

THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

CHAPTER MEETING
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Link Linda J. Harris, *Chair*

In our partnership with The League of Women Voters we have the following on-going work:

1. **A Portland Police Bureau Accountability Study Team** was tasked with 18 topics to research. My assignment was, “Wrongful Death Settlements”. Draft assignments were due on 9/10 and they are now at varying levels of completion. The report will be printed in January. Consensus questions will be written in January and February. In March 2021, the consensus questions will be taken to Units. In April and May, based on feedback from units, the board will develop a new League of Women Voters position on police accountability.
2. Since June, the Study Team has **conducted interviewed** with a dozen people who are either held former or present jobs at the Portland Police Bureau (chiefs of police; sergeants of de-escalation training), Portland City Hall (former mayor), the State Legislature, the Justice League, Portland Copwatch, the Police Reform Networks, the Chair of the Citizen’s Review Committee, and the current District Attorney.
3. **There are demands for change:**
 - *The Oregon Legislature has passed a package of six police reform bills. One of which was the *Arbitration Bill*, 1604, championed by Senator Lew Frederick.
 - *Commissioner Hardesty is pushing a ballot measure that will be on the November 3 ballot. The ballot measure will approve the creation of a new Civilian Oversight Board that will replace the current Independent Police Review. The new board will have stronger community oversight with more authority.
4. The Police Reform Network (PRN) encourages us to sign up and give testimony as well as to listen to the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Zoom Meetings which are led by State Representative, Janelle Bynum. The PRN has also given us a summary of Basics of Bills and LCs (Legislative Concepts).

We will be watching for policy changes at the state and local levels and analyzing whether these changes will bring about desired results.