

To: Boards and Commissions Appointments Committee
From: Gretchen Bennett, Community Police Review Board staff liaison
Date: October 6, 2025 meeting
Subject: Criminal history in the appointment of CPRB members

Background:

The Community Police Review Board reviews unresolved complaints against the Salem Police Department. The Board advises the City Manager and the Police Chief.

Summary:

SRC 20I.020(d) states that Council shall consider several factors when appointing members, including that applicant's criminal history. Due to an oversight, the criminal history of prior applicants has not been reviewed when considering appointments. Staff conducted criminal history background checks on current seated members and current applicants. The criminal history for one currently seated member, Kyle Hedquist, includes a conviction for Aggravated Murder and Burglary. There is no other relevant criminal history to report.

Facts and Findings:

Kyle Hedquist was appointed to the Community Police Review Board in May, 2024 without a criminal history check having been conducted. Mr. Hedquist had been sentenced in 1995 to life without the possibility of release or parole. Oregon Governor Kate Brown commuted his sentence in 2022.

City Council shall consider criminal history among other factors in when appointment members to the Board. Those other factors include:

- Civic participation within the community;
- Residency within the city of Salem,
- Commitment to the goals of the Board,
- Demonstrated life experiences or training in cultural or ethnic diversity, and
- Any experience the individual has had with police officers in general, and the Salem Police Department in particular.

Mr. Hedquist's original 2024 application is attached. Please note: questions about criminal history were not included on the 2024 application. They appear in the attached version

because our software automatically updates older applications to match the current application format when they are downloaded.

Moving forward, reasons staff would provide a Do Not Appoint recommendation would include:

- Violent felony convictions at any time in the person's history,
- Being under investigation for a crime or has a criminal case pending,
- Any misdemeanor conviction within the last 3 years, and
- Other criminal history that gives reasonable concerns about the safety of others.