

Distributed by Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs Contact: Michael Selvaggio mike@ridgelark.com

Are you concerned by this story? We are.

The Oregonian

February 10, 2020

'Old-boy-style racism' by small-town cops leads to **\$600,000 payout to Portland man**

"Former West Linn Police Chief Terry Timeus had his officers work as his "personal posse" to initiate an unwarranted, racially motivated surveillance and arrest of a black Portland man as a favor to the chief's fishing buddy."

Senate Bill 1567 would remove the ability of an arbitrator to correct a **police chief's preferential treatment** of officers. Enacting SB 1567 gives police chiefs ultimate authority over discipline cases regardless of precedent, personal bias, or the "just cause" standard.

This means that police chiefs and sheriffs all over Oregon would be able to:

- Selectively enforce tougher discipline on officers who are not part of their "old boys" network,
- Penalize and punish officers who "blow the whistle,"
- Protect offers doing personal favors for the Chief or Sheriff by imposing lesser (or no) discipline without setting department-wide precedents, and
- Convey to their officers that such preferential treatment exists based on the chief or sheriff's personal relationship to the officers.

Re-think SB 1567 before giving chiefs and sheriffs ultimate discretion in place of a fair and objective "just cause" standard.