

In support of LC 19...

I write to you in support of the legislature passing LC 19. I have been an ordained Episcopal Priest for over 40 years and am currently serving as a Chaplain at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

In the past few decades we have seen the damage done to children by abusive priests being moved from church to church without knowledge of their disciplinary record. The percentage of abusive priests was/is small but the damage they inflicted was massive. The same holds for the small percentage of police who abuse their power and commit crimes against people of color in the name of law and order. The record of abusive acts or unjust violence against people of color is a history that needs to be made public for public servants.

I know such abuse happens even in small town, Bend, Oregon. The experience of a friend of ours is a testament to people of color being wrongfully accosted while attempting to get to work on time. Our friend, a 20 year old black woman, was bicycling to work in the early morning hours when she was pulled over by police who wanted to question her about audio speakers that had been stolen. She couldn't have concealed or carried the speakers on her bike even if she had wanted to do so. Had she been a white young woman I'm quite certain she wouldn't have been pulled over, let alone questioned about stealing something. Was this officer prone to such racial profiling? A history of disciplinary actions might help the police and the public know if this was an ongoing method of operation for this officer and/or for the Bend Police Dept.

No one benefits from not having this information be public and I urge you to support passing LC19!

Thank you!

The Rev. Jack Erskine

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