

FALL SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (PRINT)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (*Optional*)

Email (*Optional*)

✓ ~~Jason Nishikawa~~ Jason Nishikawa

✓ Lisa Ortuqvist

✓ ~~Travis Decker~~ Travis Decker

✓ ~~Jack Hagan~~ Jack Hagan

618 NE 102nd POx, OR 97220

travis @ aternic auto, com

✓ ~~Nidal Kahl~~ Nidal Kahl

✓ Portland National Lawyers Guild

/ Sarah Phillips

Eli Riche

✓ MARIA BOYER

✓ Addison Btz

✓ Olivia Hasencamp

✓ Nathan Fisher

Item # 1205

188677

TESTIMONY

FALL Supplemental Budget

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email (optional)
✓ Jordan Lennox		
✓ Cristina Kladis		
✓ Lightning		

Date 11-8-17

Page 2 of 2

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
PORTLAND, OREGON CHAPTER



3519 NE 15TH AVENUE, #155
PORTLAND, OREGON 97240-0723

MEMORANDUM AND TESTIMONY

November 8, 2017

To: Mayor Ted Wheeler, ted.wheeler@portlandoregon.gov

Cc: Commissioner Dan Saltzman, dan@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Amanda Fritz, amanda@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Nick Fish, nick@portlandoregon.gov
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, chloe@portlandoregon.gov
Auditor Mary Hull Caballero, mary.hullcaballero@portlandoregon.gov

FROM: Portland Chapter National Lawyers Guild

RE: Testimony to City Council Regarding October 2017 Fall Supplemental Budget, Police Bureau

City Council Hearing on November 8, 2017

Preface:

- The Portland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (“NLG”), as an organization, strongly supports the prioritization of investment in communities as an alternative to increased criminalization and policing.
- For a city amid an affordability crisis, among many other crises, shifting funds to PPB would detract from other City programs that enhance safety without increasing policing.
- Fundamentally, we believe the decision to expand the police force should be made within the context of all Citywide budgeting priorities. The NLG therefore believes a supplemental budget proposal is an inappropriate tool for consideration of police force expansion, as well as for staffing or multi-year funding decisions. Rather, any such budget requests should be considered in the context over the FY 18-19 budget development process.

First – The request over-compensates for projected retirements.

- In the Fall of 2016, 335 officers were available for patrol. In 2016-17, PPB hired 39 more officers than it did in the year prior.
- At current funding and projected retirements, in 2018 at mid-year, there are likely to be 355 officers available for patrol. Assuming no additional funding or hiring, that is an additional 20 officers up from last year. By the Bureau's projections, by the end of the calendar year, there will be no sworn vacancies.
- There are no significant projected retirements for FY 2019-20 such that the request should be considered via a Fall supplemental budget rather than within the FY 18-19 budget development process.

Second – There is no increase in crime to warrant an additional budget increase.

- Bureau anticipates hiring 59 new officers this year, and was further authorized via FY 2014-15 Fall BMP to over-hire 10 officers.
- The Portland Police Bureau already negotiated a pay increase to increase new hires. This has lead to Portland, according to Deputy Chief Davis in a Portland Tribune article from November 6¹, becoming a competitive city for police hires.
- Even if response times are higher in low to medium priority calls, we should not increase the budget for PPB to solve these types of issues. In particular, we would point to that November 6 Portland Tribune article again, where Deputy Chief Davis cited a slow response for a suicidal caller as a reason to increase the budget for new hires. But why should it be the police responding to such a call, especially given PPB's record with responding to persons going through a mental health crisis? That money would be better allocated to community-based solutions.
- The PPB perpetually claims it's in a staffing crisis, but provides no real substantiation of how many officers are needed, and why. It is our position that these critical funds should be allocated for

¹ Nick Budnick, *Police ask for 85 more officers*. Portland Tribune, November 6, 2017. <http://pamplinmedia.com/pt/9-news/377675-261597-police-ask-for-85-more-officers>
Page 2 of 4 — Portland National Lawyers Guild

services that are external to the PPB. We fully support the position that such funding should be invested in the community. We want more funding for affordable housing, education, and mental healthcare resources, especially for those experiencing mental health crises. We want unarmed people trained in harm reduction to respond to calls that have resulted in Portland police officers shooting and killing people who needed help.

- We also take issue with the costly retiree-hire program, which has led to Portland cops being hired back for full, elevated salaries even while they collect their Portland retirement pay. The retire/rehire program allows officers to “double-dip” payments by retiring and receiving retirement benefits and then being rehired and also paid a salary. Absent an urgent, critical need for these retire/rehire limited term contracts, retire/rehire contracts are unnecessarily costly to the City.
- The NLG believes any over-hires should be funded via established vacancy savings, rather than through additional funding from the Council.

Third – PPB should be asked to allocate funds from its current budget to create the requested Deputy Chief position.

- The Bureau should restructure internally, as it has in the past, in order to create the requested new Deputy Chief position, rather than receiving additional funding. Such restructuring was done in 2016 after Chief Marshman assumed office and eliminated the fourth Assistant Chief role for the Community Services Branch at PPB.²

Fourth – Even assuming there were an urgent need to over-hire for 2018 retirements, requesting funding for expansion beyond 2018 would remain unnecessary.

² Dirk VanderHart. *Hours Into His Tenure as Police Chief, Mike Marshman Has Completely Restructured Police Bureau Leadership*. Portland Mercury, June 27, 2016. <http://www.portlandmercury.com/blogtown/2016/06/27/18293559/hours-into-his-tenure-as-police-chief-mike-marshman-has-completely-restructured-police-bureau-leadership>
Page 3 of 4 — Portland National Lawyers Guild

- The 18-19 budget review process is the appropriate context within which to evaluate long-term staffing decisions, allowing the Council to weigh the request against other Citywide priorities and funding needs.

In conclusion –

By the Bureau's own projections, all sworn vacancies will be filled by the end of this calendar year. There is no urgency arising from projected retirements nor an increase in crime to justify consideration of a budget expansion within the Fall Supplement. Particularly in light of the affordability crisis and housing crisis, the NLG believes budgeting priorities must be considered within the full context of the FY 2018-19 budget process. Further, the NLG believes any new Deputy Chief position should be funded within the existing budget, as it has been in the past. The NLG, along with numerous community organizations, view the requested substantial increase in the policing budget as unnecessary, and as a misguided divergence of resources from community development programs that are in dire need.