

The Oregonian

Portland's Resistance no longer planning march to Mayor Wheeler's home

*By Everton Bailey
February 21, 2017*

The activist group Portland's Resistance no longer plans to [march to Mayor Ted Wheeler's home](#) Wednesday to protest [police handling of street demonstrations](#) with arrests, pepper spray and tear gas.

For the first time, the group had sought a city permit for its rally. But by Tuesday night, the city considered the permit request to be closed at the wish of its applicant, group leader Gregory McKelvey.

Mayoral spokesman Michael Cox said the parties couldn't agree on traffic safety precautions. McKelvey said, in a Twitter message, that he doesn't "agree with requiring police to facilitate a protest against police use of force."

The group was also planning to protest the mayor's decision not to relocate homeless encampment Right 2 Dream Too from Northwest Portland, the permit application said.

Wheeler responded Tuesday by asking Police Chief Mike Marshman and his command staff to "create a more positive space for expression and emphasize tactics that de-esclate tensions."

The mayor thanked officers for their work, which he described as often thankless and dangerous, but also calls for good judgment.

"Inevitably, mistakes will be made," Wheeler said in a statement. "It is my job as police commissioner to address them and make changes when necessary. This is one of those times."

Portland's Resistance requested an event permit Monday for a protest planned for 4 p.m. Wednesday near Portland City Hall followed by a march estimated to reach Wheeler's Southwest Portland home about a mile and a half away by 6 p.m. Neither will happen, McKelvey said.

McKelvey said he "was mostly trying to prove a point on the permit." The mayor, police chief and other city officials have repeatedly told protesters they must get event permits for demonstrations that occur in the street.

The march would have been the second time this week protesters trooped to Wheeler's house. A small group headed there Monday night and demanded the city separate from any companies with ties to the Dakota Access Pipeline construction, protested for months by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and others who fear a leak in the oil line could contaminate their drinking water.

Last year, protesters twice marched to Mayor Charlie Hales' Portland home. About 60 people [gathered last August](#) outside the then-mayor's home to protest clearing homeless campers along the Springwater Corridor. Demonstrators also [camped overnight in October](#) to protest police use of force against protesters who disrupted a City Council meeting over a new police contract.

Since November, police have arrested or cited more than 150 people, including at least a dozen teenagers, during anti-Trump protests. Some protesters initially [blocked Interstate 5 and 84](#) through downtown and have consistently taken to the streets downtown and on the east side, blocking rush-hour traffic, trains and buses.

Police have [responded in riot gear](#) and shot pepper spray balls, flash-bang grenades and tear gas to clear the streets. Among those arrested include demonstrators [accused of smashing cars and business windows](#). A 14-year-old is accused of attempted murder and an 18-year-old faces other charges in the [shooting of a protester on the Morrison Bridge](#) during an apparent traffic argument.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon has [called on police to change their crowd control tactics](#), calling them "shameful" Monday when officers used pepper spray and rubber bullets to quell a crowd outside the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building downtown.

Boots on the Ground PDX, a homeless advocate group, also criticized Monday's police response saying they support the First Amendment right to free speech and to assemble.

"The violence incurred against the venerable and vulnerable, and the arrests of those clearly protesting under the conditions of being on the sidewalk, is not only appalling, it is disheartening, as it looks like not only a continuation of the previous administration's failed policies, but an aggravated escalation," the group said in a statement.

Activists are planning to attend Wednesday's Portland City Council meeting. That demonstration isn't organized by Portland's Resistance.

A [Facebook event](#) advertising the demonstration says, "It's time that our collective condemnation of this Mayor is heard."

Willamette Week

Portland Is the 12th Worst City For Commuting In The Country

By Shannon Gormley

February 21, 2017

It's not just in your head: Portland traffic has gotten really bad.

[A study by INRIX](#) confirms how much our traffic sucks by ranking us as the city with the 12th worst commute in the country, and 40th in the world. That's out of 240 US cities and 1,064 worldwide.

The rankings were determined by average time spent in traffic per year, which for Portlanders was 47 hours in 2016. While that's not nearly as much as LA, the number one city on the list where the average time spent year was 104, it's a sharp increase from 2015 when we were the 86th worst city worldwide.

The study states that "population and economic growth alongside continued urbanization are the root causes of congestion." So it's not surprising that Portland placed so high on the list, considering that [Oregon's population growth last year was the highest it's been since the mid 90s](#).

Many of Portland's recent transportation infrastructure projects have been aimed at cyclists and public transit. Along with Tilikum Crossing and the new Orange Line, the Sellwood Bridge remodel added giant sidewalks and bike lanes on either side of the bridge without anymore motorist lanes. And of course there's BikeTown, the city's long awaited bike share.

Along with the financial implications of longer commutes [that the study points out](#), long periods of time spent in your car are also [harmful to your health](#). So while it's getting worse to get around the city by car, basically all your problems could be solved by getting a bike.

Anti-Trump Protest Group Asks for Permit to March to Mayor Ted Wheeler's House

By Rachel Monahan
February 21, 2017

Portland's Resistance, a group formed to protest President Donald Trump, is now seeking a permit to march to Mayor Ted Wheeler's house, after arrests Monday that the ACLU of Oregon described as "violence against peaceful protesters" and "shameful."

