

Hello,

My name is Kendall Arlasky, I live and work in Portland while attending Lewis & Clark College. I am a rising senior who is deeply invested in the community that I have come to love. I am emailing you about the use of tear gas in the downtown area. This practice is completely unacceptable not only for the members of the community who may face serious health consequences in the future but to the environment and our houseless neighbors who seek refuge in the park. The tear gas itself has already had adverse effects on my friends who were peacefully protesting police brutality with some of these young women having their menstrual cycles for weeks due to being gassed, I have witnessed people pass out and have asthma attacks all while practicing their first amendment right to protest. I am disappointed in the lack of response to the protests and the continued conversations of alternative methods of crowd control. This is not about crowd control, this is about reallocating money that goes to the police to crime prevention, i.e. funding education and affordable housing. You are putting a bandaid on a 400-year-old wound. This committee should contribute to state funding to community-led safety efforts, and pass policies identified by Black-led organizations as urgent to fix police immunity and abuse of the community through force.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Sincerely,

Kendall Arlasky