

COAB

Community Oversight Advisory Board

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN
PORTLANDERS AND OUR POLICE BUREAU**

Some Results of the 2015 Portland Police Bureau Community Relations Survey

- most respondents looked favorably on police crime fighting efforts
- ~60% of respondents would be comfortable calling police to assist with a family member experiencing a mental health crisis
- respondents had a lack of trust in how police treat people with mental health concerns, quality of relationships between police and people, use of race or ethnicity in decisions about stopping people

- members of marginalized populations often had more negative perceptions of police
- African American respondents had consistently negative views about Portland Police
- Hispanic respondents had specific concerns
- respondents who have experienced, or have family who have experienced mental health problems were more negative about police
- there are differences in responses by neighborhood (NW, SE, SW and N/NE)
- most respondents unaware of Police Bureau efforts to improve

How can COAB help improve the communities/police relationship?

- COAB is the community-based group mandated by the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to work with the Portland Police Bureau to improve policing in our city.
- This is the first time the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has mandated community involvement.
- A Settlement Agreement (SA) between the DOJ and City of Portland gives Portland residents an opportunity to influence how police work is done in our community.

Settlement Agreement
between
the U.S. Department of Justice
and
the City of Portland
December, 2012

- **Goal:** Portland Police Bureau will deliver police service in a manner that:
 - effectively supports officer and public safety,
 - complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

The Agreement created
COCL and COAB

What is COCL?

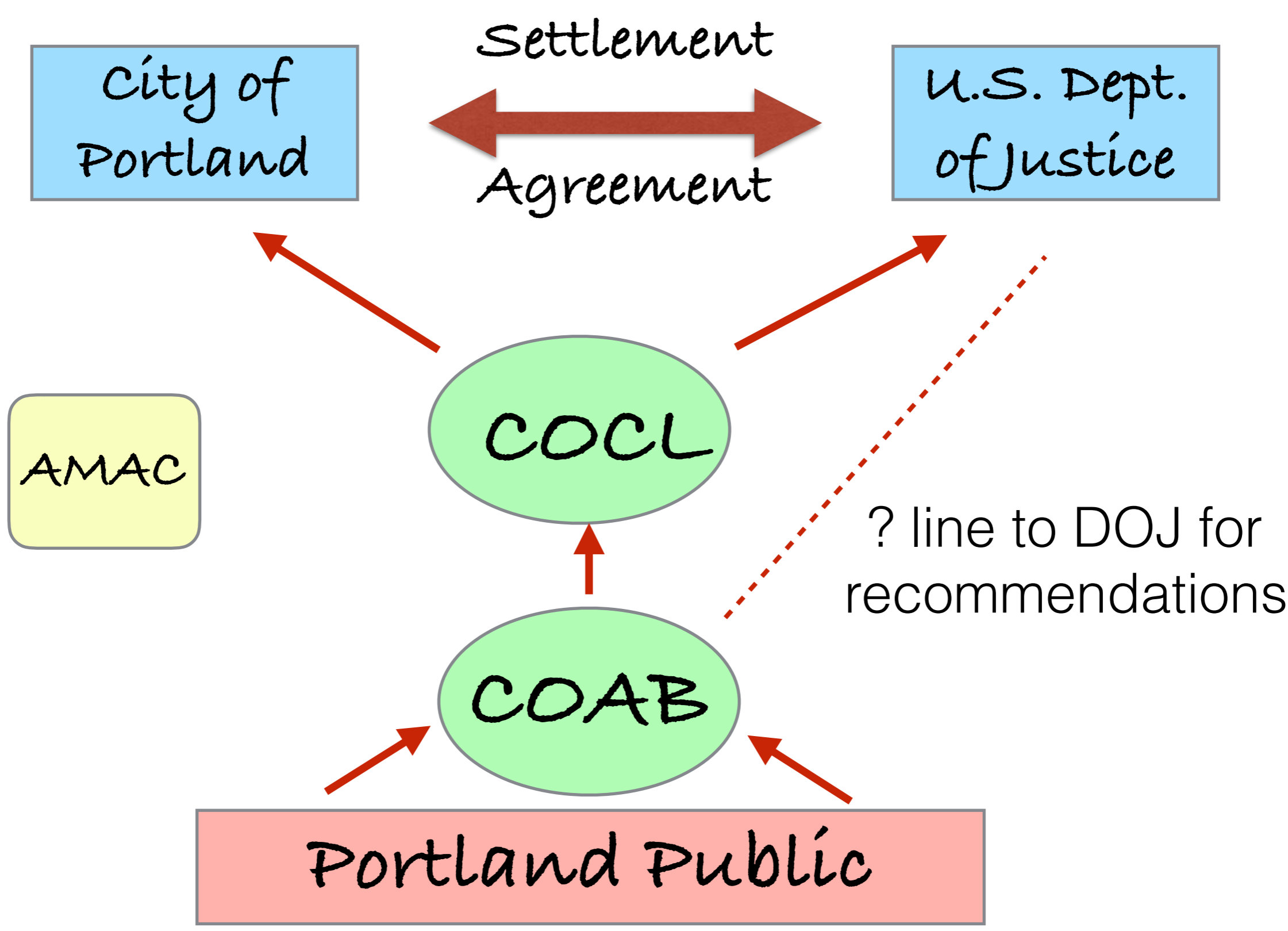
- **C**ompliance **O**fficer and **C**ommunity **L**iaison team is an independent contractor hired by City of Portland to oversee the implementation of the Settlement Agreement
- COCL is wholly independent of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB)
- Primary responsibilities of COCL:
 - conduct reviews of PPB, prepare written reports, assess Police Bureau compliance with and implementation of Agreement
 - gather info from public relating to Police Bureau compliance with Settlement Agreement