Portland's Resistance, which has not previously filed for permits with the city, is requesting official city approval to march to the mayor's house on Wednesday evening, according to a copy of the permit application, provided by organizer Gregory McKelvey.

McKelvey says he initially believed that the forceful police crackdown on the group's Jan. 20 protest weren't the mayor's fault, but the repetition a month later has changed McKelvey's views.

Now he wants to call the mayor out.

"He's perpetuating this idea we only get hurt or sprayed or physically beat because we don't have a permit," says McKelvey.

"It's entirely hypocritical because he protested at the airport"—referring to the day last month when [Wheeler joined McKelvey](#) for an unpermitted protest at PDX to protest Trump's Muslim and refugee ban.

McKelvey has asked the city to waive the permitting fees and has said on the application that the group does not want a police presence for a group.

"We probably won't get a permit to protest," he says. "It isn't [whether] we do or do not have a protest that causes the violence at the hands of the police."

Here's the email McKelvey sent to the city with his application for the March:

"We (Portland's Resistance) are requesting a permit to protest at Ted Wheeler's house. We are repeatedly told that the reason we are subjected to violence at peaceful protests is because we did not ask those who we are protesting for permission. So here it is: we are asking.

"We have no money for this so we ask that the extortion fee for our First Amendment rights be waived. We also ask that because this protest is in response to actions that

occurred today that this be handled in a timely manner as The First Amendment requires.

“Under Predator Trump, we need to be expanding First Amendment Rights not restricting them. As always, we will hold a peaceful event. We ask that the police not treat us as if we are rioters. We ask that riot police not be deployed. It is the police who bring violence to peaceful protests, not us. If we cannot use our rights to protest those in power, especially when they are ordering violence against us, then what good are they?”

The Portland Mercury

Mayor Ted Wheeler: Monday's Police Response To Trump Protest a "Mistake"

*By Doug Brown
February 21, 2017*

A day after Portland police [forcefully arrested 13 people](#) accused of standing in the street during a protest of President Donald Trump, Mayor Ted Wheeler, the police commissioner, [released a statement](#) acknowledging yesterday's police response was a "mistake."

Wheeler—who campaigned on a promise to "[actively demilitarize the police force](#)"—has overseen a handful of highly-criticized and suppressive police responses in his nearly two months in office, including [the January 20 Inauguration Day protest](#) where riot cops set off flash-bang grenades, shot less-lethal rounds, and set off tear gas at nonviolent protesters. Riot cops also [showed up for a march and vigil last week](#) for Quanice Hayes, the 17-year-old killed by a PPB earlier this month.

Yesterday saw more riot police downtown, making these arrests of nonviolent protesters:

Here's [what he had to say](#) about Monday's protest (actual comments addressing yesterday's protest bolded by the Mercury):

Portland is an amazing city with a very bright future. It also faces daunting challenges. I was elected to address many of the most difficult issues facing our city: homelessness, housing affordability, crumbling transportation infrastructure, police reform, and racial justice.

When President Trump took office, some of these challenges were exacerbated, and new ones – some terrifying – appeared: a proposed ban on Muslims entering our country; active deportation of our immigrant neighbors; approval of the Dakota Access Pipeline; threats to public education, health coverage, and environmental protection. While not all Portlanders agree with me on these issues, many do.

It is in this context that some Portlanders are protesting, joining others around the nation to ensure that their voices are heard. Portland has a strong history of activism and peaceful protest. But the message is being undermined because of ongoing tensions

between protesters and police. We cannot afford for this type of conflict to occur when we have so much other work to do in this city that requires us all to work together.

Upon taking office, I made it clear that I support the Constitutional right to assembly and free expression. I also set some common-sense boundaries that I would ask the police to enforce: no violence, no vandalism, no accessing highways or bridges (for the safety of everyone involved), and no blocking of the regional transit system.

Finding and maintaining an appropriate balance between assembly and order requires constant evaluation and recalibration. Democracy can be messy, that's a fact. But as of late, it's been far too messy here in Portland.

Last week we saw video of protesters in masks surrounding commuters in their vehicles brandishing sticks. That isn't good for democracy. Yesterday we saw images of a woman in her sixties injured during an arrest. That isn't good for democracy either.

I met with the Police Chief this morning – after thanking rank-and-file officers for the hard work they do day in and day out – and I shared my concerns with him. I asked the Chief and his command staff to help create a more positive space for expression and emphasize tactics that deescalate tensions.

Chief Marshman knows that I support the men and women in our police force. They do tremendous good in our community. The work that they do is dangerous and often thankless. The work requires long hours, quick thinking, and good judgement.

Inevitably, mistakes will be made. It is my job as Police Commissioner to address them and make changes when necessary. This is one of those times.

In the coming days the Chief and I will meet with concerned parties and members of the community to discuss how we can best reduce tensions moving forward. It is my expectation that policing in Portland will improve. I ran on a platform of police accountability and I intend to see it through.

The culture of protest locally and nationally will be with us for the foreseeable future. Portland can and should be an example of democracy done right. To get there we have some work to do, and we have to work together.