

Elevating Racial Justice and Police Reforms

Governor hires new public safety director

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is elevating the pursuit of racial justice and police accountability reforms by her appointment of a Black law enforcement officer to lead the state office of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Officials said Jerry Granderson will begin his new duties on March 22 after nearly 23 years of service with the FBI, most recently in Illinois where he also served as an FBI academy instructor focused on leadership, ethics and contemporary policing courses.

"His background in law enforcement and public safety—with a blend of field, training, program management, and leadership experience—makes him uniquely suited for this position," Brown said in a statement.

"I look forward to his leadership, especially as we work collaboratively to improve the training and certification of Oregon law enforcement officers and as we answer the resounding calls from Oregonians for much-needed racial justice and police accountability reforms," Brown said.

Police training is currently under heightened scrutiny amid a



Jerry Granderson

social movement to reform law enforcement in the wake of the 2020 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Oregon's public safety director oversees an agency budget of over \$55 million and works with a board to develop training and certification/licensing standards for more than 41,000 public and private safety professionals. The position carries an annual base salary of \$162,216, according to the governor's office.

The agency certifies and li-

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Black Media Host Achieves New Heights

Tra'Renee Chambers to produce Sunday talk show

In celebration of Black History Month and Women's History Month, Tra'Renee Chambers, an Emmy Award-winning television and radio host, will officially launch her own weekly televised show on Sundays on KATU-TV, Channel 2.

"Situations & Conversations with Tra'Renee," is the name for the new 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. broadcast, debuting this Sunday, March 14 and believed to be the first Portland news, entertainment and public affairs TV show to be hosted and produced by an African American woman.

Chambers said her goal is to address racial justice issues, give voice to topics of the underserved and communities of color and inspire the community to elevate its consciousness with what she calls her "Five E's": Elevate, Educate, Empower, Enlighten and Entertain. The new show initially launched on YouTube on Feb. 4. In addition to airing on KATU, the program will also be available on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

Chambers was formerly the host of KATU's weekday lifestyle program "Afternoon Live" from its debut in September 2016 until August 2020. During that time, she was the only African American



Portland media host Tra'Renee Chambers has launched her own weekly TV show on KATU Channel 2 starting Sunday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m.

woman to host a TV talk show in Oregon and won an Emmy for Best TV Host. As she moves ahead to a new show, she plans to continue to speak with purpose and elevate and entertain every step of the way.

"As an African American woman in the Portland market, I have always wanted to use my platform to give voice to the underserved and the disenfranchised. Combining my expertise as a licensed social worker with my roles in TV and radio, provides me with a unique opportunity to empower, educate and enlighten the community," she said.

"This has been a lifetime focus of mine that comes from, and is influenced by, the racism my Grandmother faced in her lifetime, the racism my father has faced and the racism my family and I have faced. The Black Lives Matter movement of 2020 thankfully elevated these issues to the national forefront, but these are not new issues to me or my family."



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Vaccine Clinic

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navigators helped guests sign in, complete further screenings, answer questions, and provide any needed interpreter services.

From there, nurses and paramedics administered the vaccine doses. Meanwhile, other medical staff watched over all of the newly vaccinated people for a short observational period, usually 15 to 30 minutes.

Joyce Harris, a retired teacher and lifelong community activist, was among the first to receive her vaccine Friday morning.

Minutes after arriving, Harris and her husband had already received their shots and were sitting in the observation area, waiting to head home.

The past year has been rough for

them, Harris says. She spends much of her time in community service, volunteering with nonprofits and serving on community boards. And month after month, she feels like she spends every waking hour on Zoom.

African American people experience higher rates of disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. But the rapid pace of vaccine development, coupled with a history of racism in healthcare, have made some people wary of being among the first to get the shot.

It was the first culturally specific clinic REACH helped organize, and McGee said she was proud and inspired by the enthusiasm of the Public Health team who work long hours to stand up many other community vaccine clinics throughout the week.

Thanks to the Multnomah County communications team for this story.

COVID Vaccines Allotted for Seniors

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have created a structure for providing available vaccine to eligible Oregonians in the greater Portland metro area.

Not everyone who is eligible will be able to get vaccinated right away, but the appointments are filled as quickly as supply allows.

Seniors in Clackamas, Colum-

bia, Multnomah and Washington counties who have registered already through the Get Vaccinated Oregon tool should keep an eye on their email inboxes and check all folders, including spam and trash, officials said.

The state expects to have enough doses on hand for 70% of adult Oregonians to receive their first dose by April 21.