

#### CITY OF

## PORTLAND, OREGON

### OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

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## PRESS RELEASE

# **Auditor Announces Selection of New Independent Police Review Director**

Portland City Auditor Gary Blackmer announced the hiring of Mary-Beth Baptista as the new Director of Independent Police Review. Baptista has been a Deputy District Attorney in Multnomah County for over seven years, and previously worked as an Outreach Coordinator for the Sierra Club. She graduated from Lewis and Clark's Northwestern School of Law, and received dual undergraduate degrees from Syracuse University in Political Science and Policy Studies & Public Affairs.

"She is very experienced working with victims, she knows investigations, and she is an excellent communicator," Blackmer said. "Her expertise is exactly what we need to ensure fair and thorough investigations of complaints, to work with the community, and to identify ways the Portland Police Bureau can improve its services."

A national search was conducted to fill the position, and finalists were interviewed by an 8-member panel, including several members of the public. Leslie Stevens, the previous director, was hired by the Portland Police Bureau to oversee its new Office of Professional Standards. Baptista starts in her position on May 29.

The Independent Police Review Division accepts and oversees the investigation and resolution of citizen complaints against police officers and makes recommendations relating to Police Bureau policy and training. More information on the IPR can be found at <a href="https://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/ipr">www.portlandonline.com/auditor/ipr</a>.