
OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY ON THE PAROLE BOARD PROCESS

In writing before the House Judiciary Committee / May 28, 2013

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Chair Barker and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I was the second officer on scene to this and it is still fresh in my mind and bringing it back up is not pleasant. Chief Tirico and I were both there the night Officer Frank was brutally beat and murdered. Firstly, I do not support his release and he is exactly where he needs to be. Secondly, we do not have the ability to safely supervise this man and where he is going is majorly remote....75 miles from our County seat...one way.

Listening to some of the news releases, the facts are wrong. Officer Frank was beat unconscious with Porter's fists, Officer Frank's dress coat was pulled up over his arms and head which took away his ability to defend himself. While unconscious and on the living room floor of Porter's home, Porter took a piece of firewood and hit Officer Frank in the back of his head. I can remember seeing the large gash to the back of Officer Frank's head.

One of the things that came out during the investigation was that Officer Frank worked a bar fight involving Porter and I think the nexus to Officer Frank's death was that he told the bartender that because of how simple the investigation was, "might as well get a tall tree and a short rope." The bartender told Porter this and Porter commented that he would kill Officer Frank....and he did.

Porter has a reputation of beating people. Once they were beat and knocked to the ground, Porter would take the boots to the victim or his opponent...a big, heavy, thick beer mug was used one time as well....relentless on beating the hell out of people and would not stop when they were knocked to the ground.

I will tell you that a long time ago I came to the conclusion that once an officer investigates a case, makes the arrest, prosecutes with the DA and the person is sentenced, it is pretty much out of the officer's hands....Early on in my career I got wrapped up in worrying about what the system was going to do to the defendant and it got to be too emotional and too stressful in an all ready overwhelming job. I made a decision then that what the courts and lawyers did or do is not my problem and I washed my hands of the cases I worked. This case with Porter is just another example of the system letting down the people and letting down Officer Frank's family and Frank's co-workers who came to his call for back-up.

It is frustrating as heck and I never thought that while being a police officer in this County, that I would EVER see Porter while I was still in uniform. My confidence and faith in the system is ever dwindling.

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