

## The Oregonian

### Portland's Resistance wants peaceful protest and justice reform (Guest opinion)

*By guest columnists Gregory McKelvey, Courtney Roma and Elliott Young  
May 21, 2017*

Oregon Republican Party Chair Bill Currier's guest opinion ("[It's not Trump or Republicans; Portland has a riot problem](#)," May 6) demonstrates that he knows little about the history of American protest and even less about the Constitution or the free speech rights it enshrines. His assertions that protesters are domestic terrorists for whom incarceration "isn't enough" suggests a draconian response to what is a basic constitutional right.

Portland's Resistance does not advocate property destruction or any type of violence but we do believe in the right to peaceful assembly and protest. In contrast, Currier uses the acts of a few individuals as an excuse to suspend the constitutional right to peaceful free expression by thousands of Portlanders. Currier's extremist views would lead us down the path of totalitarianism where all protest will be subject to brutal repression. Is that our vision of Portland?

Portland's Resistance is not only a protest group. We have also developed comprehensive policy proposals for criminal justice reform. While Currier advocates throwing peaceful protestors in jail, we push for ending mass incarceration. We call for ending mandatory minimum sentencing and the decriminalization of low-level offenses such as jaywalking and spitting in public; the enforcement of which does nothing to make our city safer and is disproportionately levied against people of color. Such broken windows policing leads directly to mass incarceration. While the Republican Party under Currier opposes Portland's sanctuary status, we advocate for strengthening it and making it meaningful so that immigrant families do not live their lives in a constant state of fear. We also recognize that immigrant communities cannot have "sanctuary" here while our law enforcement continues to target them for low-level crimes that will ultimately be used by the Trump administration as a pretext for deportation.

Our Policy Workgroup has developed [a justice-based agenda of reforms](#) that can be enacted in Portland.

There is a lot we can do right here at home to decrease incarceration and restore justice to our criminal (in)justice system, from demilitarizing our police and deescalating responses to protests to ending our failed war on drugs.

In contrast to Currier and Oregon Republicans, Portland's Resistance is encouraged by the huge number of Portlanders who are becoming directly engaged in our political system, many of them for the first time. We believe in a progressive Portland that can make strides even under a deplorable and increasingly authoritarian federal administration. The nation is looking to communities like ours to be beacons of light providing positive, progressive, alternatives to the racism and xenophobia that characterizes the Trump administration.

Our time is now Portland. Resist, organize, and build the city that embodies our ideals.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City's 10th annual Sunday Parkways event kicks off**

*By Lyndsey Hewitt*

*May 20, 2017*

Portland's 10th annual Sunday Parkways program kicked off Sunday, May 21, with a seven-mile route around inner Southeast Portland.

The ride highlighted four Portland parks, including Laurelhurst, Ivon, Colonel Summers and Sewalcrest parks. There were a number of events at each park stop, including games, food and music, bike vendors and more.

The event is a program of the Bureau of Transportation that closes streets to cars so that pedestrians and cyclists can experience the neighborhood from a different perspective.

There are several events throughout the year, including in North Portland on June 2, Northeast Portland on July 23, Outer Northeast Portland on Aug. 20, and Sellwood-Milwaukie on Sept. 24.

According to the parkways' annual report, 2016's Sunday Parkways events saw 73,600 total participants.

The program aims to get 70 percent of Portlanders active by 2035, and promotes lowering citizens' reliance on cars.

The first Sunday Parkways event was held in June 2008 with 15,000 participants.

For maps and more information, visit [www.PortlandSundayParkways.org](http://www.PortlandSundayParkways.org) or call 503-823-7599.