

## The Oregonian

### Portland must be done with punk fascists: Editorial Agenda

*By The Oregonian Editorial Board*

*May 5, 2017*

The May Day rally on Monday was only an hour into its march through downtown before Portland police shut it down, citing vandalism and threats from so-called anarchists. And within 20 minutes, anarchists started a fire at the intersection of Southwest 4th Avenue and Southwest Morrison Street. Piled-up green and blue plastic news boxes and white commercial signs ignited quickly, erupting into orange flames and sending up a thick plume of black smoke.

Before nightfall, a few storefront and office windows were broken, restaurant tables and chairs were dragged into the street, projectiles were thrown at police, and flash bang grenades were launched by police in riot gear. Twenty-five arrests were made. Earlier in the day, a few businesses had closed, fearing violence; and dozens of on-the-clock office workers were sent home so as not to be marooned after hours. Who could know how things would go?

If this sounds familiar, not to mention stupid and costly, you're right. Last November, masked and bat-wielding anarchists joined an otherwise peaceful march by 4,000 against the election of Donald Trump and in one short hour trashed storefronts in the Pearl District. For an uncertain 20 televised minutes, as unseen police mobilized a response, the anarchists showed Portland they really could hold the city by its throat.

If you are asking what they want, you'd be in wide company. But some things do seem clear.

In an apparent rage against The Man, they seek not to cultivate public sympathy or take a social stand but instead to derive power from destruction. It is oxymoronic for an anarchist to espouse no cause while mooching off the publicly stated causes of others assembled legally. On May Day in Portland, an estimated 50 organizations had banded together and obtained a city permit to march in support of immigrants and workers everywhere, and they were joined by rallies worldwide. But anarchists became disrupters who, like parasites hungry for a host, latched onto citizens exercising their rights to public assembly. In doing so they revealed a clear purpose: to menace and control.

The police were waiting. While some might argue their action to halt the march and make arrests was too frontal and harsh, the reality is that anarchists harshly trammel upon constitutionally warranted public assembly. They have nothing to do with democracy. They have nothing to do with work and equity, either, as their obstructionism robs wages from workers and costs employers and taxpayers. Their actions - conducted anonymously but brutally - show them to be punk fascists.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, in an interview with The Oregonian/OregonLive Editorial Board, said he has worked with the Portland Police Bureau to set boundaries. In the November march, it was to protect against gridlock by ensuring protesters would not block bridges or highways - but things went crazy in the Pearl. On Monday, police were instructed to protect against gridlock but also to act swiftly at the first signs of vandalism or threat.

"We've set clear standards and expectations," Wheeler said, adding: "There will be zero arrests if there are zero incidents of vandalism or violence."

But Wheeler was flummoxed about the goals of the anarchists. He said that if he could ask them anything, face to unmasked face, it would be: "What are you trying to accomplish?"

The arrested on Monday were unmasked as: Ayden Michael Foster-Wysocki, Madhab Pulle, Tyler Hans Larsen, Luis Marquez, Grahme Meneses, Jace Anthony Willis, Corey Daniel Joe, Brianna Borgen, Rachel Visco, Phoebe Loomis, Michell Korin Myers, Rylie Wolff, Lucy Elizabeth Smith, Glenn Allen Silbersdorff, Christopher Fellini, Frank Martinez, Ian Lawrence Henderson, Javier Ivan Reyes, Dan Edward Wright, Jeff Richard Singer, Taylor James Evans, John Barton Elliott and three unnamed minors.

Legitimate protesters in this city, not to mention all of Portland, deserve to know more than names. Each of the arrested is invited to state in one sentence or paragraph what anarchists are trying to accomplish and to send the statement, signed with a telephone number for identity confirmation, to: [Letters@oregonian.com](mailto:Letters@oregonian.com) All responses will be published here.

This is not to lend voice to cowards but instead to inform civic conversations ahead about public protest and what it means to live in a free society.

