

CITY OF PORTLAND

Office of City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130
Portland, OR 97204
phone: (503) 823-4078
web: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 19, 2014

To: Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Steve Novick

From: City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Re: Appoint Aryn Seiler, Juan Muros, Susan Steinman, Kathleen Abbott, Kate von Ter Stegge, Adam Green, Cyrus Vafi, and Steve Yarosh to serve on the Portland Police Bureau's Police Review Board

In 2010, Portland City Council amended City Code 3.20 which governs the processes and make up of Portland Police Bureau's performance and use of force review boards. As part of the changes approved by Council, the Police Bureau will select citizen members for the Police Review Board from a pool of volunteers recommended by the City Auditor and appointed by City Council.

My recommendations for appointment are listed below, and brief biographies are attached. Staff from the Auditor's Independent Police Review division, a member of the Citizen Review Committee, and a Police Bureau member assisted in the selection of the pool of community volunteers available to participate in Police Review Boards convened after October 31, 2013. If confirmed by Council, their term begins February 19, 2014 and ends February 19, 2017.

1. Aryn Seiler
2. Adam Green
3. Cyrus M. Vafi
4. Juan Muros
5. Kathleen Abbott
6. Kate von Ter Stegge
7. Susan G. Steinman
8. Steve Yarosh

1. Aryn Seiler has been a resident of Portland for ten years and is poised to graduate from Lewis & Clark Law School in May, 2014. She looks forward to continued work in the field of criminal defense in Oregon. Ms. Seiler is currently certified by the Oregon and Washington Bars to handle misdemeanor matters in criminal court, and is currently working as a trial assistant in a murder trial. She has also taught Latin in private schools and worked as a diesel mechanic. As a cab driver, she was elected to serve on the Private for Hire Transportation Board of Review.

Ms. Seiler is active in legal scholarship and sentencing reform, recently publishing an article titled "Buried Alive: The Constitutional Question of Life Without Parole for Juvenile Offenders Convicted of Homicide" in the Lewis and Clark Law Review.

2. Adam Green received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science at the University of Houston in Texas. Adam has over eight years of nonprofit and community outreach experience at organizations focused on education, community health, and social services. Currently at The Dougy Center in SE Portland, Adam raises critical funds to support children and families grieving the death of a loved one. Prior to his work at The Dougy Center, Adam organized the Race for the Cure events in Portland and Eugene, OR with cumulative participation of 40,000 in 2011. Adam has lived in Portland since 2009.

3. Cyrus M. Vafi received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from San Diego State University and Masters of Business Administration, Finance, from the University of San Diego. Mr. Vafi is a commercial banker with Sterling Bank, supporting middle market corporate clients. He also serves as an active board member with the Northwest Children's Theater and Leadership Portland Alumni Association. He has lived in Northwest Portland since 2008.

4. Juan Muros is a resident of the Cully Neighborhood since 1997 where he works as a volunteer since 1999 with several programs and services offered at the Ortiz Center. Juan most enjoys working with the Portland Police Bureau to provide gang prevention programming and parenting courses to families, and is a volunteer for the Portland Police Bureau Crisis Response Team Latino services under the supervision of Officer Marcy Jackson. He attended Heald College for criminal justice courses in 2009-2011. He works for Hacienda CDC as Resident Services Coordinator and Community Safety

Coordinator, attends “La Iglesia Vida Nueva” (New life Church) and plays an active role in the family and youth ministry. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.

5. Kathleen Abbott Grew up in Mount Vernon, WA and moved to Portland three years ago, after spending a number of years in Washington, DC and New York. She attended law school in Washington, DC and now practices in the fields of software licensing and general business transactions. A die-hard Gonzaga and Seahawks fan, she is greatly enjoying this time of year! Kathleen has enjoyed her time living in Northeast Portland and is glad she has chosen it as the place to make her home.

6. Kate von Ter Stegge is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Virginia School of Law. A former teacher, Kate now defends civil rights and employment lawsuits for Multnomah County. She previously worked as an Assistant Attorney General and a Deputy District Attorney for Multnomah County. Kate is the chair of both the Legal Heritage Committee and the Unlawful Practice of Law Committee of the Oregon State Bar, as well as a mock trial coach for the Lewis and Clark School of Law. Through Girls Inc., Kate runs an after-school invention laboratory at Atkinson Elementary School with fourth and fifth grade girls. Kate lives with her family in SE Portland.


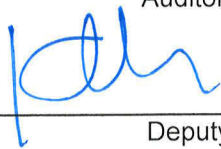
7. Susan G. Steinman is an attorney in private practice in Portland and is Counsel to the Law Office of Schachter Portnoy, LLC of Princeton, NJ and Valhalla, NY. Her focus is debt collection and creditor rights. Ms. Steinman grew up in New York City and has been a full time Portland resident for nearly 3 years after being bicoastal for 6 years. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany and received her Juris Doctor from Touro Law Center in Long Island, NY. Before becoming a lawyer, Ms. Steinman taught elementary school in Manhattan and worked for the Rockefeller University Hospital in healthcare administration. She volunteers as a pro bono attorney with Legal Aid Services of Oregon.

8. Steve Yarosh is an attorney and small business owner. He has substantial experience handling claims alleging police misconduct and civil rights violations. Mr. Yarosh has worked extensively on both sides of that issue: first as a plaintiffs’ attorney in Chicago where he successfully represented clients in cases alleging police misconduct, and later as a city

attorney where he successfully defended individual officers in cases alleging misconduct. He has served as a courtroom mediator, an Assistant U.S. Attorney and a federal prosecutor. In addition, Mr. Yarosh was one of the lead trial attorneys in the Waco, Texas case involving the Branch Davidians. While living in Chicago, Illinois, Yarosh successfully led a fight to save a downtown neighborhood park. His recent public service includes Metro Natural Gas Area Oversight Committee, Metro Neighborhood Grants Committee, and three years on Portland's Citizen Review Committee.

Agenda No.
REPORT NO.
Title

Appoint a pool of community volunteers to be available to serve on the Police Review Board for terms to expire February 19, 2017 (Report)

<p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Auditor Griffin-Valade</p> 	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>FEB 14 2014</u></p>
<p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance and Administration - Hales</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Novick</p>	<p>LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By:  Deputy</p>
<p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: City Auditor Bureau Head: Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade</p>	
<p>Prepared by: David Nguyen Date Prepared: February 6, 2014</p>	<p>ACTION TAKEN: FEB 19 2014 CONFIRMED</p>
<p>Financial Impact & Public Involvement Statement Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date February 19, 2014</p>	

<p>AGENDA 2012</p>
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Start time: 10:15 9:30</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 15 min (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:	
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz ✓	
2. Fish	2. Fish ✓	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman ✓	
4. Novick	4. Novick ✓	
Hales	Hales ✓	