

Tesitmony Re: Policing

Hello,

I am writing to you today as a concerned Oregonian who, like so many, have spent the last 3 months appalled at the criminal state of our public safety system and the rampant abuse of their power as LEO's. These revelations have only been made possible by the nearly 100 days of protesting which have occurred in Portland. A noble cause, albeit uncomfortable for many to witness, but regardless has been met with a disproportionate degree of violence on the part of PPB, MCS, and OSP.

This summer has proven to the public that the unchecked power, and lack of accountability for the actions of these police bodies pose an imminent, mortal threat to our BIPOC community and anyone else that might challenge them.

It is our duty as an empathetic, and just society to prioritize and fund trauma-focused, restorative justice policy. Policing by its very definition is incapable of providing the type of intervention our society needs.

That an incredible amount of our tax dollars goes to support their salaries, pensions and benefits is a gift of the American people, and Oregonians deserve better.

Below are my comments on specific measures...

LC 742- Cops can't be trusted with chemical weapons

As Portland experienced the unjustified use of chemical weapons as a means of crowd control, beginning very early in June, we know that these bodies can not be trusted with weapons of this kind. That the Geneva Convention prohibits their use in war on foreign soil is enough information anyone should need to know in order to determine that our LEO's should not be armed with them. These weapons pose both physical and environmental harm, the degree to which we do not fully understand. Remove these weapons from their arsenal immediately.

LC 743- Cops need to wear nametags

It is ludicrous that public employees, whose mission is to Serve and Protect citizens are not required to display their name. ID numbers are not enough, as they are not easily read during fast moving incidents, and hardly easy to remember and retain for identification later.

LC 746- Cops need to be held accountable, no arbitrator vetos

This goes without saying and needs no further explanation. Full stop.

LC 747- Don't hurt arrestees

By now, we've all seen hundreds of videos captured across the country of police hurting or killing arrestees. It's so ingrained in their culture. On our own streets this summer, hundreds of hours of video have captured LEOs administering a disproportionate and criminal amount of force against citizens practicing their 1A rights.

We've experienced it in Portland for years before and since the early days of our city. James Chasse's family will testify to this.

Arrests should not be for sport. Arrests should not be used as an opportunity for LEOs to work out some pent up anger.

This is shameful that we have to even discuss this.

LC 821- track cop's crimes and inform the public

The community deserves to know who and what they're paying for. We deserve to know if a violent cop remains among the ranks. We deserve to know if a community member experiences violence at the hands of an LEO if it's an isolated incident, or if this individual has a history of dirty policing. LEOs must be held accountable for their actions, and this is but one way to do so.

LC 825- No qualified immunity

My younger brother is a cop in another state. At the beginning of the protests, he remorse: "If qualified immunity goes away, cops will quit." My response: "Exactly"

That sentiment "if police are to be held accountable for their actions, they'll quit" sickens me. It absolutely disgusts me.

LEO's enjoy the comfort of knowing that they can do quite literally anything...kill someone. Kneel on their neck. In public. On camera. While bystanders plea for them to stop. For nearly 9 minutes. Any enjoy qualified immunity. They can even kill someone by kneeling on someone's neck and enjoy qualified immunity from that crime, if they've previously killed someone before because that previous crime protected them from punishment because of QI.

We cannot possibly achieve an accountable public safety system with QI in place. It is quite literally impossible.

Thank you for hearing my testimony, I hope you proceed with your hearts, and not your pocket books, allegiances to the status quo, or your false sense of security from a public safety system built only to protect the white and rich.

Sincerely,

Ana Johns
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