



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

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O'Dea

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that if we focus on having all of our bureau from the top down, building relationships in all parts of the community—not just most—not just some—and working together on [their] priorities we can meet people's needs so that we can police in a reflective way. The needs of the business community Downtown are very different

is going to be the new commander of North Precinct. Who else are you bringing in that you're excited about?

Chief O'Dea: I'm really excited about the whole team.

Part of what I'm doing is restructuring, going from three branches to four branches in the Chief's office (Rapid Response

The other part of my priority is to continue to diversify the police bureau and its leadership

than the needs of the folks out at Cully and Killingsworth, which are different from Albina and Killingsworth.

The other part of my priority is to continue to diversify the police bureau and its leadership. For those of us in the police bureau, that causes us to think, learn, and do things differently and grow richer by having a diverse police bureau and continuing our education around equity, institutional racism, and implicit bias.

TSN: I know that Chris Uehara

Team; Critical Incident Command; and Crowd Control Incident Command.) I'm doing that specifically so all of my Assistant Chiefs have the time and capacity to be engaged with the community. I look at all the advisory committees I've been a part of and different opportunities in the community and it matters when there's an assistant chief at the table; it matters, and it's important. All my assistant chiefs will have more capacity to do that; this is going to be top down. We're going to be engaged in the community.

Radon

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leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after cigarette smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

The EPA and the American Lung Association recommend all homes be tested for radon. The EPA suggests conducting a short-term test from 3-7 days which gives a snapshot of the background concentration. Levels are likely to be the highest during winter heating months when people keep their windows closed and they spend more time indoors.

Brett Sherry, the Radon Program coordinator with the Oregon Health Authority says the data shows a clear and critical need to test homes.

“The take-home message is that every home needs to be tested, regardless of where it is located,” Sherry said. “Radon has been detected in homes all across Oregon. The only way to know if your

Testing is an easy, important way to protect you and your family. If you don't test, you don't know

home has high radon levels is to test.”

Radon test kits can be purchased at hardware and home improvement stores, or can be purchased online at www.radonkit.org. Many tests cost between \$15 and \$25 dollars.

Radon issues can be repaired at a cost similar to many common home repairs. Radon repairs include sealing cracks in floors and walls, which reroute airflow throughout the house.

The EPA suggests contracting with an EPA qualified or state-certified radon contractor to evaluate and rehabilitate radon exposed homes. To find a contractor near



PHOTO BY LISA LOVING

Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea, at left, helped rebuild the dining room table for a family at Villa de Mariposas, at a special party thrown by the community for police officers last month. O'Dea also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity.

TSN: Are there any numbers around how much recruitment comes from your local municipalities trying to get into the Portland bureau?

Chief O'Dea: California's police academy has been considered the equivalent of our academy. So somebody can go through that academy and we can hire them right in, they don't have to go and do another 16 weeks because the quality and the type of

training is on-par and we would do our own Portland-specific training. So it offered to us a little bit of success to our way diverse recruiting. The downside though is now with the economy going better and better that opportunity isn't going to be there. So we've got find our new strategy because we've still got to continue our diverse recruiting.

[Our] best chance at having

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Payday

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ever, are small, short-terms loans, with interest and fees that are often outrageous.”

Borrowers who obtain loans from illegal lenders also are particularly vulnerable to abusive collection practices. Some of the most common complaints are repeated and harassing calls at work, threatening criminal prosecution, and harassing and lying to co-workers or family members. Borrowers have also reported that some companies have illegally attempted to garnish their wages. Illegal lenders have also been reported to have sold personal information.

For these reasons, DFI strongly urges Washington residents to verify that the payday lender is licensed to offer payday loans and

The state continues to receive regular complaints from Washington borrowers regarding online payday lending

to do some research before providing personal information, such as the following:

Visit the DFI website, <http://www.dfi.wa.gov>, and select “Verify License.” Type in the name of the company offering the loan, and it will search the DFI licensee database and return any results.

Conduct an Internet search. Before giving personal information (social security number, date of birth, bank account number),

consumers should conduct an Internet search on the name of the company to see if other consumers have complained about the lender.

Ask the lender for their Washington State license number. If the lender doesn't give an answer, or states that they don't need to be licensed, it is almost certain that the payday lender is not licensed.

If you realize that you're dealing with an unlicensed lender, please contact the Enforcement

Unit of DFI's Consumer Services Division at <http://www.dfi.wa.gov/documents/payday-loan-complaint.htm> to file a complaint.

Even if the unlicensed lender appears to be complying with state law, consumers may not have the protection of a surety bond (required of DFI licensees) or receive loans in compliance with other protections provided for under Washington State law, including privacy protections and limitations on fees and interest.

For more information about the Washington State Attorney General's consumer affairs work, go to www.dfi.wa.gov, or call 360-902-8700, toll-free at 877-RINGDFI (746-4334).