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LOCAL NEWS



Portland's new Street Response team has expanded citywide, providing an unarmed public safety emergency response to non-life-threatening behavioral and mental health crisis calls.

Street Response Goes Citywide

Grows non-armed response to mental health 911 calls

The Portland Street Response team has officially expanded citywide, significantly growing a non-armed public safety emergency response to non-life-threatening behavioral and mental health crisis calls and saving armed police resources for other calls.

"We listened to the crisis on the streets, to affected businesses, and to our public safety officials to design and implement the first major change to Portland's first responder system in 100 years," City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty announced on Monday. "I am honored to have worked side-by-side with our community to successfully persuade City Council to join me in its creation and continue to demand it's expansion and full funding.

Portland Street Response started as an experiment last year in the

Lents neighborhood of southeast Portland with a staff of six. Now the team will expand to a staff of 20 covering the entire city.

"I'm thankful for Mayor Ted Wheeler's collaboration in developing Portland Street Response these last 3 years. We started building this together with an entirely different Council, but today we were together again, and I'm happy to have Mayor Wheeler by my side in support of expanding Portland

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Police Hiring Moves to High Gear

'Help shape the future' chief says

The Portland Police Bureau has moved forward on a large-scale hiring effort for police officers after months and even years of failing to keep up with vacancies.

"This is a defining time in public safety and the City of Portland," Chief Chuck Lovell recently announced. "We have been hiring, but now with some enhancements, we are able to increase this process and bring on the next generation of police officers."

As part of the new hiring effort, the Bureau this month hired seven background investigators, added staff to the Personnel Division and is re-launching its hiring website, social media and recruitment materials, officials said.

As part of its recruitment effort, PPB recently also released a podcast and a new video from Chief Lovell on its recruiting website, joinportlandpolice.com.

The Portland Police Bureau



Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell. (AP photo)

reportedly offers the highest pay in the state. Currently, the entry level wage is \$75,675, with a \$5,000 hiring bonus (new officers receive \$1,000 after being sworn in, another \$1,000 at end of probation and the final \$3,000 upon completion of 3 years of service). For lateral hires, the wage starts at \$87,753 and goes to \$107,736. Lovell said his department is

currently challenged with a severe staffing shortage. The Bureau currently has 777 sworn members of all ranks, but is authorized to have 882.

"We want our community to know they can be part of this effort and we need assistance," said Chief Chuck Lovell. "If you know someone, have them contact us. Help shape the future."

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