



City of Eugene Police Department

Office of the Chief

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August 10, 2020

Senator James Manning, Co-Chair
Representative Janelle Bynum, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Policies for the Second Special Session
900 Court Se. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for LC 27-Restrictions on Carotid Restraint

Co-Chairs Manning and Bynum,

Thank you for your leadership to the state of Oregon and our communities. The work of the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform has been deep and transformational work for policing and community safety. The City of Eugene and the Eugene Police Department (EPD) strongly support the language included in LC 27, that would place clear restrictions on the use of carotid restraints.

I can truly say that the time we are in is the most dynamic period of my 30-year law enforcement career. While we are assessing our community safety and policing systems across the board, in Oregon, it is happening in an inclusive and productive manner. Your work to bring police agencies from across the state, as well as representatives from the criminal justice system, and justice reform advocates to the table to negotiate and truly engage, is a recipe for effective public policy. Because of this engagement, my colleagues at the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police and I, are supportive of the proposed legislation as it balances community safety with the safety of law enforcement officers.

As you may know, EPD has not trained on the use of carotid restraints for many years. And recently, in line with the vision and input of the Eugene City Council and our broader community, I took executive action to remove all reference of carotid restraints from the EPD Policy Manual. Forward looking police agencies are focused on building trust and legitimacy within our ranks and our community. We are investing in the tenets of 21st Century Policing and making sustained changes in our organizational culture to promote effective crime reduction while building public trust and safeguarding officer well-being.

The City of Eugene is a partner with the state in community safety and livability. We strongly support LC 27 and ask that you pass the measure to your respective chambers for a full vote.

Sincerely,

Chief Chris Skinner
Eugene Police Department

