



City of Ontario

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Mayor Riley J. Hill

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April 26, 2021

RE: Opposition to Qualified Immunity Reform

To Whom it May Concern,

The Ontario City Council stands in opposition to qualified immunity reform. On March 25, 2021, the New York City Council voted to approve legislation which would end qualified immunity for police officers in New York City. They are the first city in the nation to do so and others are following.

Pearson v. Callahan presented this definition: "Qualified immunity balances two important interests – the need to hold public officials accountable when they exercise power irresponsibly and the need to shield officials from harassment, distraction, and liability when they perform their duties reasonably."

The City Council agrees that public officials should be held accountable when exercising power irresponsibly; however, law enforcement officials should also be protected from becoming targets of frivolous lawsuits when they act in their capacity to protect the community. Therefore, we stand in opposition to the reform of qualified immunity that has taken place.

Sincerely,

Riley J. Hill
Mayor

CC: Oregon Governor Kate Brown
Oregon State Senator Lynn Findley
Oregon State Representative Mark Owens
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley

Representative Suzannne Bonamici
Representative Cliff Bentz
Representative Early Blumenaurer
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader