

Portland City Council Agenda Written Testimony
Document Number 2025-027

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	Anonymous	Oppose	Nope. We need new leadership at Portland Police.	No	02/14/25 3:54 PM
2	Portland Art Museum	Support	<p>It is a great privilege to provide this written testimony in support of the appointment of Robert Day as Chief of Police. Chief Day is a distinguished leader who believes in our city. Having had the fortunate opportunity to meet with Chief Day recently, what impressed me most is that he understood the role and contribution our institution makes to our community and how the art museum, like other cultural and educational organizations in our city, are intricately linked to the health and well being of our citizenry. The Portland Art Museum, Multnomah Public Library, and Portland State University, among others, are sources of hope and inspiration for our community and their missions provide a sense of purpose for thousands, helping foster respect and strong civic values. Chief Day believes these entities are foundational to the police department's work to ensure public safety. My conversation with him was a revelation, not having had this type of discussion with the person filling this role in my nearly 20 years living and working in Portland. Ultimately, I believe what makes Chief Day so well qualified for this vital position is his humanity and deep belief in the goodness of the citizens of Portland, and I would be honored to work beside him to secure and heal our city. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this important testimony.</p> <p>Brian Ferriso Director Portland Art Museum</p>	No	02/14/25 4:39 PM
3	Dr. Andrew Mendenhall, MD, Central City Concern	Support		Yes	02/19/25 5:01 PM



February 19, 2025

Council President Pirtle-Guiney, Council Vice President Koyama Lane, and City Councilors:

I am honored to write this letter in strong support of Chief Bob Day, recognizing his exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to public safety, and dedication to fostering collaborative, community-driven solutions for public safety and community policing. For many years, Central City Concern (CCC) has maintained a valued partnership with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), and Chief Day has been instrumental in strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and service providers like CCC.

Chief Day has been intentional about learning and developed a deep understanding of the intersection between public safety and the complex needs of individuals experiencing substance use disorders (SUDs) and severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Holding the tensions of a public safety and public health response for folks in crisis something Chief Day is well prepared and well informed to do. Chief Day's engagement in ongoing discussions around sobering services and deflection strategies has also been impactful, demonstrating his ability to unite diverse stakeholders in pursuit of meaningful, lasting solutions.

PPB has played a pivotal role in advancing initiatives such as CCC's Housing Rapid Response (HRR) program, a low-barrier housing intervention designed to serve highly vulnerable individuals with co-occurring disorders who are also high utilizers of the criminal justice system. HRR works in partnership with the PPB's Service Coordination Team to provide services aimed at reducing recidivism by addressing addictions, criminality, and health.

Beyond programmatic initiatives, Chief Day has also championed sustainable workforce development within PPB. His efforts in recruitment and hiring have significantly strengthened the department, helping to expand the force while reinforcing public trust. As a result, the community is seeing tangible benefits, including improved response times and greater alignment between law enforcement and community-based services.

Chief Day holds my confidence and that of Central City Concern. He understands the balance between public safety, social service coordination, and the dignity of those most in need. His ability to bridge the gap between law enforcement and human services has been invaluable, and I strongly support his continued leadership in this role.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Mendenhall, MD, DABFM, DABPM, FASAM
President and CEO, Central City Concern

Portland City Council
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
Testimony List

	Document Number	Name
1	2025-027	Charles Hunter
2	2025-027	Marta Guembes Herrera
3	2025-027	Dr J W Matt Hennessee
4	2025-027	Charlie Michelle-Westley