

From: rsilver1@yahoo.com
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: proposal to change City contract with PPA to allow PSSS candidates to be disqualified by flunking their psych exam and still be hired
Date: Sunday, November 13, 2022 9:58:18 PM

To the Mayor and City Commissioners:

My name is Rochelle Silver. I am an Oregon State licensed psychologist, a member of the Mental Health Alliance, a former two term member of the Citizen Review Committee and former member of the COAB. I am writing to you today to ask you to vote NO on a proposal coming before you this week on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 which would open the City contract with the Portland Police Association (PPA) to make two changes. One of those changes would be to allow Public Safety Support Specialists (PSSS) to be hired even though they are disqualified by flunking their psychological examination.

When talking about this at the Council meeting last week, Deputy Chief Frome suggested these candidates who are disqualified are probably just immature. I suggest to you that the evaluation might pick up immaturity but also picks up signs of clear psychological disturbance. In hiring one of these disqualified persons, you wouldn't know if that person was immature or a person shown on testing to be psychologically disturbed. Are these the kind of City employees you want? Are these the kind of people you want representing the Portland Police Bureau? I would hope not.

The City has enough things on its plate at the moment. The only benefit from making this change is that you can hire more people, but at what cost. Please do the right thing. Don't borrow trouble. Don't allow people who are disqualified by flunking their psychological examination to become PSSS employees. Please vote NO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rochelle L. Silver, Ph.D.

From: [Portland Copwatch](#)
To: [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#)
Cc: cctestmony@portlandoregon.gov
Subject: Testimony on item 974, PPA contract re: PSS Specialists
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 4:48:05 PM

Members of City Council:

Last week we gave testimony about the proposed amendments to the Portland Police Association contract. We include those comments here, along with a few more thoughts after hearing Deputy Chief Frome's testimony and re-examining the documents.

--It is of great concern that amendments are being made to the Portland Police Association contract without any of the same transparency that was offered for the first part of the negotiations that concluded in February.

--Portland Copwatch has no objection to the item that will make it so that Sergeants do not make less than their subordinates. However, it's worth pointing out once again that the PPA is an unusual rank-and-file bargaining unit because it includes both line officers and their supervisors.

--Copwatch has also long expressed concern that the Public Safety Support Specialists (PSSS), the unarmed officers that the community desperately wanted to supplement armed cops, are also in the PPA.

--It appears the new amendments will allow PSS Specialists to

(a) fail the psych exam for officers and still be able to conduct police business with the community

and

(b) if a PSS Specialist applies to be a full fledged officer, it will allow them to fail the psychological exam and then reapply six months later.

The proposed language says that the City "may" hire a person to be a PSSS, leaving open the idea that some failures of the psychological exam may be too egregious even for the Bureau's desire to broaden the pool of who they hire. If that is so, the disqualifying issues that would prevent someone from being a PSSS should be spelled out.

The loophole created for PSS Specialists is very troubling when compared to the mental health experts who are connected to the Portland Street Response program, another alternative to armed officers.

Last week, PCW urged Council to reconsider this amendment. More directly, perhaps the Sergeants' salaries can be adopted but the psychological exam language can be sent back for further clarification.

Thank you
dan handelman and Marc Poris

portland copwach

City Council Meeting - Wednesday November 9, 2022 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
946.01	Michelle	Stevenson