

Dear Joint Committee On Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform,

I live in the St. Johns neighborhood and for the last 3 months, I've taken time away from my wife and my accounting job to protest for BLM and to advocate that Portland deals with its failures of justice and in policing its people. I was arrested on June 7, severely beaten on August 1, and subjected to the usual threats, shoves, hits, gas, and flash-bangs on many, many other nights in between and since. I am not qualified to speak on BLM but I am confident that my opinion on policing in Portland is well-informed by my ongoing experiences.

I am satisfied with many of your proposals, but have some issues I want addressed. I believe LC 17 will effectively curtail many of the Portland Police Bureau's more-problematic practices relating to their protest responses, but I do not agree with expanding immunity to cover additional acts. I want further restrictions on immunity, specifically for the individuals entrusted with such power as our public safety officers have.

I believe LC 18 will reestablish some of the credibility lost to generically marked "officers" recorded brutalizing protesters and is an essential foundation for police accountability. I believe LC 19 and LC 20 will provide quality data for making further decisions. I support passage of these proposals without any amendments, though I look forward to further requirements for statewide certification of sworn officers.

I am cautiously optimistic for LC 746, as the current system for police accountability is not working.

The draft LCs for 2021 are also promising, but I see a significant missing piece in reforming the Interfering with a Peace Officer statute used to arrest peaceful protesters. I would like it removed entirely, though a modification to align with the state Supreme Court's 2013 opinion that it is not applicable for arresting individuals for passive resistance would be welcome.

Thank you for your time.

Jesse Swordfisk