

ReThink Police Accountability Commission Bios/Statements/Attendance

Biographies

Faythe Aiken: Faythe Aiken is a proud resident of St. John's and has been in Portland for nearly a decade. During the day, she works as a Project Manager at Prosper Portland, developing, analyzing, and making meaning of agency-wide metrics. Faythe's career has been spent using data as a storytelling tool to dismantle systems of oppression.

Debbie Aiona: Debbie Aiona is a long-time resident of Portland and an active volunteer with the League of Women Voters of Portland. She currently is the Action Committee chair, has been on the board for over 25 years, and served as president from 1995 - 2000. She first became involved in police oversight in 2000 when she assumed responsibility for representing the League on Mayor Katz's PIIAC reform workgroup.

Monica Arce: Monica Arce is certified nurse-midwife who has been working at the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center for the last 13 years. She is now the site medical director for the Virginia Garcia Women's Clinic. She was raised in Peru and moved to the US in 1990 to go to college. After her first degree in 1994 from Tulane University she worked as a medical interpreter in Portland for 10 years. She then attended OHSU and graduated from midwifery school in 2007. Monica has been serving the Latinx community locally for over 23 years.

Meikelo Cabbage: My name is Meikelo Cabbage, I am a commissioner with the Multnomah Youth Commission and I am incredibly interested in public policy and using it to improve our community. I am especially invested in healthcare, housing, and of course, public safety. I am a Co-Chair for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative—an organization created in partnership between Multnomah county and Annie E. Casey Foundation—where justice system stakeholders seek to expand alternative housing for youth in Oregon's juvenile justice system.

Nicole Cole: Hello, my name is Nicole Cole-Harder. I grew up in North Portland and remember when MLK Blvd was called Union Ave. I also remember the controversy on the name change too. I also remember when the community was ignored and when the community started to change. Some of the changes were good and some were not so good.

Sophia Glenn: I moved to Portland in 2008 and have been working and living in the city since then. I care about my community and want to serve to make a positive contribution to the commission that brings about deep-rooted police reforms in a non-violent manner.

Dan Handelman: Dan Handelman is a co-founding member of Peace and Justice Works and its police accountability project group Portland Copwatch. In 1991 he also helped co-found Flying Focus Video Collective, which has produced a program on cable access every week on social justice topics. Dan attended nearly every police oversight meeting in the City since 1992 (PIIAC 1992-2001/Citizen Review Committee 2001-present). He was appointed to sit on three previous City commissions looking at the oversight system - - Mayor Katz's Work Group in 2000, and on stakeholder groups in 2010 and 2016. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform.

Eric Hunter: Eric C. Hunter is the President and Chief Executive Officer of CareOregon, a not-for-profit managed health care plan. Previously, he has held Executive positions with Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, Schaller Anderson, Centene, and ValueOptions Behavioral Health. State government experience includes positions in the Oklahoma Governor's office and with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Eric studied Petroleum Engineering at the University of Tulsa, earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from St. Leo University, and a Masters of Business Administration from Northeastern University. Eric currently serves as the Board Chair for both Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives and for Trillium Family Services.

Seemab Hussaini: As a social justice advocate, Seemab is a founding of a Muslim civil rights organization in the State of Oregon. As a community organizer, has created dialogue with Oregon's local and state officials and their staff, while finding alliances with social justice organizations and faith leaders throughout the city and across states. As a community member and Muslim American representative, he presented on panels to advance dialogue in hate-crimes and organized onsite events, rallies and marches as a member of several grassroots coalitions. He often seeks out opportunities to educate, advocate for others, particularly for underserved and marginalized community members.

Lovisa Lloyd: Lovisa Lloyd is an intellectual property paralegal with a background in criminal civil rights work. From 2016 to 2019, she served in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, where she assisted in the investigation and prosecution of use-of-force cases involving police and correctional officers. As part of her work, she reviewed a large number of internal police investigations. As an undergraduate at Howard University, she studied the intersection of US government history and African-American history.

