

**Speaker**

**Clean Verbatim Transcript**

Maria Cahill:

So one of the things that we're asking folks to do is please sign Oregon DA for the People platform as individuals. We can tell the government that this is important to us, and that we support the community-led process and these community-led demands and also that we support the power of the District Attorney to determine whether these to decline to prosecute and do a lot of other things that are within the discretionary powers of the District Attorney.

So that's a real easy ask and I'll email that out but there's also a bit.ly for that. So if you're familiar with bitlys, it's [spoken and spelled out=] bit.ly/ORDASIGN. Like "ORDA," Like sign the Oregon DA for the People Platform. "ORDASIGN."

So we are going to send the petition. There are over five hundred and fifty signatures when I looked like earlier this afternoon, of individuals. There are 23 organizations that have signed on in support of our petition to Billy J. Williams, who's the US attorney of Oregon that needs to be stopped from taking power from the local area.

So we will send that off to him tomorrow. We will be mailing that; I have no email for him. This is how mysterious this whole, and inaccessible, this whole process is. No one called me back to give me an email or help me at all, and I didn't tell them what I was doing.

I just like, "Can I have the email?" No, no one called back from a number of different offices and there's you know. So, we're going to mail that to print it out and mail it to him.

And we're trying to figure out the next target, the next thing that we're going to do to stop this power grab. Mike German had some great great guidance for us. So, I appreciate that. We are going to

start an amplify team to amplify the legislative priorities of Pacific Northwest Family Circle, because if we can't get justice for the Loved Ones, then we have to look in other areas, to at least stem the tide of police violence.

Families have put a lot of effort into our legislative priorities, and they've given, literally, they've given their Loved Ones unwillingly for this cause and have a lot of lived experience and knowledge.

So yeah, we need.. the first priority is punishing police. I'm going to open it up. Going to invite everybody to join us on video, and I want to just ask the Family Members if they have any additional thoughts that they want to add about this.

[Pause]

So, the family members in attendance today are April Sabbe, the wife of Loved One Remi Sabbe. Stephanie Babb, sister of Loved One Captain Brian A. Babb, and Mary Barbee, who is the cousin of Loved One Wesley Allen Barbee and the Mother of Loved One Melvin Lewis Dillon. I want to invite you all to speak if you have anything that you want to add. Any thoughts...

April Sabbe: I'll say something Maria. I wanted to [sound cuts out]

Maria:  
(03:53) We can't hear you April.

April: Is this...

Maria: Yeah, that's better

April: Okay. I wanted to thank Clayton and Mike for coming tonight and taking a time out of their day to spend with us and to tell their story and to help us understand your perspective and what you're experiencing.

I personally am not going to any of the protests. I'm absolutely afraid of the police and even just getting pulled over... I'm just deathly afraid of what an officer might think, and I might die, you know. So, I really appreciate your time, and I can't think of any questions for either of you right now.

But if I do, I will filter them through Maria and go that way. But I just wanted to say thank you for your time and for listening.

Stephanie Babb: What about Mary? Am I on? I can see the little green box around me right there. But I can't hear you. Can you hear me?

Maria & Mary: Yep.

Stephanie: Okay. I want a second that I want to really thank you guys for taking the time and being on here. This is the first time that we've done this in this kind of format, and it takes a little bit of time. Trying to get the information out because I know that all of us have such important things to say that I know people need to hear especially in these times. And, that you guys are on the front lines and you guys are doing the work that people like myself and I know other family members have a hard time doing because of what just April just said.

We are affected so viscerally, and, like Clay was saying, when you get arrested or you have things like that happen to you it is so traumatic. When you have a family member that's killed it, it affects you so much, and it never goes away.

You're always associated with that. And, Michael the information you have is immense. I can't... I really want to hear what Mary has to say, but I just want to put out there so I follow a lot of sites all over Oregon. I find that that's really important on both sides. And so when I say Patriots and protesters, I... the only reason I'm doing that... because y'all know where I lay on that side....

Stephanie:  
(06:51) There's been a lot of talk about arsons. And, since I've had, personally, had family members with their houses burned down and evacuated. And there's a lot of information out on the internet

right now about Antifa starting these fires. And, I want to say that there's absolutely, unequivocally, no confirmation. There's no proof.

THAT is not happening.

