

To the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform:

As a Portland resident who supports both the movement for Black lives and the right to demonstrate against police brutality, I am writing today with a twofold request of the Committee. It is clear from the pattern of these protests that tear gas and other munitions are being used against protesters in violation of both Mayor Wheeler's request that they only be deployed in "life safety" situations and of PPB's own publicly stated goals to protect the right to assembly. I would like to ask this committee to outright ban the use of tear gas and of impact munitions as crowd control tactics, and to make it clear that use of physical force to deter protest is not an acceptable alternative. I would also like to request that the committee publicly and strongly oppose the use of force by federal agents as we have seen in downtown Portland in the past week. City, county and federal police presence is threatening the safety of protesters and our community. The legislature must intervene more strongly to ensure accountability of law enforcement.

Thank you,
Liz Hardee
Portland