

Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Select Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony today to urge you to take the following measures with regards to policing in the State of Oregon. My name is Noah Hatz, I live in Multnomah County.

1 - Ban Tear gas without exemptions. The police have shown they will simply ignore the restrictions placed upon them, declaring peaceful protests "riots" without pretense and then deploying tear gas indiscriminately in residential neighborhoods.

2 - Establish a police conduct oversight board that cannot be overruled by outside agencies, and remove this board from any police contract negotiations. Additionally, establish a truth and reconciliation commission to bring light to historical police abuses and provide community closure of these abuses.

3 - Eliminate police "unions", these "unions" are the primary force responsible for keeping bad and dangerous police officers from being held responsible for their conduct, which further endangers the community and encourages lawless behaviors from police officers who know they will not face consequences for misdeeds.

4 - End Qualified Immunity. Over and over the public sees police officers commit heinous crimes against the public, only to see these officers escape justice because of qualified immunity, which only furthers the public sense that police are free to abuse and kill members of the community, which reduces both overall public safety and police effectiveness.

Thank you,

Noah Hatz