

Dear Oregon Legislature,

I know you are hearing from many Portland residents these days and I felt compelled to add my voice. I am deeply saddened by what I have seen play out in Portland the last few months. The way police, law enforcement officers, and now federal agents have conducted themselves during the largest civil rights demonstrations this country has seen is despicable. They should be ashamed. And anyone giving orders, encouraging the violent police response, or protecting violent officers should be ashamed and out of a job. This is not the United States of America that anyone wants - a country where citizens demanding justice and declaring that black lives matter are met with tear gas and excessive force? Doesn't sound like land of the free to me.

I ask the Joint Committee to take swift action on the below items. I also ask that all Oregon leaders does everything in their power (public pressure, statements, etc) to make it clear that federal agents operating under the dangerous direction of our president are not needed nor welcome in Portland.

1. Fully Ban Holds that restrict air and blood flow to the head - This unnecessary use of force has led to the death of many people at the hands (or foot) of law enforcement.
2. Ban Tear Gas & Rubber Bullets - without exceptions written in to the ban that still allow law enforcement to use tear gas if they determine it is a "riot". We see the loopholes you try to create and we are watching. We will not stand for loopholes that endanger people exercising their right to demonstrate and their right to demand justice and safety.
3. Make Duty to Intervene Mandatory - make it a misdemeanor to fail to intervene when there is use of excessive force and eliminate mob mentality.
4. Change the Use of Force Statute - stop allowing police to kill unarmed fleeing humans.
5. Eliminate Qualified Immunity - Police officers who break the law through careless and deadly actions should face the repercussions and consequences.
6. Demilitarize the Police - Funding excessive military equipment to use on citizens, showing up to gatherings of unarmed citizens in full riot gear, and using military trainers to enforce an 'us v. them' mentality is unnecessary and detrimental to the lives of our citizens. Imagine if the Portland Police had managed protests differently...decided to accept some property damage and have a significantly reduced presence that was mainly focused on keeping cars off the road where protests were happening? Imagine how different the outcome. Maybe this conversation would feel less hostile if the police hadn't decided to meet protests against police brutality with a show of militarized police force.
7. Arbitration Reform - ensure that officer discipline for misconduct cannot be overturned by an unelected arbitrator.

- Ally Dugan

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