

# Women Fit In With Portland Police

## Bureau recruits females to force

For Portland Police Bureau Captain Dorothy Elmore, it was growing up in her own community that made her realize the importance of being involved with law enforcement.

"When I was growing up in Portland, police relationships with the African American community were at an all-time low," Elmore said. "I decided that if I wanted to make a difference I was going to do it from the inside."

Elmore is among a new core of women and minority officers.

"We serve a diverse community, and for us to truly understand and be able to build relationships with one another, in the community, in the police force, our Bureau has to reflect the demographics of community we serve," she said. "Our doors are open. We want people of color, women, and people from the sexual minority community to become a part of the police bureau."

For more than 110 years, women have had a history of civil service with the Portland Police.



Commander Rosie Sizer



Captain Dorothy Elmore

In the late 1800's, women served as jail matrons for handling women and children. Toward the end of 1904, Lola Baldwin was hired to help keep women and children off the streets and away from corruption during the 1905 Exposition.

From 1908 to 1973, the Women's Protective Division continued this legacy and made tremendous contributions to law enforcement in Portland.

Rita Sorenson became the first woman assigned to uniformed patrol duty in 1973. This was the first time that women were held to the same standards and functioned in the same capacity as men.

In 1985, Penny Harrington became the first female Chief of Police. Through the decades, opportunities for women at the Bureau have increased.

Even though gender differ-

ences have been an issue in the past, Commander Rosie Sizer feels it's exactly that - in the past.

"When I was hired 20 years ago, I found the organization receptive to women as police officers. Most female officers I talk to say gender is not a big issue anymore. Almost every officer in the Police Bureau now has never known a time when women weren't in the patrol force," Sizer said.

Sergeant Kelli Sheffer said she doesn't experience gender issues with her peers.

"I get along very well with the folks I work with and we have a great time together," she said.

Women in the Portland Police Bureau today succeed as police officers, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, and commanders and are now recruiting for more positions. Benefits in-

clude: fast-paced, varied work; lots of assignments and opportunities; excellent pay and benefits; a rewarding career; and excellent training programs.

For more information, visit [www.portlandpolice.com](http://www.portlandpolice.com), or contact Portland Police Bureau Recruiting Officer Larry Anderson at 503-823-0473.

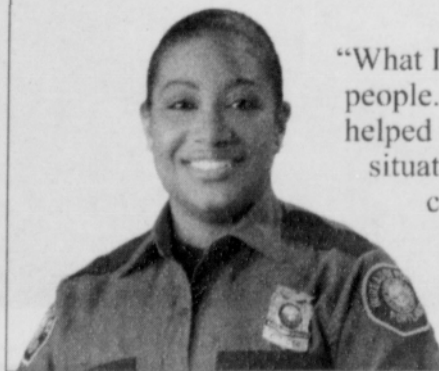


Sergeant Kelli Sheffer

### For every Portland Police Officer there is a story...

#### My story...

#### Officer Dana Lewis, School Resource Officer



"What I enjoy most about police work is helping people. I was working in one of the schools and I helped a foster-care child move out of an abusive situation and into an environment where she could finish her education and prosper. Later, she sent me a card thanking me and, at that moment, I felt like I had a hand in changing someone's life for the better."

### Join us and write the next chapter.

Contact Officer Larry Anderson at: 503-823-0473, 1-888-735-4259. For additional information or to apply online, please visit our website at: [www.portlandpolice.com](http://www.portlandpolice.com)

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