

January 21, 2015

To: Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum
1162 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

From: Portland Copwatch

Re: List of Law Enforcement Deadly Force Incidents in Oregon 2010-2014

Attorney General Rosenblum:

On October 17, 2014, Portland Copwatch sent you a database of the 101 deadly force incidents in Oregon (or involving Oregon law enforcement) from January 2010 to July 2014. To complete our five year survey, we've now updated it to include 9 more incidents from the latter part of 2014, and one incident (involving two suspects) from earlier last year that we missed the first time around. This brings the total number of deadly force incidents we've tracked to 111 in the five years—amazingly coincidental as our purpose was to urge your office's compliance with SB 111 from 2007. Though the statute only focuses on deaths, we feel that the state should track all deadly force incidents since there was a clear potential for the deliberate taking of a life by a state actor. Regardless, at least 58 of these incidents did end in death and should have been reported to the Attorney General's office, with that information published by your office.

As noted previously, there may be other incidents which we did not come across when researching our newsletter and thus this list may be incomplete. While we were glad to receive a phone call from your office shortly after our data were published in the Skanner in early November, we have not heard back since then.

To summarize our updated findings [October totals in brackets for comparison]:

* Totals:

- 111 incidents [101] involving 112 civilians
- 102 shootings [92], 50 ending in death [43]
- 6 Taser-related deaths
- 2 deaths in custody
- 1 vehicle as deadly force

* Location of 110 incidents (excluding one in Washington state):

- The incidents occurred in 22 [21] of Oregon's 36 counties
- The incidents happened in 51 [47] municipalities or unincorporated areas of counties in Oregon.

* Agencies involved:

- 43 [39] Oregon agencies were involved including incidents involving multiple agencies
- Most frequently involved were Portland Police (23 [22]), Oregon State Police (12 [11]), Salem Police (8), Washington County Sheriffs (8), Hillsboro Police (6), Marion County Sheriffs (5) and Clackamas County Sheriffs (5).

* Broken down by year:

—2010:

- 22 incidents
- 20 shootings, 9 ending in death
- 6 in Portland
- 1 by US Marshals
- 1 with no hits
- 2 Taser-related deaths

—2011:

- 14 incidents
- 13 shootings, 5 ending in death
- 4 in Portland plus one death in custody
- 1 by off duty Federal Protective Service officer
- 2 with no hits
- 1 death in custody (in Portland, as noted above)

(more)

—2012:
— 28 incidents
—25 shootings, 12 ending in death
—6 in Portland
—1 by US Marshals
—2 with no hits
—3 Taser-related deaths

—2013:
— 27 incidents
—26 shootings, 11 ending in death
—2 in Portland
—3 with no hits
—1 Taser-related death

—2014:
— 20 incidents
—18 shootings, 13 ending in death
—4 in Portland
—1 death in custody
—1 deadly force using vehicle

* Race: We do not have enough information to break down the list by race statewide.

—6 of the 23 [5 of 22] Portland shootings/deaths were of African Americans, or 26% [23%] of victims in a city that is 6% black.

—At least 7 of the 112 suspects were African Americans, or 6% in a state which is 2% black.**

* Gender: All but seven of the 112 suspects [4 of 101] were male.

It's of great interest that of the 11 suspects added to the list, three were female— thus four of the seven women shot (or tasered) in five years were all shot in 2014.**

* Age: The victims ranged in age from 17 to 88.

—Most common ages were 29 (7)** [4], 23 and 25 (6), 20 /27 (5 [4]), 30/31**/34/37**/50 and 56 (4).

—Average age was 38 [no change].

* Veterans: We noted that at least six [five] of the victims were primarily identified as military veterans in some kind of psychological crisis. (We suspect a large number of victims had mental health issues, but are unable to track that for all cases.)

