

Public testimony for today's hearing

Hello,

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I am a concerned citizen of Portland, and I believe that the Police -- whether PPB, MultCo Sheriffs, or State troopers -- have completely and irreparably lost the trust of the public.

For public safety to be effective, the public must trust their officers to keep them safe. Transparency, restraint, an attitude of service, accountability, humility, and a constant desire to improve (rather than cover up) are core to this work. I do not see these attitudes or skills present in police or police work.

Perhaps MOST appallingly, what I see everywhere in response to the public outcry for accountability, is a doubling down, an "us-vs.-them" attitude, taken by law enforcement.

There is no "us" vs. "them". Policing is a service, a job, that we the public pay for, and if serving our needs is not what police desire to do -- if being held accountable in their work (as we all are at our jobs) feels like declaring sides, or going to war with the public -- then there is no hope but to eliminate every position that holds this attitude and start fresh. This is simply an unacceptable (and horrific) attitude for any public servant, let alone one who has the ability and free reign to harm and kill members of the public.

Police are PUBLIC SERVANTS. They must SERVE the PUBLIC. Not only have I not seen this baseline accepted tenant of the job present in Police action, but I have now lost the confidence that this premise impacts police decision making or action writ large.

END. QUALIFIED. IMMUNITY. NOW.

Elizabeth McMurtry  
97213

--

*Elizabeth McMurtry*  
[www.elizabethmcmurtry.com](http://www.elizabethmcmurtry.com)