From: Barbara Ross <br/>
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bross@exchangenet.net>

Subject: Fwd: testimony

Date: September 16, 2014 3:19:09 PM PDT

## Testimony to City Council - September 17, 2019

Mayor Charlie Hales and members of the city council. My name is Barbara Ross. I am here on behalf of Portland Cop Watch, an organization that has been monitoring the Portland Police Bureau for the past 20 years. We applaud the positive steps that are being taken by the Bureau and the city to improve training, performance and accountability.

There remain, however, serious barriers to implementing the Department of Justice Agreement related to the Citizen Review Committee's appeals procedure. These concern officer behavior that is not consistent with PPB policy.

One of the most troublesome provisions dictates that the CRC must complete appeals decisions in 21 days. This is simply not possible given other requirements in the agreement itself and in the city ordance governing CRC procedures.

The CRC, a body of dedicated volunteers, must review the case files and determine if the evidence is complete. The agreement gives the CRC the power to require additional investigation if the facts are not clear. Gathering that information does take time even if investigators act promptly. A date for the hearing must be set when all parties can be present. If, after the hearing, the CRC disagrees with the PPB's findings, they send their decision back to the Chief of Police. If he accepts their conclusion, the matter is closed. If not, a conference hearing is scheluled with the CRC and the Chief to review their differences. If they still cannot agree, the appeal goes to the city council for a final decision.

At a recent CRC meeting, a representative of the DOJ indicated that some flexiblity on the time line might be possible, perhaps extending the CRC's processing time to 45 days. This would help, but new scheduling practices would need to respect the time constraints of CRC members, some of whom are professionals employed full time.

Many voices have urged that appeals of officer conduct be handled without months (or years) of delay. As we work to make the timeline shorter, it is essential that the integrity of the process be maintained. Citizens must know that their concerns have been heard. CRC members must have confidence in the investigation. The public should believe that officers who harm citizens will be held accountable.

Developing an appeals process that is both fair and practical will require cooperation from all parties. While staff will do the detailed work of framing the recommendations, we need strong leadership from Chief Reese, the city auditor, and you, Mr. Mayor. The end product should meet the dual goals of fairness and timeliness. You must make sure that the changed procedures will be good for the both the bureau and the residents of Portland.

One additional point: Officer Wesson Mitchell holds an important position as the Mayor's policy aide. Since she was plucked from the bureau we wonder about her capacity to be impartial. Since she may want to return to the Bureau at some future time we question whether or not she would be hesitant to make waives or burn bridges.

Barbara Ross 2034 NE 40th AVE #217 Portland, OR 97212 503 281-0345 bross@exchangenet.net

## Moore-Love, Karla

From:

Barbara Ross <a href="mailto:sorbara">bross@exchangenet.net</a>

Sent:

Wednesday, August 06, 2014 10:21 AM

To: Cc: Moore-Love, Karla Portland Copwatch

Subject:

Speaking to council

## Karla, Karla,

I wish to speak to the council in a 3 minute slot on September 17th. I will be addressing the need for a strong and clear police accountability system and the council and Mayor's role in assuring an effective process. I will be representing Cop Watch. Feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Thank you,

Barbara Ross 2034 NE 40th #217 POrtland OR 97212 503 281-0345 Cell 541 602-3994 Request of Barbara Ross to address Council regarding the need for a strong and clear police accountability system and the Mayor's role (Communication)

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