Okay, that's erroneous information that I want to stop right here, right now. Just the fact that people would even put that out there is so upsetting to me and that's why I'm addressing it.

I want to say that it doesn't matter. Once you start a catastrophic fire that affects so many, you've now relinquished your privilege to associate yourself with any political belief. You are now just a fucking arsonist.

So, and there has been, there are, I have proof that there have been fires started near Ashland and Medford by people, not anybody associated with Black Lives Matter or Antifa or anything else.

I know personally that the Black Unity, Black Lives Matter, the organizations here in Eugene, have done an amazing job putting money together and cards and going to the Red Cross Center and helping these people that have to be evacuated and I just my appreciation...

that's... that's where our activism comes in. It's not just protesting. It's really helping the community and that's what I find is so important, and that's why when we show up to a platform like this and talk about what's really going on.

This is what's important, is that we communicate this to everybody and everybody understands what's happening.

So sorry, I get a little emotional but....

Maria: [inaudible] Can you expand on why this narrative...

Speaker: Maria, your audio is hard to hear.

Maria: Can you expand on why this narrative of good protester bad protester narrative is so harmful for... for the movement and for the democracy? Could you hear me?

Stephanie: Who are you talking to? Me or...  
(09:25)

Maria: Mike or Clay. Anyone though really.

Mike German: So, it's an old tactic when there's protest, particularly protests against police department for the police leaders and government, state local government leaders to try to portray the protesters as outside agitators. And the reason is twofold.

One, to disempower the protesters themselves and the reason that they're coming out to protest to suggest the reason these people are here isn't really because they're concerned about police violence and being unaccountable, but because these mysterious outsiders have provoked them to act.

And, so it's not just to discredit the movement, but also to give the police a wider berth to use violence against the protest. Right? If people in the community that police are sworn to protect are protesting police violence and the police acknowledged that, it's hard to use violence against them.

But, if the police can convince the rank-and-file that this isn't the community you're sworn to protect... these are some... this outside force, however you want to frame it, if then gives the police license to use a higher degree of violence indiscriminately against those protesters, and of course, it's not surprising that that's the result that we see.

Maria: Anyone else want to comment on that question? [pause] Yeah, I thought that was a great answer too. Maybe Family Members could talk a little bit about what you think is the most important most effective way to end police violence. [pause] We've got our legislative priorities, right, we want to discipline police, but maybe we can expand on that.

Mary Barbee: Well, I'll just, I'll just say that I hadn't intended on saying anything tonight, but since Stephanie put me on the spot...[laughter]. The legislative procedures. That's the one thing I think needs to be really pushed and focused on, because until we get an over... an independent oversight committee to hold police accountable for

killing our Loved Ones, this is not going to change.

Mary:  
(12:22)

Just today another person's Loved One was killed in Dallas by the police officers. Of course, they fired four of them, but that doesn't change the fact, that doesn't bring that young man back, you know?

So, I think that I don't know what... what to do, but what we're doing right now: is to try to put forth the effort and addressing these issues and pushing it to the legislators so that we can try and get some laws passed to hold them accountable.

And just totally abolish qualified immunity, because that's that's what they use as their escape cover. They use that as the reason, you know that they fear for their lives.

Excuse me, but that's bullshit. You know, they have...they're armed and these people that they're killing. They don't have any arms, and even if they did, they could shoot him in the leg and disable them. They don't have to do a kill shot.

But, from what I understand now that that's the way that they're trained to do. It's... They're trained to kill, and that needs to change and I think that's about all I have to say.

Maria:

Thanks Mary. That was great.

April:

Yeah, and I want to just say right behind Mary that we gotta do something about qualified immunity. I'm all in for trying to reduce, you know broaden or get rid of qualified immunity. Change the law somehow.

Because there's just no accountability, There's no accountability on the part of police. I mean, they have carte blanche and, you know, listening to these protesters, it really just freaks me out, because all those officers have to do is just say, "oh I feared for my life" and they could kill you and... oh well

April:  
(14:33)

I mean just throw another body on the pile. I mean, they really don't care. There's no..... they have dehumanized all of us. I mean, I don't understand. Police are sworn to Serve and Protect, and

there are many police that think they're sworn to protect themselves, not the community.

