POLICE STAFFING

Authorized Staffing
Proportionate To City
Growth Makes Sense

PORTLAND POLICE ASSOCIATION

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PORTLAND'S POPULATION INCREASED 20% FROM 2003 - 2016.

Over the last twenty years, the City of Portland has grown by over 20%, and the Portland metropolitan area is now the 14th fastest-growing metro area in the United States.

While the City has been steadily growing, the authorized staffing level for the Portland Police Bureau has seen a 9% decrease. The face of our City has changed dramatically and the needs of our communities have evolved. Yet, our public safety infrastructure is weakening.

MODERATE ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT PORTLAND'S POPULATION WILL INCREASE BY ANOTHER 6% BY 2020.

There is an inverse relationship between Portland's increasing population growth and fewer authorized sworn positions.

THE PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU AUTHORIZED SWORN STAFFING WENT FROM 1,034 IN 2003 TO 949 IN 2016.
Dispatched calls for service continue to increase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calls for Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>236,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>248,405</td>
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<td>2016-17</td>
<td>252,230</td>
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The practical impact of the growing population is an increase in the number of dispatched calls for service, which in turn leads to an increase in the number of calls for service per officer and significantly decreased time available for self-initiated activity and community engagement.
GROWTH & IMPACT

Self-initiated activity has seen a substantial decline.

-39%

There has been a substantial decline in officer self-initiated activity; 26% from the prior year and 38% since 2014-2015. Directed patrol work has further declined by over 43% from 2015-2016, indicating that there is less capacity for the Bureau to conduct policing work not associated with dispatched calls for service.
**GROWTH & IMPACT**

*Significant increase in dispatched calls per officer is problematic.*

Patrol officers continue to experience an increase in dispatched calls. The number of dispatched calls per officer has increased by 45% from 2015 to 2017. This workload is 25% over the budgeted target of 500 calls per officer, resulting in less capacity for self-initiated activity and proactive patrol work.
The average response time to high priority calls has increased.

Over the past year, the response times to all call types have significantly increased. The response time to high priority calls (domestic disturbance, shots fired, stabbing, suicide attempt, armed robbery, injury collision, active residential burglary, vandalism in progress) now averages 6.55 minutes, substantially greater than the Bureau’s target high-priority response time of 5.0 minutes. In addition, the average wait time is 2.0 minutes from the time of dispatch to having an officer available to respond, making the response time to the high priority emergency over 8 minutes.

Public safety and the safety of our officers is at risk.
Exceptional policing takes time.

We want to continue to connect citizens with the services they need. We want to continue to build relationships and community trust. But we just don’t have the time with our current resources. The reality of a growing population is more calls for service and more demand for priority crime prevention and investigation. That leaves precious little time for proactive work, self-initiated activity, and community engagement.

According to the 2015 Portland Police Bureau Matrix staffing study, adopting a 45% average proactive time level goal for patrol operations was a High Priority Recommendation.

With the increase in calls for service and population, meeting this goal requires over 500 patrol officers. Precinct patrol was staffed with only 360 officers on duty in August 2017.
Our officers are part of the community and committed to making our communities great.

Engaging with our citizens is important work and building relationships means a stronger community. Connecting people with the resources and services takes time and follow through. This is a worthy investment.
Inadequate police staffing has a visibly negative impact on quality of life in our City.

LIVABILITY
HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH
OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Crime statistics are massaged and categorized to show that crime is down, but a drive through our City on any given day confirms the overt livability issues, homelessness and mental health crises, and opioid epidemic. From the West Hills to South Waterfront, the Pearl District and out to East County, inadequate police staffing has a visibly negative impact on the quality of life in our City.
ISSUES

Livability issues, homelessness & mental health crises, and the opioid epidemic plague our City.

LIVABILITY

- Impacts business owners, commuters, residents
- Car prowls
- Home invasions
- Armed robberies
- Gang and gun violence
- Lack of sanitation due to homelessness issue

These issues are making Portland a less desirable place to live, work, and recreate.

HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH

- Lack of affordable housing
- Sparse mental health services
- Tent camps
- Abandoned RVs
- Personal theft
- Sanitation & hygiene
- Crimes within homeless population

Our officers see the basic shelter and mental health service needs everyday.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- Crosses all gender, race, and socioeconomic lines
- Easily obtainable quantities of heroin & synthetic opioids as well as methamphetamine & cocaine
- Inadequate treatment options

Oregon has the 6th worst overall drug problem in the U.S. and the 4th highest percentage of teen drug users.
Livability issues negatively impact small businesses.

