

## Written Testimony - Agenda Item 239

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
239	Anonymous	Oppose	Portland Police is still under federal oversight and its past history of crowd control is checkered with assaults on citizens that have caused costly settlements. In fact some officers have violated the rights of protestors. Why would we think that reforming a crowd control team and paying more will change things? This city and its police force is perhaps the least effective policing agency in the country.	No	03/19/24 12:07 AM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
239	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed ordinance 239 authorizing funding for the Portland Police Bureau's (PPB) Public Order Team. As a resident of Downtown Portland who lived through the George Floyd protests of Summer 2020, I witnessed firsthand the excessive and often brutal tactics employed by the PPB, federal agents, and groups like the Proud Boys in our neighborhood.</p> <p>During those tumultuous times, Downtown Portland felt like a war zone due to the actions of the PPB and later federal agents. Tear gas, Long Range Acoustic Devices, Flash Bombs, Rubber Bullets, and other "non-lethal" uses of force were frequently deployed against protestors, despite the inherent risks to public health and safety. I want to emphasize the term "non-lethal" with caution, as people have tragically died from such methods elsewhere in the world.</p> <p>Moreover, the PPB's actions extended beyond targeting protestors; they destroyed medical supplies and attacked community medics, which constitutes a war crime. Additionally, it is alarming to know that the PPB has collaborated with groups like the Proud Boys, a known local domestic terrorist group. During those challenging times, it was not law enforcement that saved us, but the collective efforts of the community, particularly Portland Anti-fascists, who stood up against threats from groups like the Proud Boys.</p> <p>Specific incidents further highlight the excessive use of force by the PPB. For instance, on June 2, 2022, tear gas was used so indiscriminately that it earned the infamous moniker "tear gas Tuesday," affecting even small children in their homes. On July 11, 2020, I personally experienced tear gas exposure in my own home, emphasizing the widespread and indiscriminate nature of these tactics.</p> <p>The presence of a sniper on the roof of the Justice Center on July 13, 2020, and the arrest of a black 13-year-old child in a park were particularly harrowing events that made Portland feel less like a free country and more like a police state.</p> <p>On July 2., 2020 Even Mayor Ted Wheeler himself experienced tear gas exposure, which he acknowledged as unprovoked, further highlighting the disproportionate use of force by law enforcement.</p> <p>I was personally traumatized by these events and still working to undo the damage and regain a sense of safety in the world. I know I am not alone and creating this new division would only further traumatize myself and others who witnessed the events. When Trump was elected, local politicians vowed to make Portland a sanctuary city for communities targeted by bigots. However this policy seems to be in direct conflict with that promise.</p> <p>The impact of these actions extends beyond physical harm; they create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, especially for minority communities who feel targeted and hunted by law enforcement and affiliated groups. The proposed allocation of funds for the PPB's Public Order Team, given their track record of excessive force and disregard for civil liberties, is deeply troubling.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to reconsider this ordinance and instead allocate resources towards community-based solutions that prioritize public safety without sacrificing civil rights. Investing in programs aimed at addressing root causes of social unrest and promoting dialogue between law enforcement and the community would be a more effective and just approach.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to serving the best interests of all Portland residents.</p> <p>Sincerely, A concerned downtown resident</p>	No	03/20/24 8:18 AM
239	Anonymous	Support		No	03/20/24 8:45 AM

Portland City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
Verbal Testimony

Agenda Item	Name
239	Paul Frazier
239	Athul Acharya
239	Marc Poris Portland Copwatch
239	Tracy Molina
239	Kimberlee Goheen Elbon
239	Alex Dawes