

CAPTAIN MOOSE

1993

PORTLAND POLICE CHIEF



Officers seem pleased with appointment

■ Some police are skeptical of whether new Police Chief Charles Moose will be able to make changes at the street level

By JAMES LONG
and HANS C. NOEL
of The Oregonian staff

The thunderous applause for Charles Moose's appointment Friday as police chief didn't reach completely through the ranks at the Portland Police Bureau.

Although many officers seemed pleased with the appointment, few were inclined to describe it quite as grandly as the political and civic leaders who furnished comment.

"This isn't going to affect us down at this level," Officer Ken Zahler said with a shrug. "We've gone through a lot of police chiefs and it hasn't made any difference."

Zahler and his partners in Old Town still expect to face heavy drug traffic no matter who is chief.

"The chief doesn't change the law," Officer Tony Marshall said. "He changes maybe how we address the problem or our priorities."

Another officer, Tom Mack, still has some reservations about Moose's community-policing approach to Portland's crime problems.

"I think community policing is great," Mack said. "If you put five guys in a neighborhood, I guarantee you there will be no crime in that neighborhood. But what's going on five blocks from there?"

However, another officer took



Charles Moose stops to talk with Talra Warren (left), 16, and Kena Johnson, 8, who were sitting at a school playground with Warren's 3-month-old son.

ROSS W. HAMILTON/The Oregonian

Moose will command police

■ The mayor selects Deputy Chief Charles Moose, a strong advocate of community policing, to replace retiring Chief Tom Potter

By MICHAEL ROLLINS
and JAMES LONG

of The Oregonian staff

Portland Mayor Vera Katz picked Deputy Chief Charles Moose to succeed retiring Tom Potter as police chief Friday, calling the choice the most important decision she will ever make as mayor.

"I chose him because of his passionate dedication to his profession," Katz said, "and to the idea of community empowerment and teamwork as pathways to improving public safety."

The mayor said she had high expectations of Moose in solving "the frustrations the community feels at the intractability of crime in the city." Like all Portlanders, I want results.

Katz had managed to keep her selection a secret until a Friday morning press conference at City Hall and informed Moose, 39, and three other finalists of her decision late Thursday night.

She walked into the council chambers Friday morning with Potter and Moose, Urban League of Portland president Darryl Tukufu led several dozen well-wishers in applauding the new chief.

"African-Americans can aspire to be the chief of police, fire chief, the mayor and even the president," Tukufu said later. "This is a milestone for Portland."

CHARLES A. MOOSE

■ **CURRENT JOB:** Portland deputy chief

AGE: 39

■ **EXPERIENCE:** Deputy chief of the operations branch of the Portland Police Bureau, which has a budget of \$79.7 million. Moose, who has held the post for the past year, designed the neighborhood police officer liaison program and the Iris Court Community Policing Demonstration Project. He joined the Police Bureau in 1975

■ **EDUCATION:** Master's degree in public administration from Portland State University.



Charles Moose is ready for the police chief's job with a set of stars from retiring chief Tom Potter.

After Katz made the announcement, Moose first thanked his wife Sandy Herman and Robert Lamb Jr., a Seattle regional director of the U.S. Department of Justice and longtime counselor and role model to blacks in law enforcement.

Moose also thanked Potter for allowing his subordinates "to go ahead and take the ball and run" with their own management ideas. Moose said Potter evaluated the ideas, but always said "you keep the ball and you keep running."

Potter was a champion of change within the tradition-bound bureau. One of the earliest signals he sent to rank-and-file was to promote Moose from lieutenant to captain based on his

Please turn to
CHIEF, Page A13

Moose's dedication wins Katz

■ Portland's mayor says she selected the new police chief because of a passionate dedication to his work that matches her own

By MICHAEL ROLLINS
and JAMES LONG
of The Oregonian staff

Portland Mayor Vera Katz said she picked Charles Moose to be Portland's new police chief Friday because she has high expectations he can respond to the community's frustration with crime.

