



League of Women Voters of Portland

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Date: January 26, 2022

To: Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Rubio, and Ryan

From: League of Women Voters of Portland
Debbie Kaye, president
Debbie Aiona, Action Committee Chair

Re: **Amendments to the Settlement Agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and City of Portland (item #58)**

The League of Women Voters of Portland has been involved in issues related to police accountability for over 40 years and closely tracks the city's settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

We encourage city council to sign off on the nine remedies included in the addendum to the agreement and appreciate the extra effort taken by the parties to engage in additional mediation. Clearly, the time was well spent.

We have several specific comments to share:

Off Board Leaders

Jen Jacobs
Budget

Ann Dudley
Nominating

Mary McWilliams
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Philip Thor
Endowment Fund

- It is essential that the city's body-worn camera policy includes provisions that prohibit violations of ORS 181A.250, the state statute that protects Oregonians' First Amendment rights. This law prohibits the collection and maintenance of information on individuals engaged in political, social, or religious activities unless there is reasonable suspicion that those activities are or may be criminal.

- Further, a thorough public process should be completed before the city commits to purchasing cameras. The community needs to have the opportunity to understand the policy choices and provide the direction necessary for the city to acquire suitable equipment.

- The League agrees with authorizing misconduct investigations of police personnel with rankings below lieutenant who were involved in crowd control events.

- We support the requirement that the city develop a plan for a smooth transition between the Independent Police Review and the new community police oversight board. The addendum includes a Jan. 1, 2022 deadline to submit

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

proposed plans and we wonder when those plans will be made available to the public. It is critical that the city have a functioning civilian oversight system at all times during this transition.

- Finally, the importance of civilian leadership over the educational aspects of the Training Division became even more evident upon the recent release of the Rapid Response Team training presentation slides. We encourage you to give the new civilian head the authority to put an end to the use of training materials with objectionable content.

Thank you for considering our comments.