

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Denny Doyle

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado

City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper

City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Tammy Stempel

City of Gladstone

Mayor Tom Ellis

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson

City of King City

Mayor Kent Studebaker

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Dan Holladay

City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays

City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider

City of Tigard

Mayor Casey Ryan

City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik

City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle

City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Russ Axelrod

City of West Linn

Mayor Tim Knapp

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden

City of Wood Village

Senate President Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Committee On The First Special Session of 2020
Oregon Legislature

Re: Support for Police Accountability Legislation

Dear Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek and Members of the Committee:

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of 26 cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. As mayors, the health, safety and well-being of our city residents is of the utmost importance, and we commend the Oregon Legislature for introducing a series of legislative proposals aimed at improving policing accountability and transparency and protecting Oregonians from police misconduct.

The MMC recognizes that no community is immune to systemic and historic patterns of racial injustice, and we have publicly committed to examining the processes and policies of our cities—particularly with regard to policing—in order to advance meaningful reforms. Therefore, the MMC supports the following legislation aimed at improving police accountability in our state:

- **SB 1604**, which would prohibit an arbitrator from substituting disciplinary action against a law enforcement officer if the arbitrator and the law enforcement agency determine that the officer has committed misconduct and the disciplinary action was consistent with a collectively bargained discipline guide or matrix.
- **HB 4207**, which would require the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to establish a statewide database of police officer discipline records.
- **HB 4201**, which would require law enforcement to notify the Attorney General when a police officer uses physical force resulting in death or a qualifying physical injury.
- **HB 4205**, which would direct the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to adopt rules requiring a police officer to intervene to stop another police officer from engaging in an act that is unethical or that violates law, rules or policy.
- **HB 4203-4**, which would prohibit peace officers from using force that impedes the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another person by applying pressure on the throat or neck of the other person, unless the circumstance is one in which the peace officer may use deadly physical force as provided in ORS 161.239.
- **HB 4208-1 and HB 4208-2**, which would prohibit law enforcement agencies from using tear gas for the purposes of crowd control except in circumstances constituting a riot, as described in ORS 166.015.

The mayors of the MMC accept our obligation to be agents of institutional change, and we appreciate these initial efforts by the Oregon Legislature to achieve meaningful police reform. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium