



September 24, 2024

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Senator Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair
Senate Interim Committee on Rules & Executive Appointments
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Springfield, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for the confirmation of Springfield Police Chief, Andrew Shearer, as a member of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training.

As the Chief of Police, he is responsible for providing direction for the police department through planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting activities of the department. The main goal is to provide the leadership necessary to direct the efficient and effective administration of the department in a manner that is consistent with the department's mission, values and goals. Not only has Chief Shearer demonstrated exceptional leadership while at the helm in Springfield, he has been an innovative leader throughout his three decades in law enforcement.

In working toward the primary objectives of his position – responsiveness to citizen concerns, accountability, positive community relations, and positive employee relations – Chief Shearer has been particularly effective. He has led a positive cultural shift within the Department that has been recognized by City leadership and by our insurer CIS, who noted in a best practices assessment delivered in June 2022 that the Springfield Police Department has undergone a “clear and obvious” culture change since assessments in previous years and has made significant progress in improving the organization through leadership and accountability. Chief Shearer has also led meaningful improvements at the Springfield Municipal Jail, the largest municipal jail in Oregon.

The City of Springfield believes that Chief Shearer's extensive experience, thoughtful guidance, and compassion serving the community makes him an ideal candidate for the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training.

Sincerely,

Sean VanGordon
Mayor, City of Springfield