The lines have been too blurred, and they've, they've lost sense of being human anymore. And like Mary says they're trained to kill. And it's... it's got to change. We've got to rise above the violence and be better. And change in the law seems to be the only way to... effective way to do it right now in this climate.

So, you know, that's where I'm at. Whatever we can do to change the laws to get people to start listening.

Mary: Not only that Stephanie. Let me expand on that too.

They use the excuses they feared for their lives. Right? Well, it was just brought to my attention to, let's use this phrase, if you fear for your life, let's... let us help you.

What can we do to make you less fearful of your life? And what is it that's causing you to be so afraid of that innocent individual that you're pointing that weapon at.

What is in your character? Are you... it's... Are you using steroid drugs or you on amphetamine, something that's giving you that paranoid fixation in your mind that you have to fear from that person that you're killing right now, or that is running away from you?

Seemab Hussaini:  
(16:39)

It's almost... it's almost like a projection.

Mary: Yes. So what, I mean, that's why qualified immunity needs to be either abolished or different set of code of... their codes need to change.

They, I mean, they're not on a war field. They're not in the military. They're surveilling civilians. These are civilians.

What makes you think you have to be militarized to go in communities of civilians and act according to a military stance?

You're not at war. This is not a war zone you're in, but when you go out you create these.

You... they are the reason, the police are the reason that these things escalate, because I've *seen* it, peaceful protest. And as soon as the police come they instigate, and then they use the fact that if you say something to them that they don't like, you're resisting arrest, and they start becoming violent towards you. I don't get that.

Seemab: Yeah, if I can even just complement Mary, you know, and including April, what April is saying. Currently, right now, in the state of Oregon we have in our legislature a Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force and they have 4 LCs that they're currently pushing...

Maria: Legislative Concepts

Seemab: Yes, Legislative Concepts. Thank you. Regarding, you know, what policing looks like and that's the start. Right? And, one of them also being a legislative concept behind qualified immunity.

Now, what's happening right now is that there isn't enough of us getting in and participating and amplifying and pushing the boundaries of which they're currently... they're drafting. Right?

We want more out of it, and what they are currently getting, en masse, is pushback against it. More of it, and it's... it's... almost... it's... What happens is that there's folks out here who the reason why we are sitting and living within laws and structures that actually protect police more and more as time goes by, and these structures are continually being built to protect them and save them from accountability rather than actually holding them in accountability is because that has been the power of white privilege.

That has been the access that the white voter has had and has been protected with and what it is, is that, you know, we need our white allies and our Black, Brown, and Indigenous bodies to be able to find ways to be able to overcome some of the hurdles that we have... that we have to deal with socioeconomically in life and



find a way to basically civically engage in this process. And, we are getting close.

I don't want to say that we're getting there. But, I, you know, the fact that we have a POC commission, you know. We have a joint committee on transparent policing and use of force. We have this there. They're trying to have this conversation.

If we can encourage a way to be able to be present and push harder with the things that they're currently trying to legislate for us to hopefully protect us, then that'd be a great start.

Mary: But, that being said they're killing us before we get the opportunity to do that. [Pause]

Stephanie: I can take a minute here. There's a second.  
(20:53)

So, one of these things that we need to recognize whether it's a civilian oversight review board or anything else has is that if they don't have the power to do anything, they're called suggestions. That's a PowerPoint presentation. They don't have to do anything.

So, there's another point here is that to protect and serve is a slogan, not a job qualification. So, if you want to know something about policing, you need to look where they don't show you. You need to look at what you can't see right there.

You look at the 1033 program, and there's your defunding. Look at Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman.

Look up Killology. You want to see what they believe, that's what they believe. That's how they have no hesitation to kill you, because that plays in qualified immunity. Qualified immunity is an antiquated, arbitrary, vague law that needs to be abolished. That's what needs to be abolished.

Mary: Yeah.

