

Testimony for LC742, LC743, LC746, LC747, LC821

To whom it may concern:

I am a 20-year Portland resident. I have participated in protests against police brutality this summer alongside thousands of my fellow residents.

I am appalled by the behavior of the Portland Police Bureau. The legislature must act. The accountability system for the PPB is broken. And I have witnessed police officers unnecessarily using force and chemical weapons.

The police have ultimate power right now to tell us when and when we cannot protest which is unconstitutional. Night after night they arbitrarily declare an unlawful assembly when we are exercising our constitutional right to assemble, and declare a riot when I can tell you firsthand, there is no riot, just a bunch of brave and scared citizens standing in a street trying our best to stand up for our fellow Black and brown citizens who have reported being mistreated by Portland Police Bureau officers for years. Now we see with our own eyes how police officers do not tell the truth about their encounters with citizens. We see with our own eyes interactions that result in charges that do not reflect what we have observed. When I read the police accounts of a protest, I am left scratching my head knowing that the things they report did not happen.

What does it say about the way that Portland Police behave that they have indiscriminately used chemical weapons on citizens exercising our constitutional right to assemble so often that we now all come to a march with respirators?

What does it say about the Portland Police Bureau ethics that they operate anonymously, hiding their name tags with tape and other things, so that they can avoid accountability?

You have seen videos from the brave journalists who come to protests every night that record officers who have assaulted protesters, tackling them, beating them, shoving them. Not to mention ample evidence of police officers gravely injuring protesters with “crowd control munitions.”

They must be held accountable.

Portland Police officers are acting as judge, jury, and executioner. The ways that I have heard that they have treated arrestees are unacceptable. Our justice system is a farce if a police officer has full license to decide if a person is guilty or not and immediately punish them by assaulting them.

LC 742—PPB must not use chemical weapons. There is a reason they are banned by the UN.

LC 743—Police officers must wear their nametags, be identifiable to be held accountable for their actions.

LC 746—Police officers must be held accountable.

LC 747—Police officers must treat arrestees humanely and not mete out extrajudicial punishment.

LC 821—We must track of cops' crimes and tell the public.

LC 825—We must end qualified immunity for police officers.

We are counting on the legislature to step in and protect our rights and to rein in an out of control police force.

Best regards,

Lisa Radon  
Portland, Oregon