

It has been an honor to serve this community, and I am humbled that I got the opportunity to finish my career at Black Butte Ranch! When I got here in 2009 the PD was very different than what it is today. My two predecessors contributed to the success we enjoy today. Chief Gil Zaccaro got the PD moved to the facilities we are in today by partnering with the corporation to build the Police Building. Hank Fagette, was the first Chief and he got the PD started and initiated the development of the Black Butte Police Service District.

We built on that foundation they established and lead the county in some areas, like the deployment of Body Cameras and the move to the Lexipol policy manual. When we were accredited by the Oregon Accreditation Alliance, we were the smallest agency to do so!

From a white kid living in a mobile home on an Indian Reservation, that graduated High School with no family background in Law Enforcement to today, it has been an amazing 40+ years. I got to work in assignments that I didn't even dream of being qualified to do, and in some cases, not even knowing I would be brave enough to take on.

While at Lincoln City PD, I only worked as a patrol officer for 5 years. After about 3 years I talked the Oregon Police Academy into letting me be a tactics trainer for the initial academy training of officers. I was not qualified but knew I would learn a lot by teaching. Later, after moving to the Portland Police Bureau, this led to being the Interim Lead Instructor for the overall program until they found a permanent replacement. This was one of several events where someone else saw something in me, some potential, that I didn't see in myself.

I owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who helped me see more of myself than what I saw.

At the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), I found myself surrounded by some outstanding law enforcement professionals. I tried to absorb and adopt their good traits and communication styles.

In my 25 years at PPB, I was honored to be selected to join the SERT Team, Portland's version of SWAT. I was also an initial member of the PPB Ai Support Unit and the Street Crimes unit (focused on Drugs and Prostitution), and as a Community Liaison Officer in a minority neighborhood with the inception of Community Policing in Portland.

Other assignments included Detectives, Tri-Met Police, Criminal Intelligence and the TIC Team (a Peer Support group). Criminal Intelligence exposed me to some travel around the country and work with federal agencies. Secret Service liaison work put me in direct contact with some famous people and leaders of countries. The TIC Team also took me around the United States Speaking and consulting on Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) especially after 9/11 at the Pentagon and elsewhere in the DC area. It also got me published in an international journal.

Portland Police Bureau Soccer Team was also something I participated throughout my whole career there. We traveled across the US and Canada to attend tournaments as well as play in the City League. I continued to play in Central Oregon until COVID interrupted sports.

THEN, I was looking to see what I might do next as I closed in on potential retirement. I had gone back to school in 1997 to attain my Bachelors Degree and followed up with a Masters Degree. I saw the posting for Black Butte Ranch PD Chief of Police. We had always known we would locate in Central Oregon when the kids got out of school so I had to put in for it. That was 12 years ago!

Thank you all for letting me serve your community.

Denney Kelley