

Dear Chair Representative Bynum and members of the committee,

My name is Debbie Wong, a citizen of West Linn. I support HB 3145 and as covered in the bill, I feel it is particularly important to include "ALL" complaints and allegations in a data base as less would not provide an accurate picture. Serving on the West Linn Police Oversight and Accountability Task Force, I reviewed all citizen complaints over a 7 year period and noted a problem with the investigative process. There was only 1 complaint that was sustained of all the complaints. A closer examination of the complaints revealed a consistent pattern of a lack of thoroughness and objectiveness. Most were deemed unfounded yet there were not any facts to support that. Example- there was a complaint of entering a home without a warrant. No where in the report was there info on why the officers entered the home to begin with. There was no copy of a warrant or any documentation if there was an exception for the need for a warrant. The case was deemed "unfounded" despite lack of facts to support this. Another case involved profiling. No where in the report was there a reason given for the traffic stop or evidence to support the stop. There was no dispo given. Another complaint involved harassment and inappropriate traffic stops which included DUII, not putting turn signal on early enough, swerving. There was no investigation done. There was just the written note, "all valid stops" on complaint. There was no evidence to support that conclusion such as sobriety test, etc. The WLPD response to the concerns was that there was "documentation" problems and not that there was a flawed investigative process. The list goes on which also includes the flawed internal affairs investigation of the Michael Fesser case.

We also have a clause in our Personnel Complaint policy where when an officer action requires a modification of a policy, the finding for the officer should be "exonerated" which from my perspective gives the officer a free pass and is a block to accountability given the vague and ambiguous language in Lexipol policies.

To not include all complaints/allegations would not give an accurate picture.

The database should serve as a flag to take a closer look before coming to conclusions. I believe in addition to the database, there needs to be an auditing entity to take a closer look at complaints.

Respectfully,
Debbie Wong