



**To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee**

**From: Chief Jerry Moore, Salem Police Department**  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

**Date: March 19, 2015**

**Re: Testimony re Use of Force Legislation (SB 871 & 910)**

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Jerry Moore and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Salem. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to discuss the process and plans in place in counties throughout Oregon to address guidelines and protocols for local investigations when a use of deadly force incidents. My focus will be on our process and plan here in Marion County.

Let me begin with my agreement with the importance of the issues which DA Gardner outlined in his testimony. I won't repeat the information he has already provided, but will tell you Marion County consistently follows similar guidelines and protocols for local investigations.

In Marion County, these issues and several others have helped guide us in our creation of the SB 111 process for our county. Several core issues which make up the foundation of our SB 111 system include:

- Community expectations and confidence in the local involvement of our public safety officials to thoroughly investigate and report the findings of deadly force encounters.
- Ensuring an agency other than the one involved takes the lead in any investigation.
- Supervisory training to insure the scene is protected and the incident stabilized for the investigating team. All incidents are managed consistent with major crimes scenes and follow protocols consisting of eye witness and involved party interviews, evidence collection, scene documentation and involved officer interviews.
- Caring for involved officers in the manner SB111 mandated including aftercare, interviews and counseling for the officers.
- Insuring that a responsible Planning Authority exists with responsibility for on-going review and assessment of issues and challenges that come forward, whether on individual incidents or community issues. Recent examples would include media relations and the use of body cams. Our current structure is designed to be flexible enough to adapt at a community level while preserving statewide best practices.

- Insuring that critical information regarding an investigation is released to the community as soon as possible. The use of deadly force incident in Ferguson is the perfect example of the importance of timely communication with the public. When that doesn't occur, trust, questions and faith in the process suffers. Local jurisdictions and counties have learned how critical this is, and have created systems where release of information occurs as soon as practical following these incidents, consistent with legal guidelines relative to the release of information during an investigation.
- Keeping our community apprised of the use of deadly force investigation process through training, media information in our local newspapers, Police Advisory panels and Citizens Academies where these topics are always of interest. The focal point of these educational efforts is easily summarized - we have worked hard to create a process that thoroughly investigates and reports the details of deadly force encounters to our community, and I believe strongly that they have confidence in the way we handle these incidents.

In conclusion, local involvement and control of incidents that occur within a county should remain the responsibility of the particular district attorney. Adding additional layers to a system which already works creates another layer of government, impacts the timely resolution of an incident, slows the release of information, and threatens to negatively impact the hard work local jurisdictions do to create, maintain and continually grow local confidence in their public safety system and officials.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue to our citizens, our police agencies and our police officers.