

Testimony on LC 746 and 748

30 July 2020

Co-chairs Manning, Bynum, and members of the committee,

I am writing this committee in support of LC 746 and 748. The current system for arbitration in matters of police misconduct does not benefit the public interest. Please help ensure this system no longer enables officer misconduct, restricts public oversight and harms morale within departments. When someone like Officer Frashour is reinstated to the Portland Police Bureau after being terminated for the shooting of Aaron Campbell, it benefits no one except the reinstated officer. It undermines the chief's ability to run the bureau; it undermines the public's trust that misconduct will have consequences; and it undermines other officers in the bureau who wish to uphold a higher standard of conduct.

Establishing standards, and restricting the ability of an arbitrator to reverse reasonable decisions will provide a more fair and transparent basis for reviewing these disciplinary actions. The current system is too opaque, arbitrary and biased against the public interest. I am hopeful that these standards along with the established committee will be able to correct some of the most harmful aspects of the arbitration system.

I enthusiastically urge support for a public database of disciplinary and certification actions. Transparency in this area is critical for maintaining public support and safety. Access to public information makes a safer and more informed public.

Thank you,

Tim Greiser

Portland, OR