

## The Oregonian

# Portland Police to Halt, Purge All Gang Designations

By Maxine Bernstein

September 8, 2017

Portland police next month will end their more than 20-year-old practice of designating people as gang members or gang associates in response to strong community concerns about the labels that have disproportionately affected minorities.

The Police Bureau recognizes that the gang designations have led to "unintended consequences" and served as lifelong barriers for those who have shunned the gang lifestyle and tried to get jobs, said Acting Tactical Operations Capt. Andy Shearer.

A review by Oregonian/OregonLive reporter Carli Brosseau last year found that of the 359 "criminal gang affiliates" flagged in Portland's database as of last summer, 81 percent were part of a racial or ethnic minority. She obtained the list, names removed, only after appealing the city's attempt to keep it from public view.

Leaders from Black Male Achievement, former police Assistant Chief Kevin Modica and others have lobbied to end the designations.

"Gang violence isn't going to go away. There are still crimes attributed to known gang sets. There are still criminal gang members. That doesn't go away because we don't have a gang designation," said Capt. Mike Krantz, who helped spearhead the change. "We're not pretending gang violence doesn't exist. We're just taking this one thing away."

Krantz said Friday that the Police Bureau has considered ending gang designations for two years as gang enforcement officers met with parole and probation officers, community members and others to figure out the details. They recently got the approval of former Chief Mike Marshman and current Interim Chief Chris Uehara.

The move also comes as city auditors since last fall have closely examined the bureau's Gang Enforcement Team and its work.

Without a conviction, without an arrest, police can add a gang flag to someone's name in their database, putting that person on what amounts to a secret suspects list.

Police will send out letters to everyone on the gang list alerting them that the bureau will purge all documents related to the designations. The new policy will take effect Oct. 15.

"It takes courage for the bureau to take this step," said C.J. Robbins, program coordinator for Black Male Achievement.

He applauded Modica and others in the bureau who responded to his group's concerns and "acknowledged, 'Hey this is not OK.'"

"This is too long coming," said Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as the city's police commissioner. "It was the right thing to do."

Wheeler, who recently selected the first African American woman to serve as the bureau's new police chief, said the decision shows that city police are committed to rebuilding trust with the community.

The Oregonian/OregonLive review of the controversial gang affiliation database showed that police labeled someone a "criminal gang affiliate" more than 100 times each year, without a

conviction, without an arrest. Police were able to add someone to the list if the person self-identified as a member of a gang, participated in a gang initiation ritual, committed a gang-related crime or displayed two or more observable signs of gang membership.

Those labels would pop up as a red flag when officers ran someone's name on their mobile computer database. Nicknames, employers, schools, vehicles and associates were included in the gang designation reports.

Those reports and flags will no longer exist, Krantz said. Instead, police will record alleged criminal conduct, such as a person's past possession of guns or involvement in a shooting, which may pop up as a flag on a computer screen and still help alert officers to a potential threat.

Police said improved technology by the Oregon State Police and its crime lab, allowing officers to more rapidly compare shell casings or bullets recovered from scenes of shootings, has allowed officers to improve investigations and better track suspects or shootings without a need to identify people as members of a certain gang.

Kirsten Snowden, a Multnomah County chief deputy district attorney, said the change shouldn't affect prosecutions stemming from gang violence. Prosecutors still will have to present evidence through other means if they want to prove a certain crime was motivated by gang rivalries, for example.

Roberta Phillip-Robbins, executive director of MRG Foundation that works for social justice and against racial inequities, asked police what steps they're taking to get rid of "other forms of profiling?"

Shearer said officers are instructed and trained to focus on the crime not the person to investigate violent crimes.

The Gang Enforcement Team and its officers who respond immediately to investigate shootings or stabbings will continue in its role. This year, it has responded to 81 shootings, assaults or stabbings, a roughly 25 percent drop compared to the same period last year.

"There are still certain characteristics of gang-involved shootings," Krantz said. "Was there 30 shots and no one stuck around? Was it a drive-by shooting?"