Katherine McDowell: I have practiced law in Portland since 1988. I started a women-owned law firm in 2006, focusing on energy and environmental law, with offices in downtown Portland. For the last 30 years, I have volunteered as a civil rights lawyer and community advocate. In 2016, the National Lawyers Guild trained me as a legal observer, and I then started the ACLU of Oregon's legal observer program. Based on my personal experiences as a legal observer, I have co-authored comments on Portland Police Crowd Control Directives and advised on police reform legislation.

Charlie Michelle-Westley: A member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, on a healing journey from Intergenerational/historical and current day trauma, including neglect, poverty, abuses unimaginable as a child, teen and adult, addictions, mental illness, extensive physical and emotional police brutality, incarceration, tragic death of friends and loved ones including my mother and police beatings and imprisonment for my schizophrenic father.

Twenty years ago, I was able to turn my life around and now I'm on a healing journey recovering from all of the above trauma and during this healing process I discovered the common thread was that all of the above was smothered and designed in societies racist systems. I experienced racism while still in the womb of my Native mother and unfortunately will always anticipate racism. However, I also found my voice, my passion, my calling to be of service to all those who struggle in colonized America, and fight this fight of a lifetime for Justice, Equality, Equity, Antiracism, Anti-oppression, for Respect and Reparation so we can start living without fear of those that should protect and serve "ALL" We the People.

Tirsa Orellana: My name is Tirsa Orellana (she/her/hers), first born of five children of Salvadoran parents who immigrated to Los Angeles. I have worked with a local immigration law firm, labor rights organization and currently working in the public sector doing legal work. Members in our communities have been targets of systemic injustices that place their beings at risk. I am determined to continue listening and using my voice to demand change. I enjoy long walks with my golden retriever, spending time on Mt. Hood, gazing off into the sunset and sharing a cooked meal with loved ones.

Jason Renaud: Jason Renaud is a nonprofit consultant with over 35 years of open recovery from alcoholism. He's a well-known public speaker and educator on recovery from alcoholism and the experience of people with mental illness and is an active advocate for people who have fallen through the public health safety net.

May Saechao: Ms. May Saechao is a native of the Pacific Northwest, born and raised in the greater Portland metro area, and first generation born in the US from SE Asian refugee parents. May's 15+yrs of work in the public safety field and lived experience as a member of a BIPOC community has given her a greater understanding of the challenges that are plaguing the criminal justice system and underrepresented communities of color. Ms. Saechao has a deep devotion and commitment to the city she was raised in and its resident constituents, which is where you will find her spending much of her volunteer time engaging with underserved communities, learning about the vast rich cultures, and using these experiences to help represent the marginalized voices who are often left out of policy making conversations. Community driven processes such as ReThink Accountability Board are spaces that Ms. Saechao's work strongly advocates for more presence of and is humbly, but extremely honored to be apart of.

Zoe Sigman: Zoe Sigman is the Administrative Director for Haymarket Pole Collective, the Science Editor for *Broccoli Magazine*, and a freelance writer and editor focused on carceral data, cannabis science, sex work, and social justice. Her articles have been published in *Vogue*, *Autostraddle*, and *Project CBD*, among others. In addition to her writing, Zoe has testified to the FDA about the regulation of CBD and cannabis, and sits on the Portland Cannabis Policy Oversight Team's Competency Subcommittee. This Fall she will be attending The Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany to begin her Masters of Public Policy. She is committed to continuing to contribute to this committee while she's abroad.

Angie Tomlinson: I am Angie Tomlinson, with the maiden name of Angie Guerra. I am half Latina, but due to extreme police violence that happened almost 50 years ago, I never got to connect with the Mexican side of my family. I want to do this work so that the situation that I have gone through will not perpetuate. I know this will be hard work for change, but it is needed, and I am ready for the work.

