

My name is Derrick Peterson, and I am the Local NW Chapter President of NOBLE, and currently a Captain at the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office where I have served for more than 33 years.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, I bring you greetings on behalf of the NW Chapter Executive Board, members, and constituents of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives – NOBLE.

NOBLE joins the nation in condemning the policing tactics, actions and inactions that led to the death of Mr. George Floyd. We are also alarmed and mourn with the nation at the horrific killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Aubrey and Rashard Brooks.

Portland is not void of the national spotlight as it has had its own issues involving the death of people of color starting with Lloyd Stevenson, Kendra James, James Perez, Aaron Campbell and Keaton Otis.

These names represent just a few in a much longer list of tragedies that have made lasting impacts on communities of color. It is with heavy heart and respect for those families, friends, and communities that carry the trauma of these deaths that we convey our deepest condolences, thoughts, and prayers.

The senseless death of George Floyd has gained unprecedented attention around the world as people from every walk of life are collectively demanding justice must be fair, transparent, and equal, which is echoed by police officers! His death has also caused individual police officers to pause and reflect on their career, especially police officers of color, as the riveting realization of their humanity comes into full view. Officers of color have had to hold in tension their commitment to the community they came from, commitment to their family, commitment to the profession, and commitment to the oath they swore to uphold.

It is a daunting proposition as they are often marginalized by their own community, sometimes family members, and the profession they work for. It is tough to quantify if you have made a difference as the death of George Floyd is reflected on. It brings the realization that officers of color have limited power and that once the uniform is taken off, they too could be subject to the same demise as George Floyd given the reality they too have been stopped in the past just for

being black. No matter the persons status in the police department, getting pulled over seems to always give way to a panicked feeling that leads one to think, is this my time.

Though it is very important that the Minneapolis officers involved in the death of Georg Floyd are held to the full standard of the law, it is just as important we address the systemic shortcomings and failures of our law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Many police leaders have already accepted responsibility to work towards meaningful change, to effectively build sustainable relationships with community stakeholders. It is our opinion a comprehensive approach is required in addressing the issues of police culture, accountability and building trust between police agencies and the communities WE have taken an oath to protect and serve.

Secondly, NOBLE is fully aware that addressing issues within the law enforcement spectrum is a very small part of a larger more complex construct comprised of America's continued imbalanced distribution of critical resources. History has shown that minority citizens have been disenfranchised from the American dream from generation to generation. One example of this is the systematic dismantling of Portland's black community through the process of gentrification. America will never realize her true potential until all of its citizens' humanity is equally valued and protected through racial and social justice.

NOBLE continues to work to achieve effective community policing practices that ensure the public and officers are safe. The Justice in Policing Act of 2020 encompasses many of the solutions law enforcement and communities have agreed will help improve public safety, build trust, and increase accountability. NOBLE supports modernizing policing in our country through the following proposed national policies:

- NOBLE strongly recommends a national minimum use-of-force policy be included in state and local law enforcement agency standards. We believe that for law enforcement leaders to develop and implement national best policing practices for their agencies, standardized use-of-force policies should include the following:
 - Mandatory de-escalation training for all officers and policies that require the use of de-escalation tactics as a priority

- Prohibition of all physical restraint maneuvers on or above the neck
 - (No choke Holds)
- Mandatory requirements all officers render immediate medical assistance to any person experiencing a health crisis. (whether in custody or not)
- Mandatory requirement officers stop or attempt to stop another officer from using inappropriate force
- Prohibition on no-knock warrants for drug cases
- Requirements for body worn cameras for law enforcement officers
- NOBLE proposes comprehensive legislation that incorporates the stated recommendations, but also includes:
 - Mandatory Law Enforcement Accreditation as a national requirement. (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.) CALEA
 - Police qualified immunity should be re-evaluated. Presently, under federal law, police officers who infringe on civilians' constitutional rights can be sued in federal court, but the qualified-immunity doctrine shields them from such suits unless their actions violated "clearly established law."
 - Provide the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department enforcement oversight against pattern and practice discrimination described in section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.A.).
 - Continued Appropriations for the Department of Justice Community Relations Service -directed towards programs to improve community and police relations.
 - Federal Data Collection of use-of-force data, traffic stop data, and pedestrian stops and detention data, of all demographics.
 - Implementation of a National database or registry listing officers with patterns of misconduct to prevent negligent hiring and retention
 - Meet with Union leadership with the intent to solicit their help to identify and seek the discharge of officers exhibiting patterns of misconduct detrimental to the law enforcement profession

Most of these recommendations are influenced from the 6 pillars of 21st Century Policing comprised of:

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Policy and Oversight
- Technology and Social Media
- Community Policing and Crime Reduction
- Training and Education
- Officer Wellness and Safety

NOBLE encourages this committee to quickly pass comprehensive police reform legislation. We support the passing of the “Justice in Policing Act” which specifically addresses the loopholes that allow policing tragedies to be held free from oversight and accountability that foster environments of unfettered racial tension. Not addressing these issues will continue to foster the destruction of this noble profession.

Lastly, on behalf of more than 3,800 law enforcement leaders who represent the membership of NOBLE, I thank you for supporting the law enforcement profession and listening to the voices of protesters who are bringing attention to this important issue and demanding change.