



March 25, 2019

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 775 Requires public bodies to use Department of State Police for purposes of requesting criminal records checks relating to employment by public body.

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to voice the City of Beaverton's support for Senate Bill 775 with amendments. As introduced, the bill requires that "if a public body conducts a criminal records check of a person for the purposes of employment" the public body must request the criminal records check from the Department of State Police.

Beaverton respectfully suggests that SB 775 be amended to also require public bodies to submit to the Department of State Police any criminal records checks the public body conducts for purposes of licensing or volunteer work.

As amended, Section 1 of the Bill could read:

If a public body conducts a criminal records check of a person for the purposes of paid or unpaid employment or licensing by the public body, the public body shall request the criminal records check from the Department of State Police.

Like many communities, Beaverton relies on volunteers as an extension of our community engagement and public services. Volunteers work in our library and police department and on or community emergency response team and appointed boards and commissions. We conduct background checks on all city volunteers and suggest that those criminal record checks also come within the scope of SB 775.

Also, the OLCC routinely asks for our recommendation regarding the issuance of liquor licenses within city limits. To make an informed recommendation, the city may conduct a criminal background check on a new OLCC license applicant. We suggest that these and other licensing-related criminal record checks also come within the scope of SB 775.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Kirby".

Bill Kirby
City Attorney