Eva Vega: My name is Eva Vega, and I am an Indigenous woman, mother and high school administrator who was born and raised in North Portland. I've lived and worked within the Portland community my entire life. I am the daughter of an immigrant father and spent the better part of my life living in poverty. I have experienced a plethora of hardships and traumas throughout my life, and as a result, I am extremely passionate about providing support and resources to the most vulnerable youth within the Portland community who have also been disproportionately affected by varying traumas. As an educator, it's important to me that I instill hope in my young scholars, reduce recidivism and provide education and enrichment opportunities that foster academic achievements, life skills and employment opportunities and trainings that promote self-sufficiency.

Connie Wohn: Connie Wohn is known for dreaming up truly unique brand activations, brand positioning and brand elevating events. As a 15-year event producer, Connie thrives when bringing people together to experience things for the greater good. A strong focus on communications & team building with an emphasis on efficiency, effectiveness & creativity. An active member of Portland's creative community fabric she thrives at creating spaces and experiences for the community to gather around with attention to detail and a strong hospitality focus. Calling in the community to support & get behind the brands and embrace them fully is a special skill. This comes from the right understanding of the market and the brand's contribution to the landscape. All things culture, fun and current are her specialties. With an emphasis on sustainability & equity to all events, she is leading the discussion for the industry. Now rounding out the tool box by adding the skill of becoming an Official COVID 19 Compliance Director to keep all productions safe and compliant. Any current film, video, music production, photography production or small event should have the oversight and support of a COVID 19 Compliance officer. Keeping all things experience at the forefront of safety and innovation.

Winta Yohannes: Winta Yohannes is the executive director of an organization working to rebuild wealth and places that reflect joy and safety, especially for Black Portlanders. Previously, she served as a senior policy advisor at Portland City Hall where her portfolio included public safety, civic engagement and the protection of civil rights. Ms. Yohannes grew up in NE Portland and is motivated by the desire to connect community power to political change.

Statements of Intent

Faythe Aiken: She is eager to participate in the ReThink Commission as she is passionate to utilize her lived experience as an advocate for the AAPI and disability community.

Debbie Aiona: The League has been consistently involved in this issue since the early 1980s when the League president served on the Storrs Commission that was responsible for recommending creation of the city's first oversight system. She tracked the issue until handing it off in 2000 to Ms. Aiona, who has been monitoring the Independent Police Review and police-related committees since then. As a close observer of our current system and a supporter of stronger oversight, Ms. Aiona is interested in working with others on the commission to design a system that is transparent, accessible to the public, holds officers accountable, and improves police conduct and policies.

Monica Arce: Monica is looking forward to providing a voice and representation to the Latinx community while serving in the Police Accountability Commission. During her work as the site medical director at VG, she has had ample experience negotiating and representing the concerns and interests of the patients of Virginia Garcia at several institutions, including the large hospital systems where deliveries take place. She promises to always keep fairness and respect for the difficult work law enforcement does in our community while holding all of this work under the important lens of racial and social justice.

Meikelo Cabbage: I am very excited to serve on this commission. Accountability and trust are the foundations of legitimacy for police departments and I am honored to play a part in strengthening Portland's institutions.

Nicole Cole: The reason why I chose to be on the Police Accountability Committee is that de-policing the community is not the answer, but holding people accountable and learning why someone took the action they took and understanding the bigger picture makes a difference.

Sophia Glenn: Seeing and experiencing firsthand the repercussions of how important it is, for our community and nation, to hold our public servants, police officers, accountable to the highest standards is just one reason why I want to serve. The other reason is to glean from these experiences to help build a community with police officers who are truly and humbly serving the public needs in a kind, respectful and dignified manner.