Police are noticing more shots fired at each shooting. About 3:40 a.m. Tuesday, for example, a house that wasn't the intended target was sprayed with 28 gunshots and two more shots struck its front fence. Remarkably, no one was injured, police said.

With no state laws other than racketeering statutes that prohibit illegal activity by an organized criminal enterprise, police asked, "Why do we have gang designations?" Krantz said.

"What we're really investigating is the violent crime," he said.

Yet Krantz said some officers have expressed concerns about the decision, and how it will impact their work.

Choo Fair, who works as a mentor for Multnomah County probation and parole and is a former Bloods gang member, praised the move.

"It's a beautiful thing. They can no longer label anybody," he said.

He expects it also will affect county parole and probation officers, who sometimes find an offender in violation of their probation because they continued to hang out with known gang members.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Two Officers Injured, Seven Downtown Protesters Arrested**

*By Jim Redden*

*September 10, 2017*

Counter-demonstrators clashed with police after a conservative rally fizzled in downtown Portland on Sunday.

Police report that two officers were injured and seven people arrested by early afternoon. Police said they faced projectiles. They deployed at least one flash-bang device and pepper spray to disperse groups.

Before that, tensions flared in Tom McCall Waterfront Park on Sunday as a handful of demonstrations carrying American flags faced off against hundreds of counter-demonstrators, many dressed in black with the faces covered and chanting anti-fascist slogans.

The scene was just north of Salmon Springs Fountain, which conservative activist Joey Gibson of the Patriot Prayer organized had previously announced he would hold a large rally at 2 p.m. on Sept. 10. But Gibson switched the location to Vancouver on Saturday, although he said the "inner circle" of his organization would still appear near the waterfront in Portland.

Some of that group may have driven past the large group of counter-demonstrators in two Chevy pickups around 1 p.m. Both carried men dressed in dark clothes in the cabs and beds. A combined American-Confederate flag flew from the bed of the lead truck, a white Chevy Avalanche. It was not immediately clear if Gibson or any of his followers were in the trucks, however, because they did not stop but drove past the crowd to jeers and obscene gestures from those who saw them.

The Vancouver rally took place at the Port of Vancouver amphitheater on the Columbia River. Although some counter-demonstrators showed up, dozens of police stood between them and the Patriot Prayer ralliers. Neither group got close to the other, speeches were made, chants were yelled and the event ended with a round of media interviews.

Portland police were assisted by the Oregon State Police, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Protective Service, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, and Portland Fire & Rescue.

### **Police to Stop Designating Gang Members**

*By Jim Redden*

*September 8, 2017*

The Portland Police Bureau announced Friday that it will stop documenting people as gang members beginning on Oct. 15.

According to the police, the existing Gang Designation Policy was implemented more than 20 years ago when gun and gang violence rates had escalated dramatically in the city. It was developed to be an investigative tool to help police decrease escalating gun violence.

But, police say, as times have changed, the bureau, in partnership with community members, have realized being labeled a "gang member" can have a negative impact on the person who may be making attempts to overcome the life challenges they face. Today, new processes and

technologies allow police to investigate crimes in a manner that the community supports and that will not have the unintended consequences of potentially harming those who may need services and help the most.

When the policy is rescinded, the names of approximately 300 people who are currently designated on the list will be purged from the database. A directive regarding referrals to services for those who may be involved in gangs of violent gang related behaviors is currently being developed.

According to police, people who engage in violent crimes and those who do so on behalf of a criminal organization will continue to be a focus of bureau enforcement efforts. While enforcement and adjudication is an important component of stopping violence, providing meaningful services, community outreach, and relationship building is equally important.

The bureau says it strives to engage in each of those every single day in partnership with such partners as the Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP), the Multnomah County District Attorney's office, the US Attorney's office, Multnomah County Parole and Probation, the Oregon Youth Authority and many others.

## **Willamette Week**

### **Portland Mayor Vows Zero Tolerance for Violence at Sunday's Alt-Right and Antifa Showdown**

*By Katie Shepard  
September 8, 2017*

**Expect a heavy police presence at Sundays protests, a shift from the last two far-right protests where police stayed mostly out of sight.**

Mayor Ted Wheeler is vowing a zero-tolerance policy for violence at the protests planned for Sunday evening between far-right protesters and antifascist counter-protesters.

