

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as a 56-year old white female citizen of Portland who has attended a number of downtown protests since 2016. Portland Police are escalating all contacts with the public. Portland Police are inciting violence showing up to all protests in war attire, shooting munitions at protesters, using war tools to fight their citizens. This is neither keeping the peace nor protecting anyone. Please help before more people are harmed or killed.

De-escalate: Use the legislative system to do what it was designed to do. Give our public servants the tools to do the work we wish them to do, keep the peace not start a war.

LC 742 Regulates use of chemical incapacitants, kinetic impact projectiles and sound devices by law enforcement agencies.

Chemical weapons must be banned for police use in the state of Oregon: Bad for salmon and bad for humans.

Portland Police are using chemical weapons indiscriminately and dangerously, and I have witnessed this myself on at least four occasions in the last few months, twice in my neighborhood less than a few blocks from my home in an exclusively residential area.

How many nights have we been kept awake by sound devices? I've lost track as have my neighbors. You know it's bad when you can identify the mood of the person speaking—or the novelty of hearing a woman's voice on the LRAD.

I should not have to attend a protest against police brutality wearing a gas mask, goggles, or ear protection. Nor should anyone have to wear any sort of armor, for goodness sake, to protect themselves from "less lethal munitions."

These munitions should be outlawed, as the injuries they have caused bear ample testimony.

Police are not doing their jobs, ensuring the safety of the community, nor are they keeping the peace. The whole community is impacted by their escalation tactics and they are indiscriminately poisoning everyone within reach, and especially those without housing during a pandemic.

The police should not be at war with their fellow citizens.

LC 743 Establishes requirements for peace officer uniforms. Establishes requirements for displaying identifying information on peace officer uniforms and for disclosing identifying information to public upon request.

All law enforcement needs readily visible identification on multiple locations of their bodies (and vehicles). On many occasions I have seen police with no identification and on one occasion was screamed at while walking with my husband and friend down Burnside by police riding on a riot van, whose riders were wearing no identification ("Go home!!!" while I was on a public street blocks from a legal protest.) On other occasions vans of riot police have driven by my home (too fast), none wearing id, faces completely covered (not Covid covering), and again menacing neighborhood dwellers and peaceful protesters alike wearing tactical gear designed for war.

We are not in a war zone, we are paying their salaries, this is our city, and we should be able to identify who they are and who they represent.

LC 746 Imposes limitations on arbitrators' decisions concerning alleged misconduct by law enforcement officers.... Requires law enforcement agencies and arbitrators to comply with uniform standards established by Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline....

Law enforcement needs to be held accountable, as any citizen would, to just laws.

LC 747—Relating to arrestee well-being.

Any person who has been arrested by a law enforcement officer, regardless of circumstances, and especially in the heated context of a protest, needs to be protected by that official. As a ward of the state, in effect, that person must be appropriately and safely cared for while in the state's care until such time as they are released, charged, or taken into custody. This is the obligation of the state and of the justice system—to care for the safety of those in its custody.

LC 762 (LC 19)

Directs Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish publicly available database...prosecutorial determinations of unreliability, suspensions and revocations of certification and certain resignations of public safety employees to department for inclusion in database.

This is common sense, if a law enforcement officer has performed their duties in a way to harm a citizen that information should be available to any and all who might wish to employ that person in a capacity of ensuring public safety.

LC 763 (LC 20;and 821

Directs Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to establish statewide database of reports of use of physical force by peace officers and corrections officers... to report on use or threat of physical force, and deaths of persons in custody, to commission.

Again, this is common sense, information pertaining to any officer of the peace, or state employee, who has used physical force against one of their constituents or who has not performed their duties in a safe manner and with regards to the safety of their constituents, should be tracked and reported to governing bodies in a timely and consistent manner.

LC 825—No qualified immunity

All persons, and especially officers of the peace, should be subject to the US Constitution and not immune from prosecution.

Thank you for your work on these pressing and timely issues, and thank you for seeking input from the citizens of Oregon. We need a voice in how we are represented in the legislature and in the streets in order to ensure the safety of all and especially of our most vulnerable citizens.

Respectfully,

Joan Handwerg