



The Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP)

PCCEP supports and wants to amplify the Citizen Review Committee Portland Protests 2020: Citizen Review Committee Summary and Recommendations. We believe the work of the CRC closely aligns with the work of PCCEP. As noted in the CRC report, the purpose of the Citizen Review Committee’s Crowd Control and Use of Force workgroup (CCUFWG) is to critically examine the Portland Police Bureau’s (PPB) use of force policies, training, and tactics in order to make recommendations based on best practices and legal standards. In response to the murder of George Floyd by police in May 2020, thousands of Portlanders took to the streets daily for months in protest of police brutality and the disproportionate impact on communities of color. During these protests, many concerning confrontations between Portland Police and the community occurred. In response, this workgroup set out to gather community input about what was happening on the ground at protests through a public forum and online surveys. PCCEP supports these recommendations for improved policing practices to facilitate the First Amendment rights of all Portlanders. The recommendations summarized below are explained and elaborated upon in Section IV of this [report](#).

- **Equipment Use Recommendations:**
 - Make permanent the existing ban on the use of CS gas by PPB, and extend it to other chemical weapons used for crowd management.
 - Create a plan to mitigate the risks to public health and the environment in the event of chemical weapons use.
 - Implement a more restrictive standard governing force that poses risks of indiscriminate harm to bystanders and/or individuals gathered in crowds.
 - Create clear and detailed guidance that establishes what levels of force are permissible under common circumstances that may arise in the course of crowd management.
 - Commit to transparency regarding officer decision-making in situations where force is used in crowd management, including by publicly releasing reports relevant to the use-of-force event.

- **De-Escalation Recommendations:**
 - Adopt “soft clothes” for protest response. Opt for ordinary patrol uniforms or clothing that does not suggest the expectation of violence or combat when attending or responding to events where violence has not occurred.
 - Facilitate movement of people and crowds at protests instead of meeting them with protest lines.



- Prioritize clear communication. Give real-time, calm, and clear descriptions of police actions over the speaker system. Provide clear and timely information about impending police action.
 - Adopt an “out of sight” response strategy and examine the necessity of a large, visible police presence at protest events.
 - Avoid “less lethal” munitions and cease use of weapons that target groups, rather than individuals, when largely peaceful crowds are present.
 - Avoid force as an escalating act.
 - Encourage and recognize officers’ empathetic acts. Casual interactions, rendering aid, and less threatening police presence (such as officers on bicycles) may put community members at ease and build trust.
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- Bias & Training Recommendations:
 - Require comprehensive cultural diversity and anti-racism training vetted by members of vulnerable communities.
 - Increase anti-bias training hours and frequency.
 - Assess Bureau applicants and existing employees for harmful biases.
 - Provide officers with the opportunity to learn and retain necessary skills.
 - Develop de-escalation training aligned with the Newark Police Department and Madison Model frameworks to support “force as a last resort” policies.
 - Integrate robust officer wellness training throughout the Bureau.
 - Publicly report training procedures and policies currently in use by PPB and disclose proposed training procedures and policies to the public for comment before implementation.
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