

To whom it may concern

As a student at Portland State University, I worry about my own safety and especially the safety of many of my peers, friends, staff and faculty, due to the fact that our CPSO office remains armed. In discussions about armament, proponents almost universally gesture towards the threat of a shooter on campus, despite the fact that there is no convincing evidence to suggest that having an armed, sworn CPSO office helps protect against campus shootings. Instead, we must confront the fact that the last shooting to take place on our campus was the murder of Jason Washington by PSU CPSO. As long as campus police remain armed, there is a constant threat that more lives will be lost. Quite simply, armed officers do not protect our community — they endanger it. Even if disarmament takes place, much work will need to be done to restructure campus safety offices to serve the needs of the community and deconstruct oppressive institutional practices; however, disarmament is a *crucial* first step — an *absolute necessity* — if any modicum of trust is to be restored between CPSO and students, faculty, staff, and community members at PSU.

Marshall Scheider