



CITY OF West Linn

June 18, 2020

Speaker Tina Kotek
President Peter Courtney
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: City of West Linn Support for Oregon Legislative People of Color (POC) Caucus Proposals

Dear Speaker Kotek and President Courtney:

We are writing to express the City of West Linn's **strong support for police accountability legislation called for by the POC Caucus**, including Senate Bill 1567's reforms to law enforcement arbitration.

The City of West Linn is currently dealing with problems in past police practices reflecting systemic racism, cronyism, and other institutional barriers that prevented justice and accountability in law enforcement. These can no longer be tolerated in West Linn or anywhere.

We are taking a variety of actions in West Linn to rebuild community trust and ensure we have safe, equitable policing policies that address pervasive racial barriers, but we also need a strong framework of state laws to help us address the many changes needed in law enforcement practices. Our primary immediate goal would be passage of Senate Bill 1567's reforms to law enforcement arbitration. We need to ensure that when misconduct is investigated and found to exist, we can take appropriate and swift action to maintain public trust. We must also address unjust institutional practices that shield wrongdoing and accountability by individuals and departments.

We urge discussion of these and other concepts identified by the POC Caucus, including Attorney General investigations of serious injuries and deaths related to law enforcement actions, and creation of a task force to propose legislation on use of force. There are likely a variety of other topics to be addressed as well and we would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the discussions ahead.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to comment on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Axelrod
Mayor

Richard Sakelik
Council President

Teri Cummings
Councilor

William Relyea
Councilor

Jules Walters
Councilor

CC: Senator Rob Wagner, Representative Rachel Prusak, Legislative POC Caucus members