



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

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

February 10, 2020

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

RE: SB 1567

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

The City of Portland urges your support for SB 1567 to help improve public trust and police accountability.

SB 1567 creates a fairer and more predictable discipline system. The bill prevents an arbitrator from overturning the discipline decision of a Chief of Police or Police Commissioner when certain criteria are met. Specifically, when an arbitrator agrees the alleged misconduct occurred and that the discipline falls within the parameters of a bargained discipline guide or matrix, then the arbitrator would not be able to substitute an alternative judgment. In order for a law enforcement agency to participate in the discipline system allowed by SB 1567, the discipline guide or matrix must be adopted through collective bargaining, thereby allowing both sides to know, understand and negotiate over the terms of discipline.

SB 1567 will provide for clear and consistent expectations about officer conduct and will contribute to public trust of law enforcement by giving the Chief of Police and the Police Commissioner the 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.

This is an important first step in improving police accountability. Thank you for taking up this important issue. We urge your support of SB 1567.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner