TESTIMONY

2:00 PM TIME CERTAIN

APPEAL EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD ORDER

36963

PORTLAND POLICE ASSOCIATION V. CITY OF PORTLAND

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

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
YWAH Nichols	7519 SEHA-Old 51	- WAH. Nichal, @ XALOO, CO
Peter Parks	5728 N. W: 16ur 97	217 peter parks@oxidized.org
TOE WAISL	7348 SE Sulvaion 9	7
Rev. Dv. LaRoy Hayrs		
Am Branfield	40,9 SW Downsview Ct	97221 abranfield a gaboo.
V Dan Harpsonan	PORRAND COPWATE	
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Date <u>10-04-12</u>

Page __/__ of __/__

City Council Testimony on Vote to Appeal Frashour's Reinstatement to the Portland Police Bureau

Thursday, October 4, 2012

Good afternoon Mayor Adams & Commissioner's Leonard, Fritz, Saltzman & Fish

For the record, I am Jo Ann Hardesty and I am here to support your resolution to continue efforts to keep Frashour off the Portland Police force.

It should be clear to the general public by now that serious problems exist and must be fixed with-in the Portland Police Bureau. It is not acceptable that the Bureau continues to resist putting specific policies in place that protect the public from the inappropriate use of force. It is no longer acceptable that the Bureau fails to thoroughly review and then correct behavior that has led to the death of to many members of our community. Too many have paid with their lives, and we the taxpayers paid with our tax dollars.

The DOJ's recently completed investigation into the patterns and practices of Portland Police, provide the public the clearest picture to date just how internal review processes cover the butt of officers that act inappropriately in their interactions with the public. The "self-defeating accountability system," as it was labeled by the DOJ, actually works as intended. It works to frustrate the public into not seeking redress for wrongdoing by our police force. It ensures that police can claim they have not learned from past mistakes since so far they haven't made any mistakes.

The PPA and Portland Police Chief continue to say publicly that no Portland Police officer's have ever done anything wrong, which continues to reinforces the arrogant assumption that they are not accountable to the public they serve.

In is inconceivable that a sniper, who removed his earpiece and couldn't hear what was happening at a distant scene, could be found to be acting within policy. Officers that were closer to the scene didn't use deadly force. What message does Frashour's reinstatement convey to other officers, like the negotiator who lured Aaron Campbell out of his apartment, under the pretext of a welfare check?

Several officers and supervisors still need to be held accountable for the total breakdown in communication and strategic thinking that happened that night. The fact that the other punishments (as weak as they were) have also been overturned through your arbitration process confirms the current system is set up to protect all police officers, no matter their crime.

Nice, another officer exonerated in excessive force cases, is now back on the street in East Portland. My neighbors and I do not feel safe, knowing that - if we

call the police - the responding officer might come with the invincible attitude that he can do no wrong. If you allow Frashour to return to duty, you can rest assured that calls to Portland Police will be made only after the person in need considers the risk that someone not engaged in criminal activity will come to great harm. Will calls for help be drastically reduced? If the community is faced with rolling the dice on who will respond to their call for assistance, some may choose to not make that call.

It is my understanding that the vote today will be unanimous and I hope this is true. Send a clear, united message. No Portland Police Officer is guaranteed a job for life. An officer's fear of what *might* happen is insufficient justification for taking another man's life. No training can condone wrongful death. Tell cops: if fear keeps you from treating community members with dignity and respect, then -by all means - find a different profession. Find a job where you won't spend your days fearing and then assaulting people you have sworn to protect.

On October 12, 2012 you will enter into an agreement with the DOJ. Please make sure that the agreement makes it clear who Portland Police work for and that if they will not or can not perform their duties within the bounds of the constitution that the Police Commissioner & Police Chief will be the final authority on terminating their position with Portland Police.

Thank you!