

Public Comment Draft

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council:

My name is Laurie Busse, 234 N 2nd St, Carlton OR 97111, and I am here to address a pattern of selective enforcement and a systemic lack of oversight within the Carlton Police Department.

On February 17th, officer Steeves arrived at my home to issue citations for moving violations—including seatbelt and insurance infractions—days after the alleged events occurred. No traffic stop was ever initiated. Had basic procedure been followed, the officer would have seen that the vehicle was fully insured and a lap belt was in use. When I asked Officer Steves why he failed to pull us over at the time of the alleged offense, he refused eye contact and stated, "Take it up with the judge."

This was accompanied by six other parking citations totaling more than my monthly income. These citations target a passenger vehicle parked legally for less than 72 hours. This follows an incident where the CPD contacted my landlord to suggest my eviction and pressured her in regarding driveway parking. This is not "community policing"; it is punitive harassment and blatant retaliation for my comments at the last council meeting regarding procedural overreach. The more pressing issue for this Council is the total absence of an objective grievance process.

When I attempted to file a formal complaint regarding Officer Steves' conduct, YCOM dispatch informed me I must file it with Carlton PD. Then Carlton PD would then dispatch the subject of my complaint to handle the intake. This is a textbook conflict of interest. Currently, Chief Martinez has assigned Sergeant Jake Blair to investigate his own department.

I ask the Council: How can a department ethically investigate itself without bias? This lack of accountability has dangerous implications. If the CPD ignores basic policy for traffic codes, how can we trust them to handle high-stakes cases like domestic violence or battery? I have already observed instances where evidence was disregarded and victims were never contacted, effectively protecting alleged assailants.

Furthermore, I must correct the record: City staff previously informed a Council member that my concerns had been addressed. This is false. No contact was made until I filed a formal complaint on Feb 17.

I am requesting three specific actions from this Council:

- * An independent review of the nine citations issued to my household to determine if they meet the criteria for selective enforcement.
- * A formal inquiry into why CPD staff are contacting private landlords to influence housing stability.
- * The establishment of an external oversight mechanism so residents are not forced to report police misconduct to the very officers they are complaining about.

When the system removes checks and balances, it ceases to serve the public. I look forward to your formal response.