



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler  
City of Portland

May 9, 2023

Dear PCCEP Members:

Thank you for your recent recommendations regarding transitioning to an Independent Monitor, and the City's exploration of a gunshot detection pilot. It is apparent that a great deal of work and collaboration went into developing both recommendations, and I want to express my gratitude for that work.

I'll begin by responding to your recommendations regarding transitioning from a Compliance Officer/Community Liaison to an Independent Monitor regarding the City's Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice. I agree that the current system in place, in which a COCL and DOJ both provide compliance reports is confusing and breeds a perception of competition and lack of objectivity. Additionally, having the DOJ involved as both a party to the Settlement Agreement and the monitor creates another layer of confusion that can be avoided with an Independent Monitor.

I also want to acknowledge the priorities you have stated, including local presence, BIPOC representation in the team, experience with the intersectionality of policing, mental illness, and racial equity, as well as trauma-informed community engagement capabilities. These are important facets to the work of monitoring compliance with the Settlement Agreement, and I appreciate the recommendations.

The parties to the Settlement Agreement are in very productive discussions about an Independent Monitor, and these recommendations will help inform those conversations. I do not know what the ultimate result of those discussions will be, but I can assure you that the City is engaging with a sincere desire to reach agreement and advance the goals of the Settlement Agreement. While I can't promise that every recommendation you've made will be embodied in candidates that may step forward in the future, please know that we will work to incorporate your feedback on candidate recruitment and selection to the best of our abilities.

Turning now to the recommendation that the City terminate plans for a Gunshot Detection Technology pilot, there are a few factual updates and clarifications that are important for me to make. First, as you noted, the decision to explore a gunshot detection pilot originated from the July 2022 FITCOG recommendation. The FITCOG was created to provide community

oversight of PPB's gun violence patrol unit (the Focused Intervention Team (FIT)) and making recommendations about how the FIT conducts its work to intervene in gun violence. The FITCOG, like all of you, is a group of volunteer community members who want to engage with police and the City to make it a safer place for everyone.

These folks worked to research and learn about this subject matter, and produced a recommendation for the Chief's and my consideration. They discussed the technology and their recommendation for months in public meetings, answering tough questions by community members, many of whom also attended the PCCEP Town Hall on the subject, and endured despicable harassment including racial slurs and personal insults.

Public dialogue is critically important, and it is healthy and normal for people to have different perspectives on topics as important as this. However, it is important to me to recognize the efforts that went into their recommendation and the fallout they have faced as a result. I owe it to them—and to all of you—to do everything I can to provide a space that is respectful of differing perspectives and constructive about how volunteers are treated.

As with the FITCOG's recommendation, I greatly appreciate PCCEP's recommendation and the work put into it. Again, reasonable people can disagree on this important topic and I welcome all perspectives as we weigh the decision. To that end, my team worked with Portland State University to conduct a community survey to provide other avenues of communication for folks who may not be able to attend town halls or community meetings. The analysis of that survey is nearing conclusion and I, and my colleagues at City Council, will rely on all perspectives as we consider whether gunshot detection technology is right for Portland.

I want to close by acknowledging the tremendous work you have all done to make PCCEP stronger. I am eager to do everything I can to support you and ensure that you have what you need to do the work asked of you. Your commitment to serving Portland is incredibly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Wheeler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Ted Wheeler