ALL OUT ONCE MORE FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY!



Calling all Portlanders who want to see a strong, vibrant, and credible Civilian Police Review Board: Come to Portland City Council for a THIRD HEARING: Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 2 PM!

Review

Portland's "Independent" Police Review Division (IPR) was established in 2001 and given the authority to conduct investigations separately from the Portland Police Bureau's Internal Affairs (IA)... yet no such investigation has ever happened. In March, 2010, the IPR was given some broader authority to review IA investigations, but IPR's 9-member Citizen Review Committee was told to wait before they receive more power. A group of citizens, police, and city officials met for four months and presented 41 recommendations for change to City Council in December, 2010.

Two hearings have been held: November 16 and November 30. The City Auditor proposed a mere SIX changes to the ordinance, only three of which reflected community concern;, the others offer administrative tweaks (a seventh was added after the Nov. 16 hearing). The Mayor and Chief put out a document essentially agreeing that the CRC *should not have any more power* than what the Auditor is proposing, claiming the CRC's role is just to review the quality of investigations.

CRC's tagline is "community oversight of the Portland Police Bureau," not "oversight of the IPR and Internal Affairs."

We need to demand more change. Ask for ALL 41 Stakeholder Report recommendations to be adopted. We need true civilian oversight, and if we don't get more meaningful change now, we may have to wait another 10 years for a chance. On the 16th, 17 members of the public testified for more changes and/or against police brutality. 12 more testified on the 30th. Thanks to the previous public input, Council has delayed the vote, so more testimony will be taken on the 8th.

The City wants to avoid ruffling the feathers of the powerful Portland Police Association. While we support the rights of workers to collectively bargain for wages and benefits, we do not support public policy being set through those negotiations, especially when done by police officers.

Council will also be reviewing roughly 51 recommendations about Police Bureau policy, many of which the Chief and Mayor either rejected or claim to have implemented, while reality shows more work needs to be done. For example, they ask not to be restricted in using Tasers, "beanbags" and other weapons, but rather be allowed "flexibility.

Details at http://www.portlandcopwatch.org/ipr_changes_1111_analysis.pdf & www.portlandcopwatch.org/bureau_policies1111.pdf

Portlanders concerned about police accountability should contact City Council now, and testify on the 8th.

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