

Submitter: Anastasia Brownell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4131

Testimony Regarding HB4131

February 11, 2022

My name is Stasia Brownell and since 2009 I have been an active volunteer with the ACLU of Oregon, serving two terms on their board from 2010-2016 and and Legal Observer since June 2020.

I am providing this written testimony in opposition to the base bill for HB 4131 but support the amendment language on dash 3, with is also reflected in HB4008 dash 8.

Throughout the time I've spent observing protests in Portland, I repeatedly saw PPB officers fire munitions indiscriminately into large crowds of protesters, hitting people who were peaceful and people who were complying with PPB commands. I observed PPB shoot munitions that skipped across the top of a dense crowd of protesters at the Justice Center like a stone across a still lake. I also observed and experienced munitions ricochet off hard surfaces and breaking apart sending shrapnel flying and hitting folks who were far from the intended area being targeted.

I observed PPB shoot a woman in the leg who appeared to have a disability while she was walking away from the Justice Center and was alone in the middle of the road. She hobbled toward me and was clearly in pain. I often think about a man who was standing behind me to my right across the street and about a half a block away from the Justice Center (prior to federal officer presence) who was struck in the back of his head by a PPB munition. The person was laying unresponsive on the ground with blood pooling on the cement under his head and he was carried off to find help.

PPB also seemed to avoid using tear gas in Laurelhurst and North Tabor neighborhoods despite numerous protests focused around the Kelly penumbra building but used it the first nights that protests happened near the PPA in north Portland and in outer east side neighborhoods the first night protests came to the East Precinct near Mall 205.

I heard parents crying out from houses around a park that PPB had tear gassed and whose children were inside their homes suffering from the impacts.

But, I also observed PPB deescalating the most when they did not utilize munitions at all. They would sometimes not react to the same things protesters would do one night

from the next and when they didn't react, the protests ended without violence.

Thank you.