



Office of Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland

PRESS RELEASE

City Appeal to Clarify Judge's Role in DOJ Settlement

FRIDAY, OCT. 17, 2014 — Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Amanda Fritz on Wednesday will present City Council with a resolution to authorize the City Attorney's Office to appeal one condition Federal Judge Michael Simon placed on the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement.

The judge approved the settlement — an agreement among the City, Portland Police Association, DOJ, and Albina Ministerial Alliance — on Aug. 29. It followed a 2011 DOJ investigation into the Portland Police Bureau.

Hales and Fritz support the reforms outlined in the settlement agreement. Under Hales' leadership, the Police Bureau started implementing aspects of the agreement long before Simon approved it. The Police Bureau remains committed to moving forward with reforms outlined in the agreement, and will continue to implement all of the changes regardless of court proceedings.

The purpose of the appeal is to clarify the judge's role. In his order, Simon wrote that the parties were "to present evidence ... as so directed by the Court." The City's appeal will ask the court to clarify that broad statement.

"All the parties are committed to this settlement. All parties have agreed to this settlement," Hales said. "Now we want to move forward, get out of court and get to work."

Fritz said she's glad Judge Simon accepted the settlement agreement: "It clearly identifies that the Council is directly responsible for oversight, which ensures that Portlanders know who is responsible and accountable for managing the Police Bureau in conformance with the community's values. The settlement emphasizes community engagement. I believe that public trust in policing in Portland depends on all Council members demonstrating that we are committed to implementing the Agreement fully. I accept that responsibility. I look forward to collaborating with all Portlanders on this crucial work, especially those with lived experience enduring mental illnesses."