



MARTY DAVIS

Robert Ball (left) is promoted from Reserve Captain in the Portland Police Bureau to Reserve Commander.

Developer Robert Ball Promoted to PPB Reserve Commander

One of Portland's leading real estate developers, and the CEO of Astor Pacific, is still managing to climb up the civic ladder. Robert Ball was recently promoted from Reserve Captain in the Portland Police Bureau to Reserve Commander, the highest rank a reserve officer can achieve. Ball was promoted during a ceremony December 8 at the Portland Building.

Ball, who has previously been awarded the Police Medal and was one of the founding donors for Q Center, has volunteered with PPB for the past 16 years.

"It means a great deal to me that Chief [Mike] Reese and the rest of the bureau's management have confidence in me and my abilities," says Ball. "I am deeply grateful."

Among Ball's accomplishments within the bureau over the past year was his leadership of a workgroup to spearhead an effort to change state law so that "reserve officer" would be included in the definition of a "peace officer." After establishing a statewide coalition to support the change, HB 3153 passed unanimously through the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor John Kitzhaber in July. Because of this change, 1,300 reserve officers statewide now have the same protections under law as full-time officers.

Ball says he is looking forward to growing the bureau's newly established Portland Police Reserve Officer's Foundation—a non-profit that raises money to support reserve

officers by reimbursing them for uniforms, equipment, training, recognition and awards, and other costs associated with providing free police services to the City of Portland.

Ball also hopes that his continued leadership will help pave a way for other LGBTQ citizens to feel welcomed by the law enforcement community.

"I hope the entire LGBTQ community knows the police bureau is a welcoming and accepting place for our community," says Ball. "I [also] hope that other gay and lesbian community members consider a career in law enforcement with the bureau."

Oregon Bears Highlight Giving Holiday Ways

The Oregon Bears have had a busy holiday season, beginning with their most recent fundraising effort, the 11th annual Community Holiday Show and Live Auction, held December 4 at the Bagdad Theater. The benefit for Our House and Esther's Pantry featured a huge list of performers, including Lisa Mann, Steve Worth, Paul Aponte, Kitty Diggins and Peter Palermo, to name just a few, and rallied to raise \$8,000 of its \$10,000 goal.

Our House of Portland reports that the Bears are currently working on raising the additional \$2,000 for the organization to reach its initial goal.

On November 12, the Bears conducted a check presentation at Q Center for the beneficiaries of two of their biggest events of 2011. The annual gathering of Bears from all over the world in Portland, BearTown 16, generated \$5,227 for the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC).