"We will not tolerate acts of violence," Wheeler says in a statement. "We will not tolerate vandalism. We will not tolerate criminal behavior."

The new hard-line approach is a shift away from the Portland Police Bureau's hands-off response to the last two protests organized by the Vancouver-based far-right group Patriot Prayer.

At a so-called "Freedom March" in early August, antifascist protesters in masks clashed with the far-right protesters, resulting in several bloody fist fights that left some people seeking medical treatment. Three individuals were charged with disorderly conduct, but police didn't intervene to stop the fights. Similarly, in June, police allowed small skirmishes between far-right activists and counterprotesters to fizzle out.

The change in approach comes after violent demonstrations in Berkeley, Calif. and Charlottesville, Va.

Portland police spokesman Chris Burley says in another statement on the protests that PPB will organize a "significant law enforcement presence, due to past threats and acts of violence between these different groups, both locally and nationally."

Police have barred a number of items that can be used as weapons from the public demonstrations on Sunday, including firearms, knives, sticks, bats, poles, rocks, fireworks, and

incendiary devices. Police have in the past used seizure of weapons as justification to detain protesters en masse.

PPB will be backed by a swath of law-enforcement agencies: Oregon State Police, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Protective Service, the United States Attorney's Office, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and Portland Fire & Rescue.

Here's Wheeler's full statement on the protests planned for Sunday:

“On Sunday, Portland will find itself – once again – in the middle of national events, as demonstrators and counter-demonstrators converge on our city. This is not the first set of demonstrations in Portland. This will not be the last. But how we conduct ourselves as a community will send a message about our city to the rest of the nation. “Portland rejects racism, bigotry, and xenophobia. We reject white supremacy. Messages of hate are not welcome in Portland. We have seen – far too often – how these words of hate can quickly turn to acts of violence. Portland also rejects violence. “Around the country, we’ve seen demonstrations that have involved arrests and illegal acts. My hope is that we are better than that. We can do it better. We can do it the Portland way. In Portland we celebrate diversity, we stand up for others, we promote unity, and we practice non-violence. “Over recent weeks, my office has worked closely with the Portland Police Bureau, as well as state, local and federal officials, on plans to protect the safety of everyone who chooses to demonstrate on Sunday. Portland Police will focus on ensuring that people’s right for freedom of expression and speech is protected. However, illegal behavior is not acceptable. “We will not tolerate acts of violence. We will not tolerate vandalism. We will not tolerate criminal behavior. I call on everyone who plans on demonstrating here Sunday to do so peacefully, to help ensure that everyone goes home safely.”

## **With Right Wingers Hard to Find, Portland Antifascist Protesters Clash With Police**

*By Katie Shepherd  
September 10, 2017*

**Patriot Prayer numbers small in Portland after leader Joey Gibson moves his event to Vancouver.**

Hundreds of counter-protesters turned out on Sunday on the Willamette River waterfront to confront members of the right-wing Patriot Prayer group.

Fewer than 20 Patriot Prayer supporters arrived, however, as their leader, Joey Gibson earlier changed the venue of his planned 2 pm event from Portland to Vancouver.

One of them, Sean Mitchell of Troutdale, says counter-protesters and critics misunderstand Patriot Prayer.

"I came to Portland to show support for America, for the flag," Mitchell tells WW. "To them, if you love America then you're a racist, a Nazi and a bigot. "If loving America makes me a bigot, then so be it but that's not who I am. I'm here out of peace. I'm here out of love, I didn't come here to throw punches and fight."

Another Patriot Prayer supporter who ventured to Portland, Kyle Chapman, got kicked by a counter-protester and another had his "Make America Great Again" hat taken off his head but most of Sunday's hostilities were between counter-protesters and police.

Counter-protesters threw rocks and water bottles at police and sprayed them with silly string and in one case, a fire-extinguisher.

