

My name is Maro Sevastopoulos and I'm a resident of Portland. I came to Oregon 17 years ago from Cleveland, and experienced a culture shock when I saw how few Black folks were here. I didn't know Oregon's racist history. I didn't know we had intentionally pushed and left Black folks out. I was naive to the KKK bastion that was my new home.

I have watched in sadness and frustration as Black folks have been pushed out of their homes, neighborhoods, and this town/state. I have watched the numbers dwindle further, and gentrification boom all around us.

It is *\*long\** past time to address the harm we have historically caused Black communities, and that begins with Police Accountability. It begins with repairing the active harm we are still causing to Black, trans, and other vulnerable communities. We must make real change, not just lip service. Not just committees.

We need to end Qualified Immunity, track all forms of Use of Force, hold police individually and personally responsible for Use of Force, and begin the process of dismantling our systems that were designed to hold down the most vulnerable. We need overhaul, not minor reforms.

Be bold in your actions; lives literally depend on it.