



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

March 11, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 383 and the -2 amendment

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

The City of Portland urges your support for SB 383 and the -2 amendment. This legislation specifies an arbitration award may not order disciplinary action that differs from the discipline decision of a Chief of Police when certain criteria are met. The -2 amendment will make the discipline guide a mandatory subject of bargaining.

SB 383-2 will provide clear and consistent expectations about officer conduct and will contribute to public trust of law enforcement, giving the Chief of Police and the Police Commissioner tools needed to hold officers to the highest professional standards. When a police officer engages in misconduct, the public, police management, elected officials, and officers deserve a discipline system that is fair, predictable and consistent. That is not the case with our current labor arbitration system – outcomes are unpredictable which severely undermines officer accountability.

SB 383-2 will create a fairer and more predictable discipline system by preventing an arbitrator from overturning the discipline decision of a Chief of Police or Police Commissioner when the arbitrator agrees the misconduct occurred and the discipline imposed falls within the parameters of a discipline guide or matrix adopted by the agency.

This is an important first step in improving police accountability. Thank you for taking up this important issue. We urge your support of SB 383-2.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner