



PCCEP Statement on Recent Killing of Koben Henriksen

The Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing (PCCEP) is concerned about the killing of Koben S. Henriksen on December 8, 2019, by a member of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). Although we do not have much information on the circumstances of this shooting, we are troubled that he may have been suffering a mental health crisis at the time of his death. We encourage PPB to lead with transparency and release as much information as possible to community members. We encourage a thorough and independent investigation. Given the Department of Justice settlement agreement with the City was prompted by police use-of-force incidents against those suffering mental illness, we are concerned that the police may continue to use deadly force in cases where de-escalation would be most appropriate. This is the fifth officer-involved shooting this year and the third related to a person experiencing a mental-health crisis at the time of their death. These deaths reinforce the need for additional efforts to be undertaken to address the PPB's use of deadly force with people experiencing mental and/or behavioral health crises.

PCCEP will continue to work with community members, PPB and City leaders to improve policing policies, especially those related to mental health, and behavioral health systems, and homelessness to ensure all community members of Portland have the services they need to live healthy, full lives.

Sincerely,

The members of the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing.

Members: Lakayana Drury, LaKeesha Dumas, Andrew Kalloch, Amy Anderson, Britt Masback, Patrick Nolen, Yolonda Salguiero, Vadim Mozyrsky, Marcia Perez, Steve Trujillo, Elliott Young