1/20-1/31/21	Sam Sachs
Thabiti Lewis (alternate)	TBD	TBD (next vacancy)

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor

Agenda No.  
**REPORT**  
Title

Appoint new members, and alternate member, to the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing. (Report) <sup>1</sup>  
Thabiti Lewis,  
Taji Chesimet and Jamari Etherly,

<p><b>INTRODUCED BY</b> Commissioner/Auditor: <b>Mayor Ted Wheeler</b></p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>JAN 28 2020</u></p>
<p><b>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</b></p> <p>Mayor—Finance &amp; Administration - Wheeler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Vacant</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Hardesty</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly</p>	<p>Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By:  Deputy</p>
<p><b>BUREAU APPROVAL</b></p> <p>Bureau: Office of the Mayor</p>	<p><b>ACTION TAKEN:</b></p> <p>FEB 05 2020 <b>CONFIRMED</b></p>
<p>Prepared by: T. Reeve Date Prepared: 1/28/2020</p>	
<p>Impact Statement</p> <p>Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p><b>City Auditor Office Approval:</b> required for Code Ordinances</p>	
<p><b>City Attorney Approval:</b> required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date <b>2/6/2020</b></p>	

<b>AGENDA</b>
<p><b>TIME CERTAIN</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Start time: _____</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p><b>CONSENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>REGULAR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: <b>20</b> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:	
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz ✓	
2. Vacant	2. Vacant	
3. Hardesty	3. Hardesty ✓	
4. Eudaly	4. Eudaly ✓	
Wheeler	Wheeler ✓	