



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

May 4, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports SB 621 related to the establishment of local community law enforcement oversight boards. Community leaders in the City of Portland have been asking for a new system of independent oversight of law enforcement for years. The public call for racial equity and police accountability is undeniable. SB 621 will provide clear direction and certainty to ensure that law enforcement misconduct is investigated and held accountable by a body that is independent from the police.

Currently, the Independent Police Review (IPR) investigates complaints against police officers in conjunction with a review process through the Citizen Review Committee, an 11-member advisory board. IPR was created in 2001 and replaced the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee. IPR has the power to investigate police misconduct and issue reports, but it does not have the power to impose disciplinary action.

Last November, Portland voters passed Ballot Measure 26-217 by nearly 82 percent, which creates a new Community Police Oversight Board. The Board will be responsible for investigating reports of misconduct, imposing disciplinary actions, and recommending policing policy to the Portland Police Bureau and Portland City Council. Specifically, the Board will be responsible for investigating deaths that occur in custody, complaints of force that result in injury, discrimination against protected classes, and violations of constitutional rights.

SB 621 amends ORS 243.772 and requires that a voter approved community police oversight board that oversees law enforcement disciplinary matters, such as the City of Portland's Community Oversight Board, remain in effect without first collectively bargaining the impacts with the law enforcement union. SB 621 will provide clear direction to the City of Portland, allowing for the efficient implementation of Measure 26-217.

The City of Portland strongly urges your support for SB 621.

Sincerely,



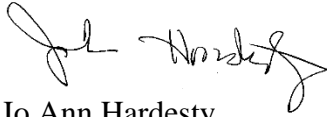
Ted Wheeler
Mayor



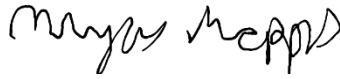
Carmen Rubio
Commissioner



Dan Ryan
Commissioner



Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner



Mingus Mapps
Commissioner