

49  
years of  
community service

‘City  
of  
Roses’



## Sense & Sensibility

Portland Center Stage's fresh take on female-centered classic

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## Opposition Grows on Warnings

NAACP, music venues say new requirements will bring displacement

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Longtime political activist Jo Ann Hardesty introduces members of her staff on her first day in office as a Portland City Commissioner, the first African-American woman to hold the office and the third black city commissioner in City Hall history. Derik Bradly (left) is Hardesty's policy director and Matt McNally is her community outreach director. See additional photo with other members of Hardesty's staff on page 15, inside.

# A New Seat of Power

## Tables turned as activist Hardesty takes office

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jo Ann Hardesty has taken office as Portland's newest City Commissioner, a historic benchmark for the city both

in terms of seating its first African American woman on the City Council and tilting the governing panel to a woman-majority for the first time in its history.

Hardesty, 61, is no stranger to City Hall, but mostly in the role of a long-time political activist and critic of city policies. On Jan. 2 she assumed political power for the first time on the five-member council following a November General Election victory over former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith. She replaces former City Commissioner Dan Saltzman who did not run for re-election after 20 years in office.

Hardesty's priorities include improving Portland's houseless crisis by creating more affordable housing ini-

tiatives, stepping up efforts at police accountability, and making public transportation more accessible.

The Navy veteran, former state representative, and former Portland NAACP president, is the third African American to be on the Portland City Council, but the first since 1992. She has led a working class life, living in outer east Portland, and has volunteered on numerous non-profit boards, gaining a public following with her activism efforts for police reform.

Hardesty was sworn in by the first African American justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, Adrienne Nelson.

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