Portland's celebrated tolerance may have, over time, enabled the anarchists. But no more. The Portland police got it right on Monday and will continue to view public assembly as a feature of democracy that needs protection and threats to it swift, consequential response.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Tensions Over Ted Wheeler's Homelessness Budget Spill Into Public Meeting**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
May 4, 2017*

Dissatisfaction over Mayor Ted Wheeler's [inaugural budget](#) spilled out into a tense—albeit courteous—public hearing Wednesday, as Wheeler faced questions about money he's proposing to spend on the city's homelessness crisis.

As we [noted in this week's paper](#), Wheeler's budget proposes putting \$25 million toward the city/county Joint Office of Homeless Services, the same amount that Multnomah County has proposed spending.

It's more cash than the office had last year, but because several million is restricted by state law in how it can be used, the homeless services office has suggested that \$50 million isn't enough to maintain services.

In fact, in an April 21 memo [[PDF](#)] [first reported](#) on by Willamette Week, JOHS Director Marc Jolin suggested that the office might have to cut "ongoing and temporary shelter capacity" and "programs that provide housing placement from the streets and shelter" if the city didn't pony up an additional \$2.6 million.

"Without the City's contribution," he wrote, "we will not lose all the available capacity, but we will have to close some existing year-round shelters for women, DV, or families, and/or not open temporary low-barrier shelter for vulnerable adults."

That set an interesting stage Wednesday, when both Wheeler and Kafoury showed up to a meeting of the coordinating board for A Home For Everyone, the community task force that's been strategizing on how best to fight homelessness.

At the meeting's outset, Wheeler immediately broached the subject of the budget, saying "we matched the county dollar for dollar in terms of our contribution."

It wasn't enough to stave off questions: Would shelter beds really be jeopardized by the city budget? Wheeler suggested the group was getting ahead of itself, saying the budget hadn't even been voted on.

"It's my understanding that then we get to decide how those resources get allocated," he said. "Am I right or am I wrong?"

Michael Buonocore, executive director of county housing authority Home Forward, pressed, saying: "The question of a reduction in shelter beds is definitely on folks' minds."

And Kafoury added: "My budget actually proposed going above and beyond last year's funding. It's not really apples to apples to talk about it in the way it's been described."

The central difference between the county's position and the city's—at least right now—is how homeless cash should be dolled out. When the two governments began pooling cash to fend off the homelessness and housing emergency in 2015, Portland put in a larger initial chunk of cash than Multnomah County.

From the county's vantage, that allocation should serve as a baseline, and each government should match the other's increases in funding (a scenario which would mean the city is always spending more). Kafoury's budget includes \$3.2 million more for homelessness than the county spent last year.

The city is more inclined to think that each jurisdiction is responsible for an equal annual stake, which gets to Wheeler's pointing out several times yesterday that he'd proposed spending just as much as Multnomah County (his budget includes around \$400,000 more than former Mayor Charlie Hales offered up initially last year). The mayor also is proposing spending more money on "campsite clean-ups" a term which can mean both refuse collection and forcing campers to move along.

"The ask was \$50 million," he said. "I presumed that ask was to do the things we need to do. I'm confused why... before we've allocated the budget, why we're already talking about what basic services we're not going to provide. Something is flawed here."

He continued: "Once the money's in the pot, then we get to have a conversation about how to spend it right... To be honest, I'm not seeing a narrative other than one that's sharply negative."

Then Wheeler got a touch negative himself. He noted that nearly a third of his proposed spending for the Homelessness Office—\$8 million—is "one-time" money not guaranteed to be available next year, and called the debate over funding "city-county budget poker."

"I want to make sure we're not building a house of cards here and setting unrealistic expectations," he said.

To which Kafoury replied that much of the county's proposed portion of the homelessness money was already recurring, "ongoing" cash.

"We made some really tough decisions this year, and took some of the money that last year was one-time only and converted it into ongoing," she said. "We did make tough cuts."

The conversation over how much to spend on one of the city's most pressing issues is already important, but it's likely to take on a bit more urgent tone before the budgets are said and done. At some point this month, the county's expected to release the latest "official" homeless count—the best measure of how well Portland's dealing with the issue, albeit an imperfect one.

As we [wrote in a 2015 story](#), A Home For Everyone had set forth a strategy—paid for by the city and county—for slashing 2015's homeless figures in half by this year. Essentially no one expects that to happen.