

The Oregonian

Civil rights groups criticize police response to May Day protest

By Samantha Matsumoto

May 10, 2017

Local civil rights groups, in a letter sent Wednesday to Mayor Ted Wheeler, criticized Portland police's tactics during last week's [May Day protest](#), saying the response was "confusing, swift and by all accounts, escalated a predominately peaceful march."

The letter, written by the ACLU of Oregon, the National Lawyers Guild and Lawyers for Good Government, called police response to the protesters "adversarial" and said it "jeopardize(ed) the safety and civil rights of Portland residents." Based on accounts from legal observers and march organizers, the groups said the police, not the protesters, caused the demonstration to become violent.

"It is clear very little property destruction or violence occurred before PPB canceled the march permit," the letter said.

This contrasts sharply with Portland police's account. Ninety minutes into the May 1 march, police declared it was a riot after they said some in the crowd threw rocks, full soda cans, road flares and smoke bombs at officers. Anarchists also threw at least one Molotov cocktail, a police spokesman said in an email.

Officers used flash-bang grenades after they declared the march illegal. Demonstrators lit a fire in the middle of a downtown street and vandalized downtown buildings and a police car.

Police eventually arrested 25 people. Most [were released the next day](#) as prosecutors wait to file charges until police finish investigating.

[Organizers said](#) the march was peaceful, with the exception of a small group of people in the back. Many organizers witnessed no violence from demonstrators and were confused and scared by a police response they called abrupt and violent.

The letter echoed many of organizers' complaints. It said police actions created tension before the march began by confiscating signs with sticks, then intimidated demonstrators after they started marching by lining both sides of the sidewalks. Then, the letter said, police suddenly announced the march's permit had been revoked and, a few minutes later, anyone in the street would be arrested.

Police said last week that violence forced them to revoke the march's permit.

"This one got unruly pretty quick," Portland Police Chief Mike Marshman said May 2. "We were afraid we couldn't protect the permitted marchers so the incident commander made the decision to shut it down. And, the only way we could do that was with our loudspeaker system."

Michael Cox, a Wheeler spokesman, on Wednesday called the violence at the march "unfortunate."

"It is unfortunate that a day dedicated to honoring the contributions of workers and immigrants was co-opted by people whose objective was violence and property damage, and it's disappointing that this pattern of events has become the norm," Cox said in a text. "As a community, we have to continue to respect the right to free assembly while rejecting violence and vandalism."

Read the entire letter below.

The Portland Tribune

Council subpoenas Uber over evasion software

By Jim Redden

May 10, 2017

The City Council voted unanimously to subpoena the Uber ride-sharing company for documents related to a software program it reportedly used to evade regulation before being approved to operate in town.

Use of the so-called Grayball software was first reported by the New York Times after the council had approved regulations allowing Uber and similar companies like Lyft to do business in Portland.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman told the council Uber had refused to turn over requested documents concerning the software and policies for its use during a Portland Bureau of Transportation investigation launched after the news report. No one representing Uber testified.

For a previous Portland Tribune story on the issue, visit tinyurl.com/myxwvx9.

The Daily Journal of Commerce

Portland Development Commission rebrands itself as Prosper Portland

By Chuck Slothower

May 10, 2017

The Portland Development Commission is rebranding itself as Prosper Portland.

The move to change the agency's public face, along with the tagline, "Building an equitable economy," comes as it embraces racial-justice and equity goals.

"We're rebranding to really embrace what we do," Shawn Uhlman, the agency's spokesman, said in an interview.

The PDC is seeking to expand opportunities for women- and minority-owned contractors and atone for mistakes made in gentrifying Portland's historical neighborhoods of color.

"There's a recognition that there's a challenging history, and a recognition that that history should be a foundation for doing better, and doing better at doing good," Commissioner Alisha Moreland-Capuia said.

The Portland Development Commission's name comes with "baggage," Uhlman told PDC commissioners on Wednesday.

A redesigned website is part of the rebranding. New materials that reflect the Prosper Portland branding will cost about \$10,000.

The agency was created in 1958 as the Development and Civic Promotion Department. The city agency will still officially be chartered as the Portland Development Commission, and remain in the development business in East Portland neighborhoods and areas such as the Broadway corridor – the 14-acre U.S. Postal Service property that is targeted for redevelopment.

