

PCCEP Statement on COCL 2020 3Q Draft Report (proposed)

Prepared by Ann Campbell and Elliott Young, Steering Committee

PCCEP accepts the COCL 3Q 2020 report. We wanted to highlight some areas in which we are in agreement with the Report and to reflect the feedback we received at the October 14 Town Hall. We wholeheartedly support the following COCL statement that helps provide important context for the protests following the murder of George Floyd:

“Clearly, our nation is entering an important moment in history, where the systemic racial injustice that has occurred over the past 400 years throughout our nation is being called out and the public is demanding corrective action. Long- standing racial injustice in our country’s criminal justice system is being exposed, including discrimination and excessive force by the police against people of color. Let us be absolutely clear about our position: The nonviolent protests in Portland and elsewhere around the country, demanding social justice, are an extension of the civil rights movement that has been the cornerstone of our democracy for many decades. Civil disobedience and public demonstrations are designed to be painful and uncomfortable to those who embody the status quo and fail to recognize the problem or the need for change. When John Lewis revisited the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 1, 2020, he advised those who care about racial equality to *“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”*”

PCCEP would like to affirm the COCL’s request that the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) address areas of non-compliance. PCCEP is very concerned that our citizens are not receiving safe and adequate policing from PPB. As noted in the recent COCL report, the majority of PPB’s officers have not received any recent skills training in crowd management, de-escalation, procedural justice, crisis intervention, or other critical skills for preventing or minimizing the use of force. Additionally, a total of 485 officers did not receive the required 8 hours of Use of Force training for state certification. Furthermore, PPB has not produced sufficient representation of After Action Reports (AAR) and Force Data Collection Reports (FDCR), as required to demonstrate maintained substantial compliance. Additionally, a PPB official decided that PPB officers did not need to provide AAR reports for the entire month of June 2020. Absent required information, PPB cannot demonstrate continued substantial compliance, nor can it modify its policing practices based on those reports when reports are neither collected nor analyzed. While we understand that COVID and nightly protests since the murder of George Floyd have complicated the situation, the City must find a way to maintain its basic training and reporting functions even amidst a crisis.

The COCL report notes that several PCCEP recommendations made since June 2020 have not received any response from Mayor Wheeler, in spite of a mandated 60-day period for such official responses. As of October 22, 2020, we have no response on four recommendations. PCCEP has organized a number of listening sessions for our community to weigh in on various issues relative to policing. PCCEP then develops recommendations from those community sessions and forwards them to the Mayor and Police Chief. When we do not hear anything from the City it gives us the impression that neither PCCEP nor the community is being heard and that it doesn’t matter to city officials. We look forward to the City bringing itself back into compliance with the settlement agreement in the near future.

Members of the public raised the issue of the COCL report's citing data indicating the Portland's police budget was only 4.4% of the total budget, and ranked second lowest in expenditures of the 50 largest police departments. While this data appears to be accurate, the public and PCEP members would like a fuller picture of how the PPB budget has changed over the last 30 years in relation to the crime rate in the city.

We would also like to see more of an acknowledgement that in spite of the training and other mechanisms to create a self-reforming bureau, the latest use-of force data as traffic stops data suggests that Black Portlanders, the houseless and those experiencing a mental health crisis are much more likely than others to be stopped and subject to use of force. The data also suggest that the situation in terms of disproportionate policing has been getting worse not better. If COCL is monitoring whether the training and accountability systems actually work, then analyzing this data should be an important part of the Report and it is largely missing or glossed over.