

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jim Francesconi introduces

Police Overhaul Strategy to City Council

Says police should address "diversity, training and labor management"

Jim Francesconi today introduced a resolution designed to provide better training for Portland police officers. "We need to re-build trust between police officers and the community and provide better training for officers so that dangerous situations are de-escalated," said Francesconi. "This guides the Police Bureau in improving diversity, training and labor management." "Until the police ranks reflect the diversity in our community and until officers receive better training, problems will continue to fester," said Francesconi. "We have already seen fatal consequences as a result of these issues."

Francesconi's resolution directs the Police Bureau to institute an apprenticeship training program similar to one that he oversaw as Fire Commissioner. The Fire Bureau program increased diversity in the Fire Bureau by 283% among women and minorities, to better reflect the City they serve. The resolution also requires that the Police Bureau's "Use of Force" Committee, now being developed, include diverse representation and that additional training for officers in dangerous situations be provided. Francesconi also wants the Police Bureau to provide an action plan as to how they will put an end to racial profiling.

Carl Flipper, from the Humboldt Neighborhood Association said, "This resolution is a good first step in resolving some of the issues that divide our community from the police department. This cloud of fear of our police has lingered much too long. It's not a total fix, but it is a move in the right direction."

Commissioner Randy Leonard, a cosponsor of the resolution added, "I support this resolution, and we must be clear, these aren't 'goals' for the Police Bureau, these are expectations for them to meet."