"Like all Portlanders," Katz said. "I want results."

Moose, who was flanked by Katz and retiring Chief Tom Potter at a morning news conference, said he has ambitious plans for the future of the department, he has served for 18 years.

"It's going to be a pleasure to take this organization into the 21st century," he said.

Katz named Moose after a nationwide search narrowed down the list of finalists

INSIDE

■ **POLICE VIEW:** Portland police officers seem pleased with the appointment, but some doubt change will occur at the street level / B2



TOP COP



■ **NAME:** Charles A. Moose

■ **FAMILY:** Wife, Sandy Herman, a 14-year-old son and an 18-year-old stepson.

■ **BIRTHPLACE:** New York City

■ **GREW UP:** Lexington, N.C.

■ **SCHOOL SPORT:** State high school wrestling champ at 142 pounds.

■ **EDUCATION:** Master's in public administration from Portland State University. Bachelor's in U.S. history from

PORTLAND'S POLICE CHIEF

MOOSE on the LOOSE

Charles Moose is fast distinguishing himself as a chief who is visible as well as accessible

By PHIL MANZANO
of The Oregonian staff

The police radio crackled with the call. Car number 562 shot over to Northeast 15th Avenue and Skidmore Street to direct traffic. Two cars had collided there. Fire and ambulance paramedics scrambled to help the injured as a crowd gathered.

Officer Dave Norlin got out and diverted traffic on the south side. His partner, climbing out from behind the wheel, looked like he knew what he was doing.

He had two stars on his collar. His rank, at the bottom of his badge, read: "Chief of Police."

Charles Moose took the north side of the wreck and waved traffic through.

More than two months into his tenure as Portland's police chief, Moose is emerging as one of the most visible and accessible chiefs Portland has known.

Moose won't be a chief who rules from on high.

Whether it's handing out stickers to kids while on patrol in North Portland to walking the night beat in Old Town — Moose will continue a personal trademark of staying in touch with the streets.

A close observer of the Police Bureau said Moose has support up and down the ranks for being "a chief who has spent time in the



JOEL DAVIS/The Oregonian

“

The big fear is that somehow you've lost touch and ... that your decisions become a hindrance rather than a help to the police officer.

Charles Moose, on becoming police chief

”

Police Chief Charles Moose (center) and another officer (right) talk to a man involved in a civil dispute.

for being "a chief who has spent time in the trenches," who has a deep understanding for the inner workings of the bureau.

But he's also seen as a chief who has nurtured strong ties to the community.

Among those who like the chief's approach is Barbara Van, a Northeast Portland resident who watched as Moose stood in the street, waving cars past the wreck.

"I think it's good to see the chief out in the community," Van said. "That shows a concern; he's not just sitting behind a desk

giving commands."

"It's real nice for the street people," said Officer Norlin, pointing traffic away. "It conveys the chief is concerned about the street people and if we're having any problems he wants to know about them."

Staying in touch with street officers and the community is something Moose has worked hard at in his first two months. He wants to avoid the distance or isolation that comes from being the city's top cop.

In an interview, Moose said he strives to stay in touch because every promotion has meant a subtle distance, another layer between himself and the streets.

Each step up meant less time walking a beat and getting to know people, less time in a patrol vehicle. It meant more time in a chair pushing paper or attending meetings.

"The big fear is that somehow you've lost touch," Moose said in an interview. "And the fear is that your decisions become a hin-

drance rather than a help to the police officer."

At his 15th-floor sanctum in the Justice Center, a sparkling view of downtown Portland and Mount St. Helens has replaced street scenes.

"I can spend the whole workday in here," Moose said. "And it's not like there's anyth-

**Please turn to
MOOSE, Page C6**



Portland Police Chief Charles Moose (left) helps manage the scene of a traffic accident. Some say Moose has support up and down the ranks for being "a chief who has spent time in the trenches."

Moose: Chief gets
out on the streets,

