



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

July 31, 2018

Sean J. Riddell
1300 SE Stark St., Suite 208
Portland, OR 97214

Mr. Riddell,

I am compelled to respond to your inaccurate and inflammatory letter dated July 30, in which you claim that we have a “policy of not responding to calls for police services from ICE employees.” No such policy exists.

Portland residents have a right to free speech and a right to demonstrate against policies they believe are unjust and immoral. I stand with those who are outraged by the forced separation of parents from their children, families who in many cases are fleeing oppression in other countries. Even as that policy has ended, hundreds of children have yet to be united with their parents. This is nothing less than a human tragedy.

However, I want to be clear that the Portland Police Bureau does not police based on the content of speech. In this case, I have consistently stated that I did not want the Portland Police Bureau to be engaged or sucked into a conflict for the purpose of securing federal property that houses a federal agency with their own federal police force.

While Portland Police were not engaged in removing protesters from federal property, Portland Police made clear to Federal Protective Service officials that local law enforcement would respond to calls for service at the demonstration site that have an immediate life safety concern.

In fact, when a Portland city attorney contacted you to discuss your claims, you made clear that your letter did not contend that PPB failed to respond to any 911 call for emergency services. Portland Police did respond to various calls for service placed by FPS and ICE employees when there were imminent life safety threats. In discussions with our attorney you were unable to make any substantive claim, instead stating that you “have unconfirmed reports from sources that I am not at liberty to disclose that assert the City of Portland did not respond to 911 calls.”

Given that the policy you cite does not and has not existed, and there are no confirmed examples of police failing to respond to calls for service, I ask you to send any additional information you believe supports the assertions in your letter.

Sincerely,

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

Ted Wheeler
Mayor, City of Portland