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January 24, 2018

To: Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum  
1162 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

From: Portland Copwatch

Re: List of Law Enforcement Deadly Force Incidents in Oregon 2010-2017

Attorney General Rosenblum:

From 2014-2016, Portland Copwatch sent you information about 141 deadly force incidents in Oregon (or involving Oregon law enforcement) from January 2010 to December 2015. We began our analysis to ensure that your office was complying with SB 111 (2007) regarding publishing the incidents in which a person died at the hands of Oregon law enforcement, which so far as we know has still never happened (over 10 years later). Due to time constraints, we did not issue our analysis last year, so we have added the 51 new incidents from the past two years (25 in 2016, 26 in 2017) for your use in following the law created by your predecessor Hardy Myers. This makes 192 deadly force incidents. 28 more people died at the hands of law enforcement in these two years, bringing the total to 107 in eight years. If an average of 13 people per year were dying from eating at a statewide restaurant franchise, we think you would be paying close attention. Since that many are dying due to police intervention, we ask that you at least publish their names as required.

To summarize our updated findings:

\* Totals:

---192 incidents involving 194 civilians	[was 141/142]
----181 shootings, 97 ending in death (54%)	[was 131/70 and 53%]
----6 Taser-related deaths	[no change]
----2 deaths in custody	[no change]
----3 vehicles as deadly force, 2 ending in death	[was 2/1]

\* Location of 191 incidents (excluding one in Washington state):

- The incidents occurred in 26 of Oregon's 36 counties
- The incidents happened in 77 municipalities or unincorporated areas of counties in Oregon.
- The top 5 cities accounted for 129 incidents (67%); the top 5 counties accounted for 126 (66%).

\* Agencies involved:

- 68 Oregon agencies were involved including incidents involving multiple agencies.
- Most frequently involved were Portland Police (37), Oregon State Police (23), Washington County Sheriffs (13), Clackamas County Sheriffs (10), Salem Police (9), Hillsboro Police (8) and Medford Police (7).

[Note: includes 8 new shootings by PPB, 5 by OSP, 4 by Polk County, 3 by Clackamas County and Gresham, 2 each by Washington County, Eugene, and Beaverton, 1 each by Bend, Central Point, Dallas, Fairview, Gold Beach, Grants Pass, Hillsboro, Keizer, Klamath Falls, Medford, Oregon City, Pendleton, Redmond, Seaside, Springfield, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn and Jefferson, Lane, Linn, Marion and Morrow Counties; some incidents included multiple agencies.]

\* Broken down by year:

--2010:

--- 22 incidents  
----20 shootings, 9 ending in death  
----6 in Portland  
----1 by US Marshals  
----1 with no hits  
----2 Taser-related deaths

--2011:

--- 14 incidents  
----13 shootings, 5 ending in death  
----4 in Portland plus one death in custody  
----1 by off duty Federal Protective Service officer  
----2 with no hits  
----1 death in custody (in Portland, as noted above)

--2012:

--- 28 incidents  
----25 shootings, 12 ending in death  
----6 in Portland  
----1 by US Marshals  
----2 with no hits  
----3 Taser-related deaths

--2013:

--- 29 incidents  
----28 shootings, 13 ending in death  
----2 in Portland  
----3 with no hits  
----1 Taser-related death

--2014:

--- 23 incidents  
----21 shootings, 16 ending in death  
----4 in Portland  
----1 death in custody  
----1 deadly force using vehicle

--2015:

--- 25 incidents  
----24 shootings, 16 ending in death  
----6 in Portland  
----1 deadly force using vehicle ending in death

--2016:

--- 25 incidents  
----24 shootings, 15 ending in death  
----2 in Portland  
----1 deadly force using vehicle ending in death

--2017:

--- 26 incidents  
----26 shootings, 12 ending in death  
----6 in Portland

\* Race: We do not have enough information to break down the list by race statewide.  
--9 of the 37 Portland shootings/deaths were of African Americans, or 24% of victims in a city that is 6% black.  
--At least 12 of the 194 suspects were African Americans, or 6% in a state which is 2% black.

\* Gender: All but eight of the 194 suspects were male (96%).  
Four of the eight cases involving women shot (or tasered) were in 2014.

\* Age: The victims ranged in age from 17 to 88.  
--Most common ages were 29 and 31 (10 each); 25 (9); 26, 49, and 55 (7); 23, 27, 30, 34 and 37 (6); 17, 20, 22, 36, 38, 44, 50 and 56 (6).  
[4 of the people we added this year were 26, 4 were 31, and shockingly, three were 17.]  
--Average age was 38 [normal for our study].

\* Veterans: At least eight of the victims were primarily identified as military veterans in some kind of psychological crisis. We are still unable to track how many of the suspects were in crisis.

The fact remains that the only indictment for an officer in any of these cases (that we know of) ended with the unfortunate suicide of Portland Officer Dane Reister in 2015. His prosecution for a 2011 shooting was never carried out as an appeal from the Multnomah District Attorney was pending at the time of his death. We continue to encourage the AG's office to look into the idea of special prosecutors for these incidents, since local DAs are unlikely to pursue charges in cases involving officers they need to convict criminal suspects in their daily court proceedings.

We also note that even in this day and age after Michael Brown was shot in Ferguson, MO, some agencies are not publishing the names of the officers involved. This includes the State Trooper who shot LaVoy Finicum in 2016 and the Gold Beach officers who shot at Brian Anthony Widby in October. Portland Copwatch had to petition the Washington County Sheriff's Office to get the name of the officer who shot at a 17 year old last April. Transparency in our state government is crucial and we urge the AG to ensure such names are transmitted to the public.

