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Leonard removes his name from consideration for Police Commissioner

PORTLAND, OR – Commissioner Randy Leonard asked Mayor-elect Adams to remove his name from consideration for the assignment of Police Commissioner on Wednesday.

In June, Commissioner Leonard was asked by Mayor-elect Adams to conduct an assessment of the Portland Police Bureau and make recommendations for improvement. That effort, in concert with the suggestion by Mayor-elect Adams that he was considering Commissioner Leonard as the potential Police Commissioner, prompted an unfavorable reaction from the Police Chief that attracted persistent media coverage over several months. This unfortunate dynamic is creating an unsettling environment for the Police Bureau and the Council that detracts from the pursuit of important issues facing the City.

“I continue to believe that I have a lot to offer the Portland Police Bureau,” said Leonard, “But there is little value to citizens or to the Police Bureau in continuing a media debate over the false choice between a Police Chief and a City Commissioner.”

Leonard plans to finalize and release the assessment of the Portland Police Bureau by November 5.

“In the Public Safety Assessment I conducted at the request of Mayor-elect Adams, I have prepared a roadmap for the next Commissioner-in-Charge of the Police Bureau,” Leonard said, “I urge the next Commissioner of Police to be diligent in improving the hiring and training processes and the labor/management relationships in the Bureau, and I am hopeful that Chief Sizer will be an active and willing participant in making those important changes.”

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