

Submitter: Anna Gorman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4008

As a Portlander, I have to say PLEASE DO NOT LET OUR POLICE GO BACK TO TEARGASSING THE CITY.

The Portland Police Bureau has repeatedly proven itself to be incapable of self-restraint in the use of tear gas and other munitions. Their inability to control their use of teargas and other munitions is why their ability to do so has been constrained for them.

You could argue that the toughness of left-wing protesters in Portland is due to the Portland Police Bureau repeatedly inflicting violence on what had been peaceful protests. People have ended up with flash bangs in their skulls because police officers didn't mind where they'd parked their car and launched an assault on protesters to cover up their own mistake in where they parked the damn car. Our then police chief rather infamously went on a right-wing talkshow and sneered that the injured protesters were just whiners. I mean how does one trust a police bureau with such a contemptuous attitude toward the people of the city?

Entire neighborhoods were teargassed by the Portland Police Bureau in 2020 during the protests for police reform that resulted after police officers murdered George Floyd. Children were inhaling teargas in their own homes!! Protester groups were even handing out gas masks that fit children to people who lived in those neighborhoods in attempt to minimize those kids' teargas exposure. That's just something that shouldn't have to happen.

The police bureau has repeatedly shown itself to operate in bad faith during its consent agreement with DOJ.

The police bureau is doing what police bureaus do when even the most minimal reforms are required of them, they're sulking and barely doing their jobs in an attempt to intimidate the city into pulling back these minuscule reforms. Seriously, it's like police officers are reading from a union script when they "explain" why they just can't show up.

The research that has resulted from the overuse of teargas in Portland is deeply concerning. You should read up on it.

Do not ease the restrictions on the use of teargas.
Thankyou.