



ALERT: Collective Bargaining Manipulation (SB 1567)

To: Members of the Legislative Assembly
From: Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs
Date: January 15, 2020 (*Updated to reflect bill number*)

Recently, ORCOPS was made aware of a letter from the City of Portland regarding SB 1567, urging the Legislature to adopt a measure that adjusts a collectively-bargained arbitration process:

“LC 49 [SB 1567] removes the option for an arbitrator to change or override the discipline decision of the Chief of Police when the arbitrator agrees that misconduct occurred, and that discipline was appropriately applied per a discipline [sic] guide. The concept also requires the discipline guide to be a mandatory subject of bargaining.”

While ORCOPS was indeed part of a constructive discussion on this issue during the 2019 session, it is important to note that during the 2020 Legislative Session, the Portland Police Association and City of Portland will be in an active contract negotiation where this precise item is expected to be a subject of bargaining.

Regardless of one's position on the policy, Legislative consideration of this matter during a relevant labor negotiation sets a staggeringly harmful precedent, and opens the door to the Legislature being asked to “put its thumb on the scale” for all manner of contract negotiations.

Additionally, seeing one party to that contract negotiation urge adoption of a law that would supercede the negotiation process begs the question as to how the City of Portland can expect to be considered to be bargaining in good faith per ORS 243.627(1)(e) and avoid an unfair labor practice complaint. The Legislature should not be party to such manipulation. **ORCOPS strongly urges legislators to not support SB 1567.**

Michael Selvaggio

PS: If the Legislature and the City of Portland both firmly believe that the State Capitol is an appropriate venue for a contract negotiation, ORCOPS' member organizations will be pleased to bring their own counsel and lay out the contract provisions for working conditions and salary increases that we would otherwise keep to more traditional contract negotiation venues.