

Good afternoon Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Donnell Tanksley. I serve as the Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety for Portland State University. I came to Pacific Northwest after having grown up in St. Louis Missouri. I also lived in Ferguson Missouri while attending community college. As you may know, Ferguson is one of the places where the conversation on policing and the lives of young black men was reignited after the death of Michael Brown. I am also a retired Veteran with (22) years of honorable service to our country.

I started my police career 26 years ago because I wanted to see a change and be part of that change for the better. I knew that a person's interaction with the police could have a profound impact on them and I pledged to do all I could to bring honor and integrity to law enforcement. And for 26 years, I have done that and will continue to do that for as long as I have the privilege to wear the badge, the uniform and serve our communities.

We are here today to discuss House Bill 3338 and the public policy around its proposal. I believe that following any fatal use of force event, we as a department and a profession should pause to acknowledge the life lost, analyze the circumstances, and train for improvement. We should ask ourselves what happened, what other perspectives exist, and how can we train for this if similar circumstances present themselves again.

The central question today is whether an urban university should continue to provide law enforcement protection internally or rely on local law enforcement agencies or contract agencies. After much reflection and debate, my years of training and experience tell me that the only logical safe answer is to continue the service as an integrated part of the university.

First, I believe we operate in a unique environment with its own challenges. Portland State University is an urban university located in downtown Portland on (50) acres. There are (57) buildings on our campus with over (5) million total gross square feet of space. Our urban campus footprint is not like traditional universities. Our buildings intersect with private businesses, municipal government buildings, apartments, eateries, and pubs.

We also have (10) student housing buildings with over 2000 residential students. In addition, we have the second largest student population of any university in Oregon with over 27,000 students and about 7700 employees.

Second, there is not a readily available outside public or private law enforcement provider who can train up, staff the university adequately and provide the specialized services required at an educational institution. For example, the Portland Police Bureau is having it's own challenges recruiting and retaining personnel. PSU is located within Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct, which is a (41) square mile area of the City of Portland. The availability of a police response to PSU is at any particular time is dependent on limited staffing and other demands existing in the Central Precinct at the time, which often results in a considerable wait times to calls for a police response. According to public information provided by Portland Police Bureau, the "Downtown" neighborhood in which Portland State University is located, the Portland Police Bureau responded to almost 20,000 calls from service between February 2018 and February 2019. The average response time for those calls were (22) minutes. Conversely, Portland State University CPSO had almost 16,000 calls from March 2018 to March 2019 and (92%) of the time we responded in less than (5) minutes.

Admittedly, and as documented in the Margolis Healy report, many of our calls at the onset may appear to not require an armed state certified police officer. As you may know, circumstances quickly change and any situation may require an armed state certified police officer at any point. To that end, I will highlight several incidents on or in close proximity to Portland State University.

Attempt Robbery:

March 8, 2019 at approximately 11:55pm a male armed with a black rifle approached a student on the 8th floor of a parking structure 1 and attempted to steal the students' car.

Invasion of privacy-Smith Center

January 26, 2019 at about 3:20 PM, a student who reported that a male had used his cellphone to video them while they were in the 4th floor gender neutral bathroom, Smith Center.

Suspicious Behavior - Cramer Hall

February 15, 2019 at 2:08 PM, a student reported suspicious behavior because another person was filming them while they walked in an academic building.

Suspicious Person

February 11, 2019 at 8:42 PM, a report of a holding a knife a bathroom at Lincoln Hall.

Invasion of Privacy – Smith Center

February 5, 2019 at approximately 12:30 PM, a student reported a person holding a phone under the stall as they prepared to use the restroom at the Student Union. .

Invasion of Privacy– Ondine Residence Hall

February 2, 2019 at approximately 3:37 AM, student reported a male looking through the stall, watching people.

Invasion of Personal Privacy – Academic Student Recreation Center

February 1, 2019 at approximately 2:57 PM, student reported someone attempted to video them while they were using the bathroom at the Student Recreation Center Building.

Stabbing on Streetcar off Campus

February 3, 2019 at approximately 7:39 PM, PSU Officers responded to assist Portland Police with a reported stabbing. The incident occurred on board a Portland streetcar which stopped at our campus urban center to seek help.

Death investigation

November 22, 2018, PSU Officers responded to the area of SW 6th Ave and SW Mill Street to perform a welfare check on a subject yelling and running into the street. The person was restrained for their safety and others and conveyed to the hospital. The person died at the hospital and it was ruled death by overdose.

