

Today's agenda items regarding police accountability and use of force restrictions

Good morning, I am a Portland resident and would like to urge that the committee vote in favor of all of the bills that would increase oversight and limit the use of weaponry to not indiscriminately target members of the crowd.

I was recently at a protest at the ICE building and verbally engaged with other protesters who were throwing eggs at the officers, trying to get them to cease (or go to the front of the crowd instead of hiding behind it if they felt the need to continue throwing objects) while a Black speaker was on a megaphone speaking to the officers. Shortly thereafter I was hit by pepper balls and gas with no audible warning from the officers. I was able to watch a stream and a dispersal order was given, but it was completely unintelligible to me even though I was at the front of the crowd.

To reiterate - I went from peacefully assembling and trying to de-escalate fellow protesters to being hit by chemical agents without an effective warning or audible order to disperse. I hope you can see how this is unacceptable and indiscriminate.

As far as accountability and transparency, a person's arrest record follows them around and is discoverable, how does it make sense that those who are tasked with enforcing that are held to a lower standard than the general public? Please enforce accountability for officers for their actions.

Thank you,  
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