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# LOCAL NEWS



Marsha Williams (from left), Zalika Gardner and Kali Thorne-Ladd, founders of KairosPDX, are pictured in a Portland Observer photo from 2018. It was announced Friday that Williams will become the school's new executive director as Thorne-Ladd moves to a new position as executive director of the Children's Institute.

## KairosPDX Leaders Swap Roles

### Black community school announces changes

KairosPDX, the public charter school serving grades K-5 with special emphasis on the Black community, announced the appointments and promotions Monday of Marsha P.J. Williams as its chief executive officer and Zalika Gardner as chief education and culture officer.

Both Williams and Gardner were among KairosPDX's five

co-founders of the school in 2012 with a mission to eliminate racial achievement and opportunity gaps by cultivating confident, creative and compassionate leaders.

Williams will replace current KairosPDX Executive Director Kali Thorne Ladd, also one of the school's co-founders, who will be departing the organization at the end of August and embarking on a new position as chief executive officer of the Children's Institute.

The KairosPDX board expressed it was grateful for Thorne's "dedication and trailblazing work and looks forward to her successes

in her professional journey."

Williams is a seasoned executive, who brings a wealth of diverse organizational skills and thought leadership to community-based and national organizations, most notably currently serving as the chapter president of the Portland Willamette Valley Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and as a trustee on Warner Pacific University's Board.

Before KairosPDX, Williams worked in the health care sector. She received her Bache-

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## New Ally for Change in Police Culture

### Nonpartisan League of Women Voters takes stand

Changing the culture of the Portland Police Bureau must be a key goal of bureau leadership, according to a new advocacy position just released by the nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Portland.

The League's membership issued a report last week that con-



Police headquarters, downtown. (Photo by M. O. Stevens/Wikipedia Commons)

cluded that, "PPB must end practices that systematically place police in opposition to or in domination of the public, or that treat community members as enemies."

The report, coming after a year-long study of Portland police oversight and accountability, calls for added accountability for police

officers who violate community standards and police bureau policies and directives; a reduction in the use of force; fair, equitable, and respectful treatment of community members; and a reduction of bias-based policing with a goal

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