

The Mental Health Alliance was formed in 2018 to join the continuing Federal lawsuit, United States v. City of Portland as an amicus curie – or “friend of the court”.

Organizations which represent the interests of people with mental illness and have long participated in efforts to reduce police use of force used against people with mental illness – Disability Rights Oregon, the Oregon Justice Resource Center, the Portland Interfaith Clergy, and the Mental Health Association of Portland, joined together to form the Alliance. The Alliance is represented in courts by Juan Chavez and Franz Bruggemeier. Individual members of the Alliance form it’s work group, and reviewed the 2020 report from the OIR.

Each year, a new chief of the Portland Police Bureau tacks answers to the back of OIR’s review of critical incidents. For the most part, PPB agrees with OIR’s recommendations and often promises to change policies accordingly. How many of these promises has PPB kept?

None. Nor is there any pushback from the City regarding disputed recommendations. Below are several recommendations that deserve more attention and follow up.

OIR consistently points to issues with witness cooperation -- some from other city agencies -- but IPR’s subpoena authority still isn’t codified.

In 2014, 2019, and 2020, OIR made recommendations about the Medical Examiner system -- a branch of Oregon State Police -- regarding survivability potential and systemic conflicts of interest. These considerations deserve medical expertise. PPB’s answers are hardly adequate.

In 2014, OIR said PPB should change policy to require officers to consult emergency medical response personnel before transporting people who complain of difficulty breathing or medical distress. PPB has not.

These reasonable recommendations have been made repeatedly and ignored by the PPB. Does the police commissioner agree with Chief Resch’s response to the 2020 OIR recommendations? If not, how will he ensure that the OIR’s recommendations are adopted and implemented?

Sincerely,

Mental Health Alliance

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FINAL AND SENT - 11/6 @ 7:00 AM via [info@mentalhealthportland.org](mailto:info@mentalhealthportland.org)

City Council and council clerks  
Auditor  
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Posted on MHA website  
Posted on MHA FB site