

The publicly funded organizations which construct our local government have, all of them, to be beholden to the community that they serve. The city government releases budgets for its branches, including the Portland Police Bureau, to ensure that its programs spending is transparent and capable of being scrutinized. In being able to see the allocation of our resources we, the inhabitants of this city, are more fully able to deduce the intents of those people who form our government and identify when we as individuals are either for or against actions which grow out of any such spending. The ability of the citizenry to participate in its government, to not be ruled by one that has no interest in those it oversees and indeed no ability to be spoken to by such common people, is something that we should treasure and seek to more fully experience. It is something akin to human dignity. The PPB has been thus far privileged with a secrecy in how it conducts its affairs. It asserts that we don't need to know, shouldn't have concern for the disciplining of its officers. If we allow our government to function only beholden to itself, with nothing more than a sly wink, we have allowed it to grow a hollow where corruption, abuse, and all forms of human ugliness may nest. The PPB has proven that we should not trust such assurances from it, refusing to act in accordance with the wishes of the community it purports to protect - even defying the ruling and order of our Judiciary (U.S. District Court Chief Judge Marco Hernandez, case number 3:20-cv-00917-HZ). To allow such behavior to continue, to willingly turn a blind eye and refuse to look where such people assure us there is nothing to find, is unconscionable. In order to speak on the actions of the PPB we must look at its history and in the case of disciplinary measures the history of the PPB is hidden away where only they may speak of it. All of us have the right to know and to talk to each other about such things, regardless of our place in society. Please vote in support of the people of our city, and of this bill.