

Comments on bills before the 2020-09-03 session of the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform

We're approaching 100 days of protests in Portland; these protests against police brutality are met, night after night, with more police brutality, illustrating the need to pass the bills before you today.

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RE LC 742 (LC 17) re use of chemical incapacitants:

I agree vehemently that chemical weapons should be prohibited from use; tear gas in war is forbidden by the Geneva Convention; PPB should not be allowed to use it on Portland's citizens, some of whom have suffered the effects of tear gas \*in their own homes\* due to PPB's indiscriminate use.

Additionally, we do not yet know the extent of the environmental damage to trees downtown and the effect of the chemicals draining into the Willamette.

I am concerned about the "would otherwise be justified under the law" clause in the staff summary of this bill. The previous bill (House Bill 4208 A) "prohibits use of tear gas by a law enforcement agency for crowd control except during riots." This resulted in PPB declaring riot for folks standing around, holding signs, chanting, dancing, generally just being where the PPB doesn't want them to be. That's hardly a riot. Please don't leave them any loopholes.

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RE LC 743 (LC 18) requirements for identification on peace officer uniforms:

Officers \*must\* wear and/or provide identification; not identifying themselves makes it more difficult to enforce officer accountability.

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RE LC 762 (LC 19) and LC 763 (LC 20)

I am all for both of these actions to create publicly accessible databases about officer misconduct, use of force, and disciplinary actions. If there truly are only a few "bad apple" officers, give us the data we need to root them out. They should not be allowed to remain in their current positions of power.

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Thank you for your time.

Gabrielle Roth  
Portland