

I am calling for an Amendment to House Bill 4208.

I ask that you remove "Riot" exemptions for use of tear gas or other similar chemical dispersants.

Instead:

Make illegal the sale, purchase, or use of tear gas and all less lethal crowd control munitions in all law enforcement.

Require cooperation and consent of State and local officials for the use of any of these measures by federal law enforcement.

Make other adjustments or propose other bills to remove all capacity for police to dismantle civil liberties, and leave in place all their capacity to protect civil liberties.

Create a provision to permit tear gas specifically to end an active armed conflict or armed standoff with the intent to limit or eliminate the use of deadly force, but only with the cooperation and consent of state and local officials as well as the State's Attorney General. Active Armed conflict and armed standoff would have to be very specifically defined for very specific circumstances, so the policy could not be used or abused for any other circumstance.

Police are using tear gas and less lethal weapons to assault citizens with the aim to disrupt, silence, and end protests for more equitable, and less abusive justice.

Police are using narratives to discredit, and thus dismantle the civil liberties of American citizens.

And it is because they have been tasked with protecting our civil liberties that they are positioned so well to dismantle them with minimal risk of discrediting themselves.

Clarify Police as civil servants that protect civil liberties, property, and life of ALL citizens:

1. Zero Tear Gas sold, purchased, or used, in Oregon.
2. Zero less lethal munitions sold, purchased, or used in Oregon
3. Documentation of requisition granted and extensive records of all events for any use of force.
4. Mandatory external investigation for every draw of a firearm - active duty status may be maintained by an officer through investigations, excepting when an unnecessary use of force or excessive use of force charge is considered - even preliminary concerns.
5. No pay during wrongful death or injury investigations or while trial pending or in process.
6. Zero tolerance of escalated, agitated, or accelerated excessive force.
7. Random quarterly drug testing.
8. Training for those officers who are no longer sure "how they are supposed to do their job."
9. Support for detox and required abuse counseling for officers with any history of complaints, regardless of whether they were found guilty or not. The complaints reflect a problem that was not recognized by the system and is separate from findings of innocence or guilt.

In the vast majority of police interactions with the public, an empathetic and understanding demeanor will gain cooperation, negotiation will bring resistance down, and no force will be necessary. Those instances where force is deemed necessary, it is in the public interest to ensure that it was, in fact, necessary, and it is not a burden to ensure that this is true. To do otherwise is to risk the position of policing being used to remove civil liberties through force.

Demilitarize, remove all policy paths to the obstruction of civil liberties - even for, and especially for, those being accused of crimes. It is not the place of police to decide who deserves civil liberties, and it's time we create policy structures that sanctify that intention.

Thank you for the work you are doing,

Terri Walker
Portland, Oregon 97214