



## The League of Women Voters of Portland

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

503-228-1675 • [info@lwvpdx.org](mailto:info@lwvpdx.org) • [www.lwvpdx.org](http://www.lwvpdx.org)

### **Board of Directors**

*Debbie Kaye*  
*President*

*Marion McNamara*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

*Eileen Chase*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

*Nancy Donovan*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President*

*Peter Englander*  
*Treasurer*

*Anne Davidson*  
*Secretary*

*Debbie Aiona*

*Carol Cushman*

*Judy Froemke*

*Linda Mantel*

*Kim Mason*

*Amber Nobe*

*Margaret Noel*

### **Off Board Leaders**

*Adrienne Aiona*

*Doreen Binder*

*Mary McWilliams*

*Betsy Pratt*

*Phil Thor*

**DATE:** December 18, 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

Since July of this year, the League of Women Voters of Portland has been closely following the public engagement process leading into the 2020 negotiations for the Portland Police Association Contract. As stated in our letters dated July 30, 2019 and November 18, 2019, we strongly believe in providing opportunities for meaningful public participation on these important issues.

The League has seen significant community interest on these matters, and has attended each of the City's opportunities for such participation, including community listening sessions, a PCCEP meeting, and meetings with national experts, like Sam Sinyangwe and DeRay McKesson. Through this engagement, it became clear to us that there is significant public interest in these issues, and the public overwhelmingly shares the League's concerns and positions on oversight and accountability. As contract negotiations begin, we urge you to reflect the public's concerns in the city's bargaining position.

Meaningful independent civilian oversight is critical to democracy, effective government, and public trust. This oversight must include the ability to compel testimony, recommend discipline, and review deadly force. Oversight must also include a transparent complaint system that allows the public to feel the process is safe and accessible.

Accountability is also required to hold officers to the standards expected of those sworn to protect and serve. True accountability requires the ability to fairly discipline officers who fail to uphold community standards or violate laws or policies and thus jeopardize the trust of the community.

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.

In addition to the voices of the public and national experts, we also note that the City Auditor issued a report on police overtime in October 2019. This report raised concerns about issues relating to accountability and transparency, citing poor record-keeping or public reporting, and secondary employment as significant costs to the City. We expect that upcoming negotiations include attention to public reports and recommendations.

As negotiations move forward, the League continues to advocate for transparency and public engagement, including public access to negotiating sessions, because democracy depends upon informed and active participation in government.

Thank you for your continued engagement on matters important to the City of Portland.