



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Michael Reese, Chief of Police

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February 18, 2014

Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4120

Chair Hass, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express strong support for HB 4120. The City of Portland believes that in expanding scholarship eligibility to include children of reserve officers killed or disabled in the line of duty, reserve officer designation will finally relay the full scale of benefits an appointee's gift of service warrants.

Because it is the mission of the Portland Police Bureau to work with its community to create and maintain safe neighborhoods, the Portland Police Reserve Unit was established to develop professional officers capable of augmenting operations through regular duty officer assistance. The Reserve Unit is made up of men and women, who *volunteer* their time and effort to ensure residents are proud to live, work, and play in Portland.

Reserve officer requirements are generally the same as that of a police officer. For instance, the Portland Police Bureau will recruit, test, and appoint only those who meet the Bureau's professional standards and embrace core values. First, applicants undergo extensive background investigations. Candidates then must complete the Reserve Academy and Reserve Field Training, before being subject to continuing academic and tactical education as an appointee.

Like police officers, reserve officers are provided with badges, uniforms, and other equipment necessary to accomplish assigned duties. Duties range to include patrol, traffic enforcement, prisoner transport, event security, and/or special missions. Reserve officers are also the face of the Bureau, furthering community trust through crime prevention activities or citizen outreach programming.

Because reserve officers must adhere to all applicable Bureau Directives and Standard Operating Procedures, their rank structure, promotional opportunities, and insignia follow the tradition of commander, captain, lieutenant, and sergeant. Reserve officers are authorized to receive personal benefits including insurance and workers compensation, and their contributions qualify for award recognition.

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It is without question reserve officer commitment to public service is extreme, potentially risking their safety and the security of their family for the greater good. Yet a primary difference between a reserve officer and a police officer is should the unspeakable happen, reserve officer family members do not receive the same level of support as that of a regular duty officer. Children of reserve officers do not have the financial and emotional resources of a parent to help them develop educational goals and navigate the myriad of administrative matters involved with becoming a successful graduate. The addition of reserve officer children as eligible participants in the Deceased or Disabled Public Safety Officer Grant Program is the ultimate show of respect and appreciation; the community taking care of the reserve officer's child, because he or she gave so much to the community.

Based on this background, the passage of HB 4120 is elementary. On behalf of all Portland Police Reserve Unit members, we respectfully request your support on this important bill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Reese".

MICHAEL REESE
Chief of Police