



June 23, 2020

Senate President Courtney and Speaker of the House Kotek, Co-Chairs
Joint Interim Committee On The First Special Session of 2020
900 Court Se. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: The City of Eugene testimony on Police Accountability Legislative Concepts.

The City of Eugene respectfully submits the following testimony related to the suite of legislative concepts associated with Police Accountability. We recognize the need for reform and accountability within law enforcement and the City Council, Mayor Vinis, City Manager Medary, and Police Chief Skinner are dedicated to leading these reforms with the Eugene Community.

On June 22, at a special meeting of the Eugene City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR), comprised of three Councilors and Mayor Vinis, the following policy statement was adopted in relation to increased accountability for law enforcement in Eugene:

Eugene supports state-wide efforts that increase police accountability through application of consistent professional standards, implementation of 21st Century Policing-including the reduction of use of force and increased use of de-escalation techniques, and transparency of disciplinary actions.

After reviewing the draft police accountability legislative concepts, the IGR Committee agreed on the positions below. As you are experiencing, this process has been very fast for the review and understanding of the impacts of the proposed legislative concepts. The information below is provided to help you understand what our concerns are as the jurisdiction with the largest law enforcement organization within Lane County.

- **LC 49: Law Enforcement Arbitration.** Support.
- **LC 78: Disclosure of Law Enforcement Disciplinary Actions.** Support with proposed amendment. We would propose that discipline resulting in economic sanction is the trigger for reporting.
- **LC 79: Attorney General Independent Investigation Authority for Use of Force.** Oppose unless amended. Amend to clarify the connection to the local requirements outlined in SB 111, dedicated funding source to address perception this is an unfunded mandate, and how the new system will increase transparency and responsiveness from the current system in place.

- **LC 80: Law Enforcement Duty to Report and Intervene.** Support with amendments. This LC is consistent with EPD policy, and there is also necessary effort to change police culture in addition to policy reforms. The City requests an interim work group, which Eugene Chief Skinner is willing to join and support, to work with a professional standards unit and develop a suite of actions that will provide police agencies with enhanced internal controls and accountability that improve police culture in this area.
- **LC 81: Limitation on Munitions Used to Control Assembly.** Support with amendment. Eugene supports the LC, and requests that DPSST support an interim work group that can develop best practices on utilization of tear gas for crowd dispersal to minimize law enforcement and crowd interactions and also showcase alternative police approaches that minimize confrontations, such as de-escalation and crowd monitoring.
- **LC 83: Prohibition on Use of Chokeholds.** Support. Eugene supports this LC and requests that in addition to this prohibition, there is a commitment by DPSST to increase training and best practices related to de-escalation and prevention techniques.

Sincerely,

Submitted Electronically

Ethan Nelson
Intergovernmental Relations Manager