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RESOLUTION No.

Refer a Charter Amendment to voters at the November 3, 2020, General Election to authorize a new police oversight system. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the cry for and community interest in independent police accountability has never been more clearly heard than in the past 60 days of protesting; and

WHEREAS, we have a historic opportunity to reject violence and discrimination in policing through a transparent, empowered and independent police oversight system; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the City of Portland Community Police Oversight Board (Board) is to independently investigate Portland Police Bureau sworn employees and supervisors thereof promptly, fairly, and impartially, to impose discipline as determined appropriate by the Board, and to make recommendations regarding police practices, policies and directives to the Portland Police Bureau and with a primary focus on community concerns; and

WHEREAS, the communities most impacted by disproportionate policing and systemic racism, and those who have experienced mental illness, addiction, or alcoholism, have oftentimes been excluded from the systems designed to hold police accountable and it is of critical importance that this new system put the voices of these communities at the forefront, and current and former law enforcement officers have historically been overrepresented on these boards; and

WHEREAS, to conduct the critically important work of this Board a mandatory floor for its budget is essential to ensure it can successfully execute its mission; and

WHEREAS, the ability to exercise independent judgment from other city government bureaus and elected officials is essential to the fairness and objectivity of the Board's proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the parameters of this Board's authority will remedy past police oversight systems' work that has been impacted by an inadequate ability to collect evidence, interview witnesses, effect police policies and directives, and include sufficient transparency; and

WHEREAS, certain actions of sworn members of the Portland Police Bureau and their supervisors are of paramount importance and concern to the community. Furthermore, many of the most harmful actions by police have disproportionately impacted some communities more than others. Thus, it is critical that the Board is tasked with investigating and reviewing actions involving deadly force, bias, violations of federal and state constitutional rights, complaints of force that result in injury, and other matters the Board deems of great consequence for them to investigate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council will submit a Measure for an Act creating Article 10: Community Police Oversight Board of the City Charter to authorize a new police accountability system in accordance with language in Exhibit A, to the voters of the City of Portland in Multnomah County, Clackamas County and Washington County at the November 3, 2020, General Election; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council submits the ballot title contained in Exhibit B, consisting of a caption, question and summary, to be contained in the November 3, 2020, General Election Ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council directs the Auditor to publish the ballot title as shown in Exhibit B in accordance with City Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the sponsoring elected officials may submit an explanatory statement to the City Auditor for publication in the voters' pamphlet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Auditor is directed to forward to the County Elections Office all material necessary to place this measure on the November 3, 2020, Election Ballot.

Adopted by the Council:

Commissioner: Jo Ann Hardesty

Prepared by: D. Bradley

Date Prepared: 7/20/2020

Mary Hull Caballero

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Deputy