



OFFICE OF  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement from Commissioner Chloe Eudaly on the Portland Police Bureau's Text Messages**

**PORTLAND, OREGON, February 15, 2019** - In November, during the debate over Mayor Wheeler's then proposed Protest Ordinance, I asked the following questions (among others):

- 1) Portlanders have sustained countless injuries at the hands of the Portland Police Bureau. I can't recall of any instances of protestors from Proud Boys or Patriot Prayer being seriously injured by police. Is this accurate? If so, how do you explain this?
- 2) Can the Portland Police Bureau explicitly and unequivocally state that Patriot Prayer, Proud Boys, and similar alt-right, white supremacist gangs are a significant threat to our public safety?
- 3) During the August 4 protest, my understanding was there were weapons check-points because of the threat of gun violence. Yet, media reports indicate that the Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer were able to breeze by these check-points. Can you explain what happened? Why was no one arrested?

While I received answers to most of my questions, I was unsatisfied with many of the responses. I expected a firm declaration opposing white supremacy and alt-right hate groups, and I believe Portlanders expected that as well.

Just this week, during our evaluation of Portland's involvement in the Joint Terrorism Task Force, I questioned federal officials as to whether the FBI has committed enough resources to investigate right-wing and white nationalist extremists who were responsible for 100% of extremist fatalities in 2018. I was unsatisfied with their response as well, and it directly informed my vote to leave the JTTF.

The reporting done by Katie Shepherd at the Willamette Week and Alex Zielinski at the Portland Mercury confirms what many of us have suspected: there is an inappropriate relationship between some PPB members and Patriot Prayer. We have yet to find out the full extent of all relationships that exist and policy violations that have been committed.

I fully support Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's call for PPB to receive the training designed by the Western States Center and for an independent investigation into collaboration between members of the Portland Police Bureau and white supremacist and right-wing extremist groups and individuals. I also call for District Attorney Underhill to take swift action on the matter of policy violations and the rise of white supremacist violence.

This revelation has only served to confirm suspicions and deepen the divide between the PPB and the community. All members of our police bureau must follow our rules and uphold our progressive values, not aid and abet groups and individuals bent on doing harm to our communities and responsible for terrorizing our city.