



CITY OF PORTLAND

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Leadership Change at the Auditor's Independent Police Review Division

City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade announces the formal appointment of Constantin Severe as the Director of the Auditor's Independent Police Review (IPR) division. Severe, who replaces departing Director Mary-Beth Baptista, has served as the Assistant Director of IPR since 2008.

Severe played a major role in efforts to broaden IPR's police oversight authority, has attended the scene of several officer-involved shootings, and has participated as a voting member on Police Review Boards recommending officer discipline to the Chief of Police. "Constantin has proven himself to be a remarkable leader in the City's efforts to strengthen and maintain effective police oversight and accountability," said Auditor Griffin-Valade.

Severe was born in Brooklyn, NY, and is the son of Haitian immigrants. He graduated from Andrews University with a B.S. in Political Economy. He graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2002. Prior to working for the City, he was a criminal defense attorney in the major felonies unit at Metropolitan Public Defender's office here in Portland.

IPR also adds three new investigators. City Council funded these positions in response to the agreement with the US Department of Justice, following their investigation of the Police Bureau. To address the primary problem identified in that agreement, IPR purposely set out to hire seasoned investigators with experience working with mentally ill individuals and/or those in emotional crisis. "The new investigators are a great addition to our team," said Severe.

Eric Nomura comes to IPR after spending sixteen years as an investigator for Oregon's Department of Human Services. The first five of those years were with child protective services, and for the past eleven years he conducted fact-finding protective service investigations statewide with the Office of Investigations and Training.

Casey Bieberich worked for four years as an investigator for the Adult Protective Services Program at Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services Division before joining IPR. She received her law degree from Willamette University in 2009, is trained in mediation, and is fluent in Spanish.

Eric Berry served as an investigator at the Oregon Medical Board before being hired by IPR. Prior to that, he worked for the Oregon Department of Human Services investigating allegations of abuse and neglect in a variety of settings, including facilities for individuals with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.

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