

## FY 2027 CBAC Bios

### **Thomas Karwaki, District 2**

Tom Karwaki is co-chair of DCJ BAC and chair of University Park Neighborhood Association and NECN (District 2 neighborhoods coalition). Former director of Catholic Charities Detention Ministry in Virginia and chaplain at a Washington minimum security facility. He has also served PBOT's BBAC. Professionally a management consultant and economic development director for two tribes.

### **Terrance Moses, District 2**

Terrance is a husband, father and community activist. He is a veteran of the our armed forces (USN & US Army), Terrance's caring , compassion, and pragmatism most recently has focused on building bridges between the Housed and Un-Housed in North and Noth-east Portland. He has served as the on call volunteer for Kenton women's village since 2017. Some of his other work includes; Chair of the Kenton Neighborhood association (KNA), member of the PPB Crisis Responders Team (CRT), DCJ BAC team. His giving spirit and calm demeanor has helped him be able to de-escalate tense situations. He is notably known as the Mayor of Kenton.

### **Maria Ramos, District 1**

Maria is a junior at Portland State University majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice. She is also a part-time home care provider. Previously, she worked with the City of Salem's Summer Parks Recreational Program at Englewood park. With college starting, Maria decided to change employment, but since she enjoys working with people, obtained a homecare worker license. Maria is hoping to graduate and become a police officer, or a correctional officer. Maria is also a certified Spanish interpreter.

### **Lisa Guirsch** (Lives in Washington County, works in Multnomah County)

Lisa is an author, community leader, and advocate dedicated to public safety and the health of marginalized communities. A Multnomah County Justice Fellow and Social Science major at Portland State University, she co-founded Project Rebound PNW to expand higher education pathways for formerly incarcerated students and mentors nationally through Prison to Professionals. Lisa has served in neighborhood leadership and on numerous local, state, and federal boards, including public safety and

community planning committees. Her lived experience, equity-driven leadership, and commitment to accountability guide her service on the Budget Advisory Committee.

### **Kenneth Connin, District 1**

Kenneth Connin is a Political Science graduate student with a passion for people, problem-solving, and making a difference. Known for his curiosity, optimism, and drive to uplift others, Kenneth is dedicated to both academic growth and community service. He volunteers with the Red Cross and enjoys connecting with people from all walks of life. A natural helper and leader, Kenneth values compassion, resilience, and service as guiding principles in everything he does.

### **Rob Farris, District 3**

Rob works in the public defense space and has a passion for justice and equity. He has an extensive history of community volunteerism and public service featuring: teaching in the Peace Corps, mentoring in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and creating a Dungeons & Dragons program at Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention where he facilitates and plays with youth promoting prosocial behaviors and building community. His background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Astrophysics, a Masters in Business Administration, and many years of working alongside executives in the corporate sector. Rob was born in Roseburg and lives in NE Portland with his wonderful fiancée and their dog.

### **MyKel Johnson, District 1**

MyKel is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe with Yakama and Umatilla descendency. She is a dedicated advocate for tribal sovereignty, economic justice, and self-determination. Her work with the Northwest Native Chamber and tribal communities across Oregon focuses on advancing equity, strengthening systems, and supporting community-led solutions. With experience in policy, business development, and family services, MyKel brings a culturally grounded and solutions-focused approach to justice and community well-being. She is deeply committed to uplifting youth and families and driving lasting change that empowers communities to thrive.