Police Investigation Officer involved Shooting

June 29, 2018 at approximately 1:30 AM, PSU Officer involved fatal shooting.

Robbery Unknown Weapon- SW Montgomery/SW 10th

June 9, 2018 at approximately 5:00 PM, student/victim reported being hit on the head with an unknown weapon and knocked out unconscious. The suspect took their possessions.

Agency Assist Robbery (No Weapon) - SW Broadway/Mill

May 31, 2018 at approximately 10:00 PM, person reported being beaten and robbed of their cell phone after an event at PSU.

Agency Assist Aggravated Assault with a Vehicle

May 5, 2018 at approximately 10:07 AM, three people (including a student) were severely injured after being intentionally ran over by a car on the Max platform at PSU.

Burglary - University Pointe Apartments

May 1, 2018 at approximately 8:30 PM, student reported a burglary that was committed by their ex-partner.

Robbery (NO WEAPON) - University Place Hotel

February 23, 2018 at approximately 2:29 AM, person reported being robbed. Their purse and cell phone were taken. The suspect ran and while doing so discarded the phone.

Robbery with a knife - University Pointe Apartments

February 5, 2018 at approximately 8:00 PM, person reported being robbed at knife point. The suspects stole their marijuana and laptop.

Robbery with a Gun: Academic Student Resource Center

January 16, 2018, at approximately 8:38 PM, person robbed at gunpoint in front of the Student Recreation Center. Stolen was a cell phone, watch and other personal property.

Robbery, Intimidation, Possession of Meth (Bias Crime)

December 28, 2017 at approximately 1:00 PM, person was robbed inside our Student Union Building. The suspect was arrested for robbery and drugs charges.

Robbery/with Firearm/Agency Assist - SW 10th / SW Mill

November 25, 2017 at approximately 4:45 AM, a person was robbed at gunpoint while attempting to buy cocaine.

Agency Assist Aggravated Assault with a knife- Cheerful Tortoise

November 9, 2017 at approximately 8:04 PM, PSU student was stabbed in the ear and cheek.

Homicide/Vue Apartments November 7, 2017 at approximately 1254 AM, less than 25 yards from PSU campus property, a person was shot and killed outside of the Vue Apartments.

Aggravated Assault - Unlawful Use of Weapon -- SW 10th/SW Mill

On October 1, 2017 at approximately 1:40 PM, PSU Officers responded to a call of a drive-by shooting at the intersection of SW 10th and Mill. The suspects and the victims were not located. .45 caliber shell casings were found at the scene.

The urban location of Portland State University has the propensity for crime in urban areas. The crimes are real, and impact the quality of life for our neighbors, campus community and visitors.

Third, we believe our investments in training in this environment has brought excellent results. We have meet the training requirements required by all local, state and tribal police officers in the State of Oregon. Moreover, we have specialized training to meet the needs of the university environment. Some of the trainings include:

- Historical Education of Marginalized Populations
- Implicit/Unconscious Bias
- Title IX/Sexual Violence Awareness
- LGBTQ Awareness
- Mental Health Awareness
- PSU Policy
- Disability Awareness
- Micro Aggression

We have also been trained in Fair and Impartial Policing. I am a certified facilitator and taught the course to my Department. I believe it starts with the leadership.

Certainly, I believe like any other profession, i.e, Social Worker, Physician, University Professor or a Maintenance Worker--we all need additional training and professional development in our craft.

We are doing that, have done it and will continue to train in many areas to include community policing, community outreach and exploring innovative ways to increase transparency, accountability, trust and oversight. Of note, we were one of the first police agencies in the State of Oregon to implement body worn cameras for every uniformed police officer.

Now I want to move on and address another part of the question today which is disarmament. I never thought this experience would come in handy, but I have actually lived/served in a

country where only the on-duty supervisor carried a weapon. All of the other officers were gunless. Why did this work? It was an effective approach because the country itself had very strict gun possession laws. That was Iceland. And one thing I can tell you from that experience and comparing it to my time here- PSU is not Iceland.

A firearm is only one of many tools a law enforcement professional is equipped with. I am fortunate that in (26) years of my law enforcement career I have not had to fire my weapon in the line of duty. Yet, I know some officers that had to make that decision. A loss of life, any loss of life is devastating and has lifelong impacts to many people. I know this personally as I have lost several family members to gun violence. It hurts. It hurts your heart and your soul.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Donnell Tanksley
Chief of Police
Portland State University