



OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
RENE GONZALEZ

For Immediate Release

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February 3, 2023

## **Portland City Commissioner Rene Gonzalez announces 2023 First Responder Tour**

*Portland's Commissioner of Public Safety will visit each of the city's 31 fire stations in the calendar year and will prioritize close meetings with rank-and-file public safety staff across Portland*

Portland City Commissioner of Public Safety Rene Gonzalez announced his 2023 First Responder Tour today.

On this Tour, he will visit each of the city's 31 fire stations during the 2023 calendar year and will closely connect with the city's first responders, including those at Portland Fire, Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management and the city's Neighborhood Emergency Teams, Portland's 9-1-1 operators, Portland Police, and Portland Street Response.

The Tour begins this Saturday, February 4 at 8 a.m., with a visit to one of Portland's busiest fire stations: Station 7, in East Portland's Mill Park neighborhood.

Commissioner Gonzalez released the following statement about his First Responder Tour:

"Our city's first responders are the beating heart of our community. But these last few years have been especially challenging for these brave public servants, given all we've asked of them during the pandemic and with the ongoing crisis on Portland's streets. Over the next 12 months as part of my First Responder Tour, my team and I look forward to hearing firsthand the challenges they've been facing and discussing how the city can best support their critical work."

In response to Commissioner Gonzalez's plan to visit each fire station in the city as part of this Tour, Portland Fire Chief Sara Boone said:

"I am grateful that Commissioner Gonzalez plans to visit each of Portland Fire's 31 stations across our city this year as part of his First Responder Tour. I welcome his collaboration on the critical public safety challenges facing our city, including ensuring our stations are fully staffed and our rank-and-file have the tools and training they need to carry out their frontline work."

Bob Cozzie, Director of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communications, which maintains the city's 9-1-1 infrastructure, added:

"The best way to see the challenges faced by Portland's 9-1-1 call takers is to do exactly what Commissioner Gonzalez has promised to do during this Tour: to sit down with them directly. We look forward to working closely with the Commissioner and his team on reducing 9-1-1 wait times and supporting our frontline first-response staff."

Progress of the 2023 First Responder Tour will be tracked on the Commissioner's city website, <https://portland.gov/gonzalez> as well on the Commissioner's [official social media accounts](#).

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