



**OREGON ASSOCIATION
CHIEFS OF POLICE**
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact:

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
Jim.ferraris@ci.woodburn.or.us

**OREGON'S CHIEFS OF POLICE URGE
PORTLAND'S ELECTED CITY LEADERS TO PROTECT THE PORTLAND POLICE
BUREAU FROM FURTHER BUDGET CUTS**

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Association (OACP) is dedicated to creating and maintaining Oregon communities as safe and thriving places to raise a family, grow a business and engage in recreational opportunities. Unfortunately, the safety and economic livelihood of all Oregonians is at risk due to proposals being considered by Portland's elected leaders to drastically reduce an already anemic Portland Police Bureau budget.

OACP is gravely concerned about reductions to policing services in the City of Portland, and we need Oregonians to join us in raising voices of concern. The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has already suffered a budget reduction of \$27 million dollars in June and was forced to eliminate vital programs such as the Gun Violence Reduction Team and the Transit Police Division. Meanwhile, Portlanders are experiencing a significant escalation in violent crime. Shootings, assaults and homicides are at record numbers. Encounters with armed individuals occur daily and property crimes like auto theft, burglary, fraud and identity theft continue to plague Portland.

Now Portland's City Council is considering further cuts to the police bureau, including:

- Elimination of 42 police officers, which are desperately needed to respond to 911 calls
- Elimination of the Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT), which responds to incidents like barricaded armed individuals and hostage situations
- Elimination of three investigators who assist prosecutors in the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
- Elimination of the crowd control team, which is already finding it difficult to protect downtown properties and businesses
- Elimination of the Criminal Intelligence Unit, which provides critical information on career

criminals, crime trends, and domestic terrorism

Because of current police staffing shortages, Portland 911 emergency calls for service are often left unanswered for hours. Further cuts will cause more delay in 911 emergency call response.

Portland is the economic, arts, and travel hub of our great State. All Oregon cities benefit when the City of Portland is healthy and thriving.

Like most large urban areas, Portland has its challenges, including neighborhood livability, access to housing and public safety. The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police wants Portland to remain one of America's most desirable places to live. We do not want it to become just another city, given to decay, real and figurative. Cuts to public safety—especially more cuts—make no sense and the damage to the safety and wellbeing of Portland will take decades to repair.