

Submitter: Sandy Chung  
On Behalf Of: Community Member 23  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4131

Community member 23, Portland: As a community member, I oppose the base bill for HB 4131 but do support the amendment language on dash 3. Throughout the summer of 2020, I bore witness to many tear gas and projectile attacks by PPB on peaceful civilians, many of whom were simply going about their daily lives. These are attacks that swept indiscriminately through downtown, choking out entire city blocks before moving along where the wind fancied, wafting into apartments, hovering between tall buildings, claiming any and all air.

The absolutely noxious and horrific painful effect tear gas has makes it impossible to see, breathe, think, and yes, impossible to follow instructions. The panic and sheer terror of the crowd causes wild stampeding because being gassed on a city street with tall buildings all around means there is no escape. Many run merely to get away from the gas but find themselves running directly into the police line just to be able to breathe or see again. You do not want to go near the police line because they were shooting projectiles, and flash bangs at people.

I was gassed while trapped with only exit which I could not see because tear gas blocks vision. PPB had erected fences and lines blocking almost all routes but you could not make out which ones. I was hit directly in the calf with a flash bang, not knowing what a flash bang even was, and again in the right shoulder as I blindly ran arms in front me because I could not see or breathe. I could now not hear see or breathe and was being ordered to immediately evacuate or face physical force. I witness a young teen who couldnt have been more than 16 just collapse on my arm screaming they could not see. I witnessed another young person shot in the arm while they were just standing there. I witnessed rampant and use of pepper spray on people who were not resisting and in fact trying to get away. This was panic that this community will never ever forget. I just cant get this is all out of my head. I've never seen a young person express this sort of sheer terror, I can still hear these screams.

These specific memories were on June 2nd and will stand out in my mind for the rest of my life. Many in community have named this day Tear Gas Tuesday. In fact, it is so important to remember this night because I am continually haunted by the total fear and confusion of the young screams I heard that night. There were many minors and families in the crowd as it was between 8-9pm. I was simply walking home from the store and found myself caught in the melee. PPB directions read over the loudspeaker were unclear and distorted, and often times conflicting in direction. I witnessed PPB gas hundreds of people who were boxed in with only one exit and witnessed retreating afraid minors being gassed and shot at with quote unquote less

lethal rounds by those "sworn to serve and protect." PPB continued dealing with protests in this style over and over and over, maliciously attacking protestors and bystanders alike, and never changing, never listening, never apologizing and further damaging the trust of the community.

PPB has shattered this community's trust, has traumatized me permanently, and destroyed its reputation with hundreds of youth within my community. They cannot be trusted with tear gas or impact munitions at this time.

I wish I had more energy and space to recount more details on more nights. The events recounted of June 2 all took place on the corner of SW Taylor St and SW 4th ave. the very street I called home. This place is still home but doesn't feel safe because of PPB indiscriminate use of force, and utter lack of taking responsibility for their attacks.