



## CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



### Bureau of Police

Keith Wilson, Mayor  
Robert Day, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000

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February 24, 2025

Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP)  
*Sent Via Email*

Dear PCCEP Members,

Thank you for meeting with representatives from the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and PCCEP on February 13, 2025, to clarify the PCCEP's proposal regarding the Veil of Darkness (VOD) analysis and the PPB's response to that recommendation. While I was not able to attend personally, I have been updated by my team and I know we all appreciated the opportunity to come together and discuss how we can better address PCCEP's questions and goals.

The discussion covered the strengths of both the VOD analysis and the Injury Collision Benchmark utilized in the PPB annual reports. It was helpful to clarify that the PCCEP recommendation was to incorporate findings from the State of Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Veil of Darkness analysis into the PPB Annual Report and not to replicate the analysis as interpreted by PPB. We agreed that the results from the State VOD analysis can be cited within the PPB stops annual report to ensure the public is aware of the analysis and can easily access the data.

Additionally, PPB clarified that Bureau personnel review the State of Oregon Annual Statistical Transparency of Policing Reports (S.T.O.P.) each year at publication. This review includes the results from the Veil of Darkness analysis. PPB makes note of any disparities, trends, or other issues identified in the State's analysis. The results are compared to PPB's most recent annual report to identify areas of contrasting or complementary results. The PPB has previously addressed findings from these reports through news releases or media availability, which we understand is not always easy for the community to track.

We also discussed the complications that arise based on the reporting periods covered by each report. The State analysis covers the fiscal year, while the PPB annual reports are for the calendar year. Due to the different time periods, the State analysis may identify something not seen in the previous PPB annual report that is likely to emerge in the next PPB annual report. These results help inform future PPB annual report analyses and methodologies. In the case that the State's VOD analysis identifies disparities in the decision to stop that the PPB's benchmarking analysis fails to identify, it would result in further analysis by PPB and adjustment of methodologies. The PPB recommends that PCCEP leverage both the PPB and State annual report findings to inform discussion about PPB's use of traffic stops and the development of policy recommendations. Further, PPB recommends that PCCEP directly consult with the CJC to better understand their methodologies, findings, and recommendations, and will be happy to facilitate that connection if helpful to PCCEP.

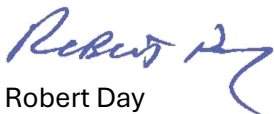
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Finally, I understand that the group discussed the challenges associated with retrospective VOD analysis. PPB clarified that the data points required to complete the VOD analysis – specifically the exact time the Stop was performed - were not collected prior to July 1, 2018. Additionally, the use of different records management systems historically and significant limitations on currently available resources prevent PPB from conducting the analysis for prior years not already available from the State.

I want to thank all of you for taking the time to meet with us and talk through some of the misunderstandings we had on this topic. You have my commitment that PPB will connect with PCCEP members prior to submitting future responses to ensure that we have a clear understanding of the recommendation. Likewise, we are happy to make our staff available to PCCEP to answer questions as it develops recommendations in the future. Our goal is always to learn and better serve the community, and our engagement with one another is critical to that effort.

Sincerely,



Robert Day  
Chief of Police

C: Chief's Office Electronic File