We still do not have information on any indictments other than that of Officer Dane Reister in Portland, who shot an gravely wounded William Monroe with a “bean bag” shotgun loaded with live rounds. That incident happened in 2011 and the prosecution is still pending. In light of the grand jury verdicts in Ferguson, MO and Staten Island, NY, the lack of prosecution for officers involved in deadly force should be taken very seriously by your office.

We thank you again for your attention to this matter.

dan handelman
Portland Copwatch

**-new information since October.

(more)

NOTES:

(A) Explanation of data other than shootings by Oregon law enforcement (or not in Oregon) resulting in injury or death:

—Shootings with no hits are included because the officer(s) intended to injure or kill the suspects, so the incidents should be tracked as deadly force anyway and investigated as attempted homicides.

—Incidents involving federal agencies within Oregon’s borders should be of concern to the State.

—The incident near Lincoln City in 2014 in which an officer using a patrol car struck a suspect who was on foot should be counted as deadly force, especially since the suspect ended up in critical condition.

—An incident in Wishram, Washington involved deadly force by a plainclothes officer from The Dalles.

(B) Breakdown of incident data:

—By location (110 incidents in Oregon): 25 [24] in Portland, 9 in Salem, 6 in Hillsboro, 6 in/near Medford [4], 5 in Aloha, 3 in Fairview, 3 in Gresham, 2 in Eagle Point, 2 in Pendleton [1], 2 in Klamath Falls [1], 2 in Beaverton [1], 2 in McMinnville [1], 2 in/near Silverton, 2 in/near The Dalles, 2 in Tigard, and 1 each in or around Albany [0], Bethany, Boring, Brownsville, Clackamas County, Cornelius, Elgin, Eugene, Gladstone, Grants Pass [0], Happy Valley, Hermiston, Hubbard, Lakeview, Lincoln City, Madras, Molalla, Mt. Angel, Myrtle Creek, North Albany, Oakridge, Ontario, Oregon City, Redmond, Roseburg, Scappoose, Sisters, Springfield, St. Helens, Talent, Warren, Winchester Bay [0], Woodburn, Yachats and Yamhill County.

—By county: 31 in Multnomah [30], 17 in Washington [16], 13 in Marion, 9 in Jackson [7], 7 in Clackamas, 3 in Columbia, 3 in Douglas [2], 3 in Lane, 3 in Umatilla [2], 3 in Yamhill [2], 2 in Benton [1], 2 in Deschutes, 2 in Klamath [1], 2 in Lincoln, 2 in Linn, 2 in Wasco, and 1 each in Clatsop, Jefferson, Josephine [0], Klamath, Lake, Malheur, and Union.

—By agency: Portland Police (23 [22]-including 1 SERT), Oregon State Police (12 [11]-including 1 SWAT), Salem Police (8), Washington County Sheriffs (8-including 1 TNT), Hillsboro Police (6), Marion County Sheriffs (5), Clackamas County Sheriffs (5-including 2 SWAT), Medford Police (4) [2], Fairview Police (3), Gresham Police (3), Jackson County Sheriffs (3), Beaverton Police (2) [1], The Dalles Police (2), Forest Grove Police (2), Klamath Falls Police (2) [1], and 1 each by Astoria Police, Benton County Sheriffs, Columbia County Sheriffs, Cornelius Police, Deschutes County Sheriffs, Douglas County Sheriffs, Eagle Point Police, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution [0], Elgin Police, Eugene Police, Gladstone Police, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety [0], Hermiston Police, Klamath County Sheriff’s Office [0], Lebanon Police, McMinnville Police [0], Milwaukie Police, Mt. Angel Police, Myrtle Creek Police, Newberg-Dundee Police, Ontario Snake River Corrections Officers, Pendleton Police, Silverton Police, Springfield Police, St. Helens Police, Tigard Police, Woodburn Police, and Yamhill Police; also two shootings by US Marshals and one off duty Federal Protective Service officer, and one which involved the Department of Justice and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms [new].