

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

Thank you for working on this very politically charged issue. I am a citizen of NE Portland, and have been following events in our city closely. With my neighbors, friends and family I have reached some conclusions about what needs to be done.

Firstly, I am respectful of the need to support the current national movement to address systemic racism. Lawful, non-violent demonstrations, gatherings and marches should be allowed to continue. Whatever we decide to do regarding policing should not be perceived as being contrary to the intent of this movement, although that may be difficult to achieve.

On the other hand, it is extremely important that perpetrators of violence, property destruction and civil disobedience be apprehended and prosecuted according to the law. Curtaining egregious police actions that physically harm people unnecessarily should not be an excuse to do less policing or restrict our Portland police force and the District Attorney's office in any way. In conversation with an experienced Portland police officer I have learned that our police force already has more mandated restrictions than almost any other police force in the country. Due to successive funding cuts over decades our police manpower has been cut to half of what it should be.

I was informed that the FBI advises city police manpower should be 1.8 officers per 1000 population, and in Portland we need to have at ideally at least 1,300 officers. There are associated social service agents whose budgets have been cut, where the police have been overextended to cover, and where funding also needs to be restored.

Downtown Portland is really hurting, as you know, with countless businesses boarded up, graffiti everywhere, street people camped out, and yet silence except when there is protest. Businesses need help, while the downtown needs to be cleaned up and restored, but the first order of business is to stop the violence and civil lawlessness coming from whatever political source. I am sure that it has not been lost on you that our president is making street violence in Portland and elsewhere a plank in his electioneering, but is totally insensitive to the needs and rights of the majority of the protesters who follow the law.

Please do what needs to be done, crafting your bills carefully while encouraging the City of Portland and Multnomah County to end the violence and property destruction, unrest and fear, while supporting increased funding of the police and other agencies, and respecting the rights and goals of our underprivileged minorities.

Respectfully yours,

Reynold Orchard, MD