We hope to hear back from you soon.

dan handelman  
Portland Copwatch

This letter can be found in PDF format at:  
[http://www.portlandcopwatch.org/oregon\\_shootings\\_letter0118.pdf](http://www.portlandcopwatch.org/oregon_shootings_letter0118.pdf)  
The attached database can be found at:  
[http://www.portlandcopwatch.org/OR\\_shootings\\_2010-17.pdf](http://www.portlandcopwatch.org/OR_shootings_2010-17.pdf)

## NOTES:

(A) Explanation of data other than shootings by Oregon law enforcement (or not in Oregon) resulting in injury or death:

---Shootings with no hits are included because the officer(s) intended to injure or kill the suspects, so the incidents should be tracked as deadly force anyway and investigated as attempted homicides.

---Incidents involving federal agencies within Oregon's borders should be of concern to the State.

---The incident near Lincoln City in 2014 in which an officer using a patrol car struck a suspect who was on foot should be counted as deadly force, especially since the suspect ended up in critical condition. The incident in Klamath Falls in 2015 saw the officer hit the suspect's car, causing his death. In 2016 a Redmond officer deliberately struck a suspect, who died three days later.

---An incident in Wishram, Washington involved deadly force by a plainclothes officer from The Dalles.

(B) Breakdown of incident data:

--By location (191 incidents in Oregon): 39 in Portland; 13 in/near Salem; 9 in/near Medford; 7 in Aloha and Hillsboro; 6 in Gresham; 5 in Beaverton and Eugene; 4 in/near Grants Pass and Klamath Falls; 3 in Bend, Fairview and McMinnville and Pendleton; 2 in/near Albany, Boring, Cornelius, Eagle Point, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Lebanon, in/near Madras, Oregon City, Redmond, Roseburg, in/near Silverton, Springfield, in/near The Dalles, Tigard, Tualatin and Woodburn; and 1 each in Ashland, Astoria, Athena, Bethany, Boardman, Brownsville, Burns, Cedar Mill, Central Point, Clackamas County, Colton, Creswell, Dallas, Elgin, Florence, Forest Grove, Gold Beach, Grand Ronde, Hermiston, Hubbard, Keizer, Lakeview, Lincoln City, Molalla, Mt. Angel, Myrtle Creek, Newport, North Albany, Oak Grove, Oakridge, Ontario, Reedsport, Sandy, Scappoose, Seaside, Sherwood, Sisters, St. Helens, Talent, Turner, Warren, West Linn, Winchester Bay, Wolf Creek, Yachats and Yamhill County.

--By county: 48 in Multnomah; 29 in Washington; 20 in Marion; 15 in Clackamas; 14 in Jackson; 10 in Lane; 6 in Deschutes; 5 in Douglas, Josephine and Umatilla; 4 in Klamath, Linn and Yamhill; 3 in Columbia and Lincoln; 2 in Benton, Clatsop, Jefferson, Polk and Wasco; and 1 each in Curry, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Morrow and Union.

--By agency (second number after /slash/ indicates agency was one of multiple responsible in additional incident[s]): Portland Police (37-including 2 SERT); Oregon State Police (18-including 1 SWAT/5); Washington County Sheriffs (10-including 1 TNT/3); Clackamas County Sheriffs (10-including 3 SWAT); Salem Police (9); Hillsboro Police (7/1); Medford Police (7); Beaverton Police (5/1); Gresham Police (5/1); Marion County Sheriffs (5/1); Eugene Police (5); Fairview Police (4); Jackson County Sheriffs (4); Klamath Falls Police (3); Polk County Sheriff's Office (3); Springfield Police (3); Tigard Police (2); Bend Police (2); Forest Grove Police (2-secondary agency); Klamath County Sheriff's Office (2); Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (2); Linn County Sheriff's Office (2); Pendleton Police (2); Reedsport Police (2); The Dalles Police (2); Tualatin Police (2); Douglas County Sheriffs (1/2); and 1 each by Astoria Police, Athena Police, Benton County Sheriffs, Central Point Police, Columbia County Sheriffs (secondary agency), Cornelius Police, Dallas Police, Deschutes County Sheriffs, Eagle Point Police, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Elgin Police, Florence Police (secondary agency), Gladstone Police, Gold Beach Police, Hermiston Police, Jefferson County Sheriff, Keizer Police, Klamath County Sheriff, Lane County Sheriff, Lebanon Police, McMinnville Police, Milwaukie Police, Morrow County Sheriff, Mt. Angel Police, Myrtle Creek Police, Newberg-Dundee Police, Newport Police, Ontario Snake River Corrections Officers, Oregon City Police, Redmond Police, Roseburg Police, Seaside Police, Sherwood Police (secondary agency), Silverton Police, St. Helens Police, West Linn Police, Woodburn Police, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, Yamhill Police and a "multijurisdictional SWAT team" in Gladstone; also three shootings by US Marshals (2) and one off duty Federal Protective Service officer, plus one which involved the Department of Justice, one with the FBI and two with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as additional agencies. [Note that police in Central Point, Dallas, Florence, Gold Beach, Jefferson County, Keizer, Klamath County, Lane County, Morrow County, Oregon City, Polk County, Redmond, Seaside, Sherwood, Tualatin, West Linn, and the Gladstone area "multijurisdictional SWAT team" are new to this list.]