What is COAB?

- **C**ommunity - Portland community is “a critical resource”
- **O**versight - independent oversight of Settlement Agreement implementation
- **A**dvisory - provide advice, recommendations and input to City, DOJ, COCL, Police Bureau Chief and Commissioner
- **B**oard - 15 voting members, 5 PPB advisory members, Chaired by COCL

COAB Board

- Board members represent:
 - Portland Human Rights Commission - PHRC (1)
 - Portland Commission on Disability - PCD (1)
 - PHRC and PCD selected mental health experts (3)
 - members from community-at-large (5)
 - selected by members of City Council (5)
 - Portland Police Bureau advisory members (non-voting) (5)





**COCL
COAB**

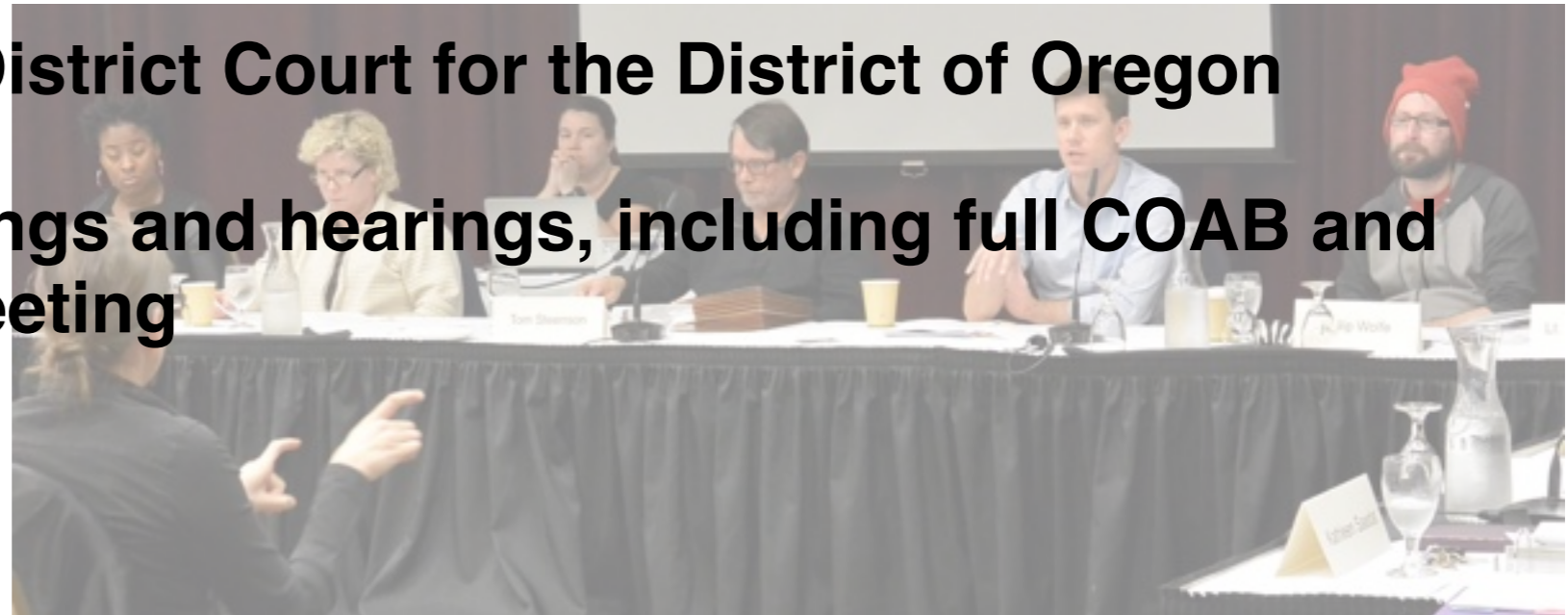
Public meetings

COAB Major Functions

- Independently **assess** implementation of Settlement Agreement;
- Make **recommendations** to the Parties (City and DOJ) and the COCL on PPB policies, practices and processes;
- **Contribute to** the development and implementation of a PPB Community Engagement and Outreach Plan;
- **Provide** the community with information on the Agreement and its implementation;
- **Advise** the Police Chief and Commissioner on strategies to improve community relations;
- **Receive** public comments and concerns.

What has COAB been doing?

- Reviewed all public reports written by COCL
- Consulted with the Police Chief regarding COAB role with the Settlement Agreement
- Formed positive relationships between community members and PPB advisors who serve on the COAB
- passed ~ 40 recommendations, forwarded to the DOJ and the COCL
- reported to U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon
- held public meetings and hearings, including full COAB and subcommittee meeting



What do we want the
relationship to be
between our communities
and our police?

- **What is the police's responsibility to get there?**

- **What is the community's responsibility to get there?**

- **What are you going to do to help us get there? (white card)**

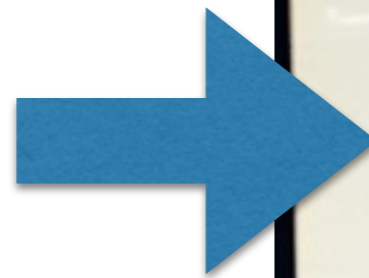
How can I/We get Involved?

- **Talk to your family, friends and neighbors about this opportunity to influence the quality of policing in our community.**