The Prosper Portland rebranding is part of a five-year strategic plan adopted in 2015.

Commissioner Gustavo Cruz Jr. said he's "excited about the change."

"It's a much warmer and less bureaucratic-sounding name," he said.

Commissioner Mark Edlen said the PDC is moving in the right direction under Executive Director Kimberly Branam.

"We really feel a shift in focusing on social equity and prosperity across the board," Edlen said.

The PDC's board on Wednesday voted unanimously to approve a resolution to adopt the new communications strategy.

The Portland Business Journal

Portland City Council backs Timbers/Thorns stadium expansion

By Andy Giegerich

May 11, 2017

Portland's City Council has signed off on the proposed dramatic expansion of Providence Park.

As KGW, a news partner of the Portland Business Journal, reports, [the Council voted unanimously](#) to back the project and to waive the ticket tax it would charge on the extra 4,000 seats. The ticket tax is paid as part of the Portland Timbers and Thorns operating agreement for the stadium.

The teams have said the expansion is necessary to accommodate more fans. The Timbers have a 13,000-fan waiting list for season tickets.

The \$50 million project would be privately funded. The teams are also exploring ways to change a good neighbor agreement negotiated with Goose Hollow residents.

The work, which would effectively add four tiers to the stadium's east side, could be completed in time for the 2020 season.

City of Portland escalates fight with Uber

By Malia Spencer

May 10, 2017

The Portland City Council wants more answers from Uber regarding the company's Greyball technology.

The Council voted unanimously to issue a legislative subpoena requesting information and documents related to software used to evade city regulators in 2014.

Once the city attorney issues the subpoena, the company will have three days to respond or comply.

The council action stems from revelations in March that Uber used the Greyball software to evade city regulators. Uber began operating in Portland prior to the city's formal approval, [setting off a chain reaction](#) that included city regulators citing Uber drivers. The Greyball program helped the company avoid those regulators, [according to a March story in the New York Times](#).

The city requested all documents related to that technology as part of any investigation into the San Francisco-based company. The move was part of the city's effort to enforce regulations and perform company audits. The city was unsatisfied with the company's response.

Commissioners [Nick Fish](#) and [Dan Saltzman](#) requested the city attorney issue a subpoena for the documents and records related to the Greyball software. The commissioners want to see if the company used the technology to avoid certain neighborhoods or customers who are deemed less profitable.

Understanding the software and the so-called "playbook" around it is needed for the city to be able to enforce regulations, according to Saltzman. He noted the city's audit of transportation network companies, including Uber, did not show the software is still being used but the information is needed to fully assess the company's work in town.

Once the Council has all the information requested from the company, it will be able to revise the code to better regulate all the transportation options in town.

"This is about getting at the facts and ensuring that our public is being served in a sage and sound manner and regulators have the ability to do their job to protect public safety and ensure all riders have access to these services," Saltzman said.

Uber didn't immediately have a response to the council's action.

During the Council testimony, Chief Deputy City Attorney Ben Walters noted that the city is cooperating with the U.S. Attorney in California and the city won't jeopardize that legal process. Last week it was reported that the Department of Justice is [investigating the company as well](#).

The Council will also take up code changes surrounding other so-called sharing economy businesses not related to ride hailing, specifically short-term rentals.

"I have had ongoing concerns with Uber and other sharing economy platforms rolling into town flouting local laws and seeing what they can get away with and how far they can push local government," said Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. "I think it's time for us to show them how we can push."

The Skanner

Mayor Launches Online Survey to Find Next Police Chief

By Mayor of Portland

May 11, 2017

Please help me get the word out about an important opportunity to have your voice heard as we embark on a national search for our next Police Chief.

I have just launched an online survey on my website. The purpose of the survey is to provide opportunity for community input around the desired qualifications for this key leadership position. The link below will take you to the survey.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/omf/PoliceChiefSurvey>

We hope that you will help us get the word out in regard to this opportunity to provide input. The survey will be available online through June 12.

Thank you for your participation and support in this important process.

Sincerely,
Mayor Ted Wheeler