

Hello,

Thank you for listening to my testimony today. And thank you for your follow up question. Here is a list of articles that demonstrate the power of Police unions, and some history.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/1968-kerner-commission-got-it-right-nobody-listened-180968318/> - Talks about how we ignored what it recommended, and basically have now seen it come true. "Instead of considering the full weight of white prejudice, Americans endorsed rhetoric that called for arming police officers like soldiers and cracking down on crime in inner cities." Which we are seeing the decade long impact now, police driving around in armored personal carriers.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/27/895651332/npr-podcast-throughline-delves-into-the-kerner-commissions-findings>

<https://www.portlandmercury.com/news/2020/02/27/28049957/can-state-legislation-fix-portlands-police-accountability-problem> Points out the challenges we face for Police accountability.

This article highlights, and links to several instances of officers being fired and then rehired.

PPB admits the problem themselves "“The current system of arbitration... undermines the chief’s ability to hold officers accountable to the high standards of our profession,” said PPB Assistant Chief Chris Davis at a recent hearing before Oregon’s Senate Judiciary Committee."

The unions and arbitrators use the full justice system against justice
"PPB policy is notably vague when granting officers the right to use deadly force, requiring only that such action is “objectively reasonable.” The bureau requires that determination be made “based on the totality of circumstances known by an officer at the time of action or decision-making... without the clarity of 20/20 hindsight after the event has concluded.” which opens the door for Union Lawyers and arbitrators to blame the policy and shield the officer.

<https://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/234-suspension-lifted-on-kendra-james-killer-2006-01-26>

An arbitrator has lifted the suspension of a police officer who fatally shot an unarmed Black motorist during a traffic stop, ruling that the department never conducted a full investigation into the shooting.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/02/us/police-unions-contracts-shielding-bad-cops-invs/index.html> It is a nationwide problem. Let's be leaders and show the nation we can and must do better!

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fired-police-officers-get-rehired-appeal-process>

"Since 2006, the nation's largest police departments fired at least 1,881 officers for misconduct, but more than 450 officers were reinstated after appeals required by union contracts,"

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/06/12/police-disciplinary-records-are-largely-kept-secret-in-us/>

"Bowling Green State University criminologist Phil Stinson, who has collected data on thousands of police charged, investigated or convicted of crimes, said that most officers go through their careers with few complaints against them, and that generally a small percentage of officers account for an outsize share of complaints.

In New York, Pantaleo, the officer who put Garner in a chokehold in 2014 but was not indicted in his death, had eight disciplinary cases of abuse and excessive force, four of which were substantiated. But his record was secret until a staff member at the review board leaked it. The staffer later resigned."

https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2015/12/portland_must_rehire_cop_fired.html

"a Portland police officer fired after fatally shooting an unarmed man in the back with an AR-15 rifle in 2010." "The Portland Police Association filed a grievance challenging the termination and the case was reviewed by an arbitrator"

This one just came out about police unions nationwide. Also talks about the tension around unions as came up in testimony yesterday.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/08/03/how-police-unions-fight-reform>

I hope these articles help show why we need a discipline process that works, and a clear way to identify who police are. Police have the ability to use deadly force within the confines of the law and that tremendous and ultimate power needs strong checks and balances. Please help keep us safe.

Thank you,

Paul Frazier

--

Paul Frazier
503-703-7710