



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 24, 2015

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room 343
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

We write to urge your support for HB 2571. This legislation will enable law enforcement agencies to effectively implement on-body cameras for police officers.

Implementing the use of on-body cameras by our police officers is highly complementary to the City of Portland's continued efforts on police reform and accountability pursuant to the recent settlement agreement between the City and the United States Department of Justice. On-body cameras provide an opportunity to strengthen officer accountability, positively impact community interactions, decrease use of force incidents and build community trust.

HB 2571 removes barriers that currently impede the implementation of on-body cameras. Specifically, it extends the statutory exemption in *ORS 165.540* given to police officers operating a vehicle-mounted video camera to police officers wearing on-body cameras. It also creates a public records exemption for on-body camera footage. As on-body cameras become increasingly popular with law enforcement across the nation, agencies are receiving blanket requests for body camera footage. These requests can amount to hundreds of hours of footage and present significant privacy concerns, as police interactions often take place inside homes and involve traumatic and sensitive interactions with citizens.

On-body cameras are an important tool for law enforcement to improve officer accountability and public trust. This bill provides necessary clarifications and safeguards to allow law enforcement agencies in Oregon to fully implement on-body cameras. We urge your support for HB 2571.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner