

PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER New Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, the first African American woman to lead the Portland Police Bureau, draws support from members of her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the oldest African American female sorority in the U.S., after taking a ceremonial oath of office Monday in front of the Oregon Historical Society's new civil rights exhibit 'Racing for Change, Oregon's Civil Rights Years.' Outlaw challenged the city and law enforcement to address racial inequities during her address.



New police chief makes pledge; speaks to racial inequities

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw championed the long worn path to civil rights progress and challenged the city and law enforcement to address racial inequities that still exist during her ceremonial installation as the city's first African American female police chief Monday.

Three months into her new position, Outlaw chose the Oregon Historical Society's new exhibit "Racing for Change, Oregon's Civil Rights Years" as the setting for the formal Portland Police Bureau ceremony, saying the location was no accident.

"I chose this venue because the exhibit Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years affords us the opportunity to address an elephant in the room," Outlaw said. "Why we are here today? This isn't just about black history or Portland's history, this is our history."

Before an audience of about 150 guests, including mem-

bers of her own family, friends and supporters, Outlaw presented a snapshot of the roots to racial inequity in Oregon and around the country, and the role police historically had in enforcing discriminatory laws based on race or turning a blind eye when justice failed minority populations.

"Here in Portland the history of racial inequality and dis-

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