Small-business owners raise theft concerns with Portland Commissioner Fish

"We don't have enough police," one woman said, with another agreeing.

Cassie Ridgway, the owner of Hawthorne boutique Altar, shared the story of a back-and-forth: hours of waiting for police officers to respond to calls, a lack of action from the District Attorney's office on moving a case forward. She said the store has suffered significant losses, and has joined many in the Facebook group in buying a Nest camera to document thefts.

Portland city commissioner Nick Fish speaks to small business owners at KitchenCru on Friday, March 3, 2017. Small business owners across town are joining together to raise their concerns about theft and safety. (David Greenwald/The Oregonian)

Connecting resources to those experiencing mental health crises takes time.

For Police, a playbook for conflicts involving Mental Illness

By Erica Goodeapril
The New York Times
April 25, 2016

In the crisis training, officers learn about psychiatric medications, role-play various scenarios, and have opportunities to interact with people who have a mental illness when they are not in crisis.

The officers are told, among other things, to use distance and time to try to defuse potentially violent encounters.

Officers, who have undergone crisis intervention training, at the bus station in Portland, Ore. (Amanda Lucier/The New York Times)

At least in Portland, Officer Hastings said, most police officers had accepted that part of their job was now dealing with mental illness and helping to find longer-term solutions.

“We’ve realized that it is what it is,” he said, “and we’re the ones that are going to be responding to that.”

Neighbors complain about drug use while officers try to keep order.

Portland police Sgt. Randy Teig on the multi-use path along the Columbia River, where he regularly patrols homeless camps (Photo: KGW)

Tent City: How we got here

By John Tierney
KGW Investigative Project
March 3, 2017

The “multi-use path,” or MUP, as the path is known, is in many ways representative of the homeless problem that can be found across of Portland: Campers set up their tents out of desperation; many of the camps are littered with garbage and syringes; neighbors complain about drug use, trash and petty crime; police officers try to keep order on the path while adhering to a complex web of rules and laws that govern how they interact with homeless people.

'We have a massive problem': Experts say Oregon's opioid epidemic continues

"We have a massive problem," said Kruger, who's been with the police bureau for 23 years. "We're seizing larger quantities of methamphetamine and heroin and cocaine in Portland, Oregon than we have historically ever seized."

Captain Kruger said a big challenge for law enforcement is staffing.

"In drugs and vice division we've lost about 30 percent of our staffing in the last two years because we've had to redeploy officers back to patrol work given the number of officers we've had retiring," Kruger told the panel.

We should have enough police officers to ensure the safety of our citizens and our officers and to meet our community’s public safety priorities

- Responding to calls for service, no matter how small;
- Investigating and solving crimes;
- Addressing gun and gang violence;
- Serving those impacted by homelessness;
- Assisting citizens with mental illness and those in mental health crises;
- Engaging with our communities; and
- Conducting proactive policing and self-initiated activity.
CONCLUSION

The rank and file of the Portland Police Bureau do an outstanding job despite consistently working with insufficient staffing levels.

The Portland Police Bureau leadership has requested that City Council approve over hiring dozens of officers with one-time funds. This is only a short-term, temporary fix for a systemic problem. Portland deserves a long-term solution: a permanent increase in the Portland Police Bureau’s authorized staffing proportionate to the growth and needs of our diverse and evolving community.

Authorized staffing proportionate to growth makes sense.
CONCLUSION

We are at a tipping point; the quality of life and safety in our great City is at stake.

Now is the time to act.

1. FY 2017-18 Fall BMP:
   Approve the Portland Police Bureau’s request to over hire 50 officers and to fund 35 limited duration positions in the retire-rehire program, for a total of 85 positions.

2. FY 2018-19:
   Increase the number of permanent, authorized FTE positions in the Police Bureau by 100 sworn officers for a total of 1,050 sworn FTEs.

3. FY 2019-20:
   Increase the number of permanent, authorized FTE positions in the Police Bureau by 150 sworn officers for a total of 1,200 sworn FTEs.