Care Not Cops and Don’t Shoot PDX demand #DisbandPPB

With the recent uprisings in Minneapolis and across the country we are expanding our demands to reflect the urgency of ending police violence in all its forms.

On Sunday, June 7th, the Minneapolis City Council committed to disband the Minneapolis Police Department. Their City Council President stated “Our efforts at incremental [police] reform have failed. Period.”

We know that disbanding the police is not only possible, it is possible today. We demand a complete divestment from and a commitment to disbanding the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). We demand that money be reinvested in building Black futures and community care that is not reliant on the logic or practices of policing, surveillance, or incarceration.

Care Not Cops and Don’t Shoot PDX are rallying at Terry Schrunk Plaza to share our demands to disband the Portland Police Bureau. We will also be streaming live audio of the council session.

Press conference and rally starts at 1pm. We will be rallying and giving testimony through the duration of the city council meeting.

We demand Portland City Council immediately take these steps to defund and disband the Portland Police Bureau:

- Within the 20-21 FY budget cycle, reduce the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) budget by at least $50 million. Each year going forward, continue decreasing the PPB budget by at least $50 million.

- Immediately eliminate vacant positions, and fold this funding back into the general and special appropriations funds.

- Implement an immediate hiring freeze, and commit to ending any new hires of Portland Police Bureau sworn officers.

- In addition - immediately eliminate the funds for the following specialty units: School Resource Officers, Special Emergency Reaction Team, Transit Police, Neighborhood Response, Service Coordination Team, Behavioral Health Unit, and the Gun Violence Reduction Team (formerly the Gang Enforcement Team)

- Redirect funds allocated for gang policing towards anti-violence programs unaffiliated with law enforcement, reparations for Black Portlanders targeted by gang policing, and other investment in Black people to be determined by community groups such as Don’t Shoot Portland.

- Eliminate these positions entirely by reducing the total number of officers, not just by folding them back into general sworn officer positions.
• Immediately stop policing protests. Cops bring the riot, not the demonstrators. Even if they stop using “less-lethal weapons,” they’ll just shift the way they enact violence (i.e. beating people with clubs and mace like they do in Chicago).

• End PPB relationship to the Federal 1033 program (which supplies militarized weapons, gear, and vehicles to local police departments across the country).

• Divest City of Portland Cannabix Tax funds from the PPB budget and invest them into reparations for those harmed by the War on Drugs, which disproportionately targeted Black communities for activities that are now legal.

• Immediately stop expansion of the Portland Police Bureau budget by ending all budget increases. City Council must commit to never vote for PPB Budget increases again.

• Immediately end the use of police responders to health or mental health calls and wellness checks, and implement alternative responses that are not led by or contingent on interaction with the police.

• Immediately terminate contract between the Portland Police Bureau and Portland Business Alliance for the Clean & Safe Enhanced Services District.

• Immediately eliminate police presence in historically Black neighborhoods, communities of color, and areas with high houseless populations in order to reduce the fear, ongoing trauma, violence, and oppressive conditions which impede people’s daily survival.

Care Not Cops Portland (CNC) was founded in 2017 to reduce the violence of policing and build up community care. CNC works to reduce the Portland Police Bureau budget and advocate for redirecting public resources to community alternatives and programs that address harm and build strong, thriving communities.

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Don’t Shoot PDX is a social justice non-profit that promotes art, education & civic participation to create social change. Founded in 2014, in response to the Ferguson uprisings, Don’t Shoot PDX’s organizational work and activism has helped community members contribute through direct engagement and legislative value.

Don’t Shoot PDX contact info: contact@dontshootpdx.org