Dan Handelman: I want to bring our years of experience studying local and national police accountability issues to the table as the City designs the new oversight system. This includes the perspectives we've gathered over nearly 30 years from people who have experienced and/or are concerned about police misconduct including BIPOC, immigrant, refugee, low income/houseless people and people with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Eric Hunter: My career and personal interests have always revolved around working to support the interests of everyone in our communities. I would be privileged to support efforts that will lead to greater safety, security and accountability.

Seemab Hussaini: Faith and immigrant/refugee communities are impacted by injustices carried out in places where accountability and representation should matter the most, the same places where there has been historic failures. I intend to inform this commission and my communities as what is and should be possible with Reimagining Portland police accountability.

Lovisa Lloyd: She hopes to bring a new perspective to the issue of police accountability, and to assist Portland in becoming a national leader in this area.

Katherine McDowell: I want to join the ReThinkPolice Accountability Commission because, as a small business owner in downtown Portland, as a volunteer civil rights lawyer, and as an observer of police misconduct and brutality, I am committed to advancing racial justice and disability rights through robust police oversight and accountability. This is what Measure 26-217 imagines, and I want to help make it happen.

Charlie Michelle-Westley: As a Native woman in colonized American, I first and foremost will be the uncensored voice of the people adversely affected by societal racist roots because my entire life has prepared me for this very critical moment in history, my Intent is to rise up and fight the injustices that prevail for all the people who disproportionately are affected by colonial "ism". I have committed myself to uprooting policing as we have experienced it, No longer allow justification for No accountability as police act as judge, jury, and executioners' and in its stead provide anti-racism in all its forms to truly serve and protect the people not the Blue Line of criminal coverup, hold any public servant accountable, and erase the racial construct that was invented to oppress with violence, my intent is there is no turning back!

Tirsa Orellana: I want to serve in this commission because my lived experience of growing up in an overpoliced neighborhood has brought about the desire to take action and engage in conversation about the current practices within our policing institution(s). To serve in the commission would mean to bring first lived insight based on my experiences.

Jason Renaud: As a public advocate I have skills to help shape the Board's external and internal communications, and my experience in program development and meeting facilitation could be useful in design of integration, transition, and governance to increase public safety and reduce use of force.

May Saechao: I pledge today, I, May Saechao, will work honestly, professionally, and with integrity, to serve my time as a Commissioner, making judgement and decisions absent of biases and partisanship, to act only in accordance to the described duties and stated objectives of this board. At a pivotal moment in society where communities are given a voice, we should take the opportunities to work in a unified approach to improving the systems that govern us, in turn, protecting the humanity and dignity in communities that have disproportionately been affected by these policies, and restoring the honor and trust to the profession who protect and serve the people.

Zoe Sigman: As a long-time activist in Chicago and Portland, Zoe has seen the impacts of policing on a wide variety of communities. In light of the Black Lives Matter protests last Summer, and the generations of trauma experienced by overpoliced communities of color, she is looking forward to advocating for actionable measures that will concretely change the ways that Portland evaluates and responds to police behaviors.

Angie Tomlinson: I am very much looking forward to starting the work on this committee. I know that the reasons that many of us were chosen for the committee were probably horrific situations, so it's hard for me to say that I am excited or proud to be on the committee. But, I very much want to be part of changing things for the better. The Portland Community can do this, and I want to be part of that change.

Eva Vega: As a member of this committee, my intention is to use a trauma informed lens to advocate for accountability of law enforcement and pertain to discussions and share ideas about what we can contribute, collectively, to help rethink police accountability and hopefully, implement new practices that will be established to protect and serve the citizens of Portland. By rethinking police accountability, we can work towards restoring the strained relationship of the Portland Police Bureau and the residents of Portland, Oregon.

Connie Wohn: I am thrilled to be able to help provide a diverse and wide perspective to the Rethink Police Accountability Commission. This is an important voice to provide for our community and to the future of humanity and Portland going forward.

Winta Yohannes: She is interested in serving on the ReThink Police Accountability Commission because she believes the status quo is untenable and that real transformation will require that all who can step up do so.