Seemab: I do want to say that the 1033 program, the federal 1033 program is free money. There's... you can't defund what's free, but yes, making sure we're highlighting these.  
(21:59)

- Stephanie: You can, you can deny it.
- Seemab: Yes, we need to be able to highlight these particular programs as well. This free money that's given to Mayberrys to militarize them. Right?
- I mean the smallest towns with like a cop, a sheriff, are getting militarized equipment, you know, imagine what free equipment the big ones get.
- Stephanie: Yeah, let's make this really clear. My brother, a veteran, had... he was on the phone with his VA therapist, and she called to do a well check.
- They brought in... they brought in *SWAT*. Put snipers on his roof, and brought in a BearCat [armored vehicle]. He was dead 45 minutes later. He didn't have a weapon in his hands. He came to his front door to tell him to get the fuck off his property, because he had every goddamn right to do so.
- So, when you have somebody who's military knows what their rights are and you have police being given militarized equipment and weapons and everything else and not have the training, that's when you get the problems that we have, and that's when we get people killed, because they don't know what the hell they're doing, and they don't care.
- Mary: They become Rambo. [pause] Yeah, you're right. Absolutely.
- Seemab: I actually... so I don't remember exactly how old I was. I believe I was about 17 or 18 years old when Mary's grandson was killed, and it was right down the street from where I lived in Inglewood.
- (23:21)
- And I remember most of the community organizing happened at our barber shop "In the Cut" and, and I remember just participating in, kind of listening into like understanding like us trying to break down the community response. You're talking about in the late 90's, the late 90's when this police force approached this young man, fully militarized, and took him down without question. You know, killing him as instantly as they could.

Mary: Excuse me, Seemab, that was my cousin.

Seemab: Your cousin. That's right. Your cousin.

Mary: Yeah.

Stephanie:  
(24:12) And a lot of the militari... militarization and everything else started with the protests when you were talking about the environmentalists. That's why you're talking about the 90's. So you're talking about ELF and the beginning of this started here in Eugene and moved up through Portland to Seattle, WTO.

So, there's a history here, right? There's a history. These cops are learning how to do this, how to attack protesters, the, the agitators and everything else, the information they're putting out there.

I mean, there's arsons out there, and they're claiming that we are doing this. What the *hell*? I mean seriously, like why, what... I'm... going to quit with that, I'm sorry.

Mary: I'll turn it, that's their motives. They... it's deflection.

It's a try to deflect from them and put the blame, place the blame somewhere else, because we are becoming voiceful. We are becoming more involved in what they are doing. So they have to... it's a deflection.

Seemab: Well, I think Maria, Maria's mic is not working too well right now, but I think she's also signaling that we're out of time.

Mary: Okay. Sorry.

Seemab: No, no worries. We had a flow...

Mike:  
(25:38) And if I can just add one thing, you know, there are federal oversight mechanisms and in fact on the 15th, there's going to be a hearing in the House Government Oversight Committee on white supremacists and law enforcement. So, look for that, and I think that will be an important start to recognize that you do have people that you can go to in the federal government, as well.

- Mary: Thank you, Michael. I appreciate your being here. I do want to do that, but I wanted to get that at that gentleman's name. Was it Michael?
- Mike: Michael Horowitz is the US Department of Justice Inspector General. He has already got an investigation into the U.S. Marshals' conduct during the Portland protest that was requested by U.S. Attorney Billy Williams.
- So I would urge you to copy the Inspector General on the letter to Billy Williams and the Justice Department's oversight of justice department lawyers is through their Office of Responsibility, Office of Professional Responsibility, which is in Washington DC.
- So if you copy, those are the oversight entities for what the US attorney is doing, and they'll be interested in knowing what the local concerns are.
- Mary: Thank you so much. I appreciate that.
- Stephanie: Now barely. I can't hear you. Yeah, she's saying thank you, big hearts, and you guys have been fantastic. I am... (27:13)
- Seemab: And jazz hands.
- Stephanie: Yeah. Yeah, so proud of us.
- This is great, and we need to keep this conversation going, and I'm hoping that we can do this again. Your guys' information is invaluable.
- And you know, I think Michael said it, one of you guys said something fantastic, which is... is we need to get this information out, and we need to start... Mary said it... and we need to unite and just keep this conversation going and keep educating people.
- You guys are awesome. I love my Family.
- Seemab: Also, just to let everybody know, I got a note saying that to let everybody know, all the listeners know, that we will get these comments from Mike transcribed as well.

Link to Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDxaI7bs9gQ>

Subtitle file: FedPowerGrab-Discussion1.srt & FedPowerGrab-Discussion2.srt

Mary: Thank you. Love you all.

Seemab: Love you too.

Madeline Carroll: Thanks so much everyone.

Clay Adkerson: Thank you.