- **Meet and get to know your police officers.**
 - **Walk up and introduce yourself. Understand that they work for you. People affected by policing should be involved in setting policy for policing.**
- **Get involved with COAB**

Important Points

- **Policy drives institutions. You want institutional change? This is it.**
- **A Settlement Agreement exists; it didn't before. The DOJ is involved, it wasn't before.**
- **This is our chance as a community to answer the big questions on how policing in our community should work.**
- **COAB is here for you, by you, of you, and you're part of that.**

**Working together,
through the COAB,
Portland residents and
Police Bureau staff can
improve policing in our
community, and the
relationships between
citizens and law
enforcement.**



Portland Police Bureau

Mission, Values and Goals

Mission Statement

The mission of the Portland Police Bureau is to reduce crime and the fear of crime by working with all citizens to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property, and promote individual responsibility and community commitment.

Values

The values of the Portland Police Bureau are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence
- Service

Community Goals

- Focus efforts on repeat calls for service and chronic offenders
- Enhance the community and police relationship

Organizational Goals

- Develop and encourage personnel
- Continuously improve work processes



Questions, discussion, comments...

COCL Team Members

- Kathleen Saadat, COAB Chair and Community Liaison, Portland
- Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum, Director - Center for Research in Law and Justice, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Dr. Amy Watson, Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Tom Christoff, Ph.D., Rosenbaum and Watson
- Project Manager and Program Support Specialist; Portland

COAB Subcommittees

- The 5 COAB subcommittees are made up of CAOAB members and other community volunteers
 - Mental Health Crisis Response
 - Community Engagement and Outreach Plan
 - Data Systems, Use of Force, and Compliance
 - Accountability
 - Executive Committee