



The League of Women Voters of Portland

618 NW Glisan Street, Suite 303, Portland, OR 97209

503-228-1675 • info@lwvpdx.org • www.lwvpdx.org

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DATE: July 30, 2019

TO: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioners Chloe Eudaly, Nick Fish, Amanda Fritz, and
Jo Ann Hardesty

FROM: League of Women Voters of Portland
Debbie Kaye, president
Debbie Aiona, Action Committee chair

RE: Public Involvement in the Portland Police Association Contract

For nearly 100 years the League of Women Voters has taken the privileges and responsibilities of democracy seriously. We believe that democracy depends upon informed and active participation in government; that is possible only when government provides the information and opportunities for community members to engage.

In light of the nationwide increase in public interest around criminal justice issues and the scope of important public policy questions addressed specifically in the City's contract with the Portland Police Association (PPA), we recommend a robust public engagement process leading into the 2020 negotiations. In contrast to the 2016 negotiations, when community members were brought into the process after important decisions had already been made, we urge you to ensure that the upcoming process involves the community so that their input will have an impact on the outcome. Furthermore, a more open and inclusive process will allow members of the public to better understand the complexities of the PPA contract and feel that their concerns have been considered, even if some of their recommendations are not adopted.

The League plans to provide information to our members and the public about the PPA contract in 2020. For our own internal planning and for the benefit of the public, please inform us at your earliest convenience about the City's plans for community involvement in the upcoming negotiations.

Specifically, we would appreciate the answers to these questions:

- What is the City's proposed/targeted schedule for the 2020 contract renegotiation?
- What is the City's public engagement plan?

- Will the negotiating sessions be open to public observation as they were in 2013?
- Other than City Council discussion and the final vote, how will the City respond to community recommendations? Will the public be given the information it needs to understand how its involvement influenced the outcome?

Portland is a stronger and more vibrant place when its people can bring their skills, knowledge, and lived experiences to the policymaking process. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this critical issue of public policy.