Around 1:30, police deployed pepper spray and a flash bang grenade toward the counter-protesters. They arrested at least seven counter-protesters.

Police then ordered the crowd to disperse or face further arrests and said on Twitter two officers had been injured by flying projectiles.

By 2 pm, the Patriot Prayer supporters left the protest area but a large crowd of counter-protesters remained.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Big Police Presence Expected at Sunday's "Patriot Prayer" Rally and Counter Protest**

*By Doug Brown  
September 8, 2017*

It will almost certainly be a shitshow in downtown Portland on Sunday, as right wing "Patriot Prayer" and its white nationalist supporters will drive into Portland from Southwest Washington and the suburbs for a rally that will be met by hundreds of protesters.

Just last month, a similar rally led to bloody left-right fights on the waterfront. The police were hands-off on August 6, but things look to be different this time around—the cops will be there in full force.

Since the last Patriot Prayer rally in Portland, white supremacists held a murderous rally in Charlottesville. Two weeks later, Joey Gibson's Patriot Prayer held a rally in the Bay Area that was met by thousands of protesters and led to the further demonization in the media of "antifa"—the loosely-organized left-wing "antifacists" that often show up wearing masks that try to quash what they view has fascist rallies—after a handful of them were seen beating up white nationalists and a couple journalists. Tensions are high: Patriot Prayer supporter and bigoted street preacher Allen Wesley Pucket—who goes to Patriot Prayer rallies in the Portland area and throughout the West Coast, often adorned with a helmet, pads, and weighted gloves ready to fight—said there will "inevitably be bloodshed" at the rally and that "people need need to wake up to the reality that the violent understand nothing but victory or defeat through violence."

Hundreds of protesters—including antifascists—will be there, previous rallies have turned violent, and hatred between the two sides may be at the highest point so far. Who knows what will happen. In preparation, the Portland Police Bureau announced today:

There will be a significant law enforcement presence, due to past threats and acts of violence between these different groups, both locally and nationally. Due to these threats and the potential for violence, persons attending any of the events should not bring any weapons (firearms, knives, etc.) or items that can be used as weapons (sticks, bats, poles, rocks, fireworks/incendiary devices, etc.) to any of the events. Prohibited items may be seized by police and, if in violation of city, state or federal law, the possessor may be arrested and charged criminally.

The Bureau has been collaborating with law enforcement and public safety partners to ensure that public safety is the top priority for all participants and community members. Law

enforcement and public safety partners may include, but are not limited to the following agencies:

- \* Portland Police Bureau
- \* Oregon State Police
- \* Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- \* Federal Protective Service
- \* United States Attorney's Office
- \* Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
- \* Portland Fire & Rescue

Mayor Ted Wheeler issued a statement about this weekend's protest:

On Sunday, Portland will find itself – once again – in the middle of national events, as demonstrators and counter-demonstrators converge on our city. This is not the first set of demonstrations in Portland. This will not be the last. But how we conduct ourselves as a community will send a message about our city to the rest of the nation.

Portland rejects racism, bigotry, and xenophobia. We reject white supremacy. Messages of hate are not welcome in Portland. We have seen – far too often – how these words of hate can quickly turn to acts of violence. Portland also rejects violence.

Around the country, we've seen demonstrations that have involved arrests and illegal acts. My hope is that we are better than that. We can do it better. We can do it the Portland way. In Portland we celebrate diversity, we stand up for others, we promote unity, and we practice non-violence.

Over recent weeks, my office has worked closely with the Portland Police Bureau, as well as state, local and federal officials, on plans to protect the safety of everyone who chooses to demonstrate on Sunday. Portland Police will focus on ensuring that people's right for freedom of expression and speech is protected. However, illegal behavior is not acceptable.

We will not tolerate acts of violence. We will not tolerate vandalism. We will not tolerate criminal behavior. I call on everyone who plans on demonstrating here Sunday to do so peacefully, to help ensure that everyone goes home safely.

The group Portland Stands United Against Hate has a permit for a street march Sunday. Their event starts at Terry