



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

June 23, 2020

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Committee on The First Special Session of 2020
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek and members of the committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports the People of Color (POC) Caucus and their call for police accountability legislation. We are working on reforms to our city operations and are deeply appreciative of the leadership and partnership of the POC Caucus to make long overdue, meaningful, institutional change for the State of Oregon.

In particular, we want to thank members of the POC Caucus for their support over the last two years for police accountability through the arbitration process (now SB 1604, previously SB 1567-A (2020) and SB 383-A (2019)). This bill is a critical piece of much broader and needed reforms. The legislation prevents an arbitrator from overturning the discipline decision of a Chief of Police or Police Commissioner when certain criteria are met. In order for a law enforcement agency to participate in the discipline system allowed by SB 1604, the discipline guide or matrix must be adopted through collective bargaining, thereby allowing both sides to know, understand and negotiate over the terms of discipline.

We are grateful for the prioritized concepts from the POC Caucus and recognize that many of these reforms have been years in the making. We add our voice and support to the slate of proposals from the POC Caucus around police accountability. In addition, we lift up demands we have been hearing from the community and urge the Legislature to ban chokeholds and meaningfully restrict the use of other crowd management tools. These are fair requests to help ensure people will not be seriously hurt, or worse, when they interact with the police or exercise their First Amendment rights. We urge continued momentum at the Legislature far beyond this special session and assure you that we will be there to push for meaningful, needed improvements including reforming officer training at the Department of Public Safety Standards & Training and greater reforms to arbitration.

Thousands of community members have gathered day after day in Portland and across the country demanding action against police violence and anti-Black racism. The groundswell of public support for systemic changes provides an opportunity unlike anything we have seen before. Be ambitious and act with the urgency our constituents demand of us all.

Reforming policing is a first, long overdue, and hard-fought step. We commit ourselves to this work, and more broadly to the work of dismantling the institutional racism that has pervaded our systems of power since their inception in this country, state, and city.

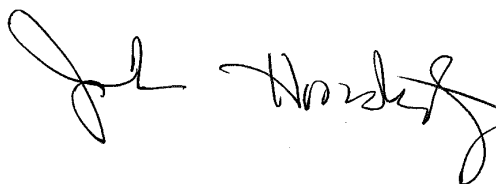
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ted Wheeler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amanda Fritz'.

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo Ann Hardesty'.

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chloe Eudaly'.

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner