

I am Carolyn Buppert, president of the League of Women Voters of Portland. As long-time observers of the city's current police oversight system, the League has grave concerns about the City Attorney's proposed code.

We strongly object to taking a vote on the resolution today, before the 30-day public comment period has ended. The public sent a clear message when it approved Measure 26-217. That measure set the stage for creation of a community-centered oversight system worthy of public trust and with the independence to do its job free from political and police bureau influence. The City's proposed code undermines that goal. Furthermore, the proposal disrespects the Police Accountability Commission's careful work and will discourage other community members from participating in city boards and commissions.

The League urges you to provide information about the reasoning behind the City's changes and use the public's comments to draft a code and settlement agreement amendments more reflective of community input. Then vote in mid-December. We expect the DOJ will overlook the 60-day deadline if the city uses the additional time to confer with the public.

Here are some concerns about the City's proposed code:

- The right to appeal non-sustained findings in misconduct cases is eliminated;
- One third of the nominating committee for board membership will be police;
- The board could no longer hold open hearings when it is in the public interest;
- When the board takes a public vote on findings and discipline, it cannot describe the nature of the allegations;
- It does not require educating the community on the process;
- And it limits the types of cases the new oversight agency can accept in spite of the fact the City Charter gives the board the authority to investigate other complaints as they see fit.

Again, we urge you to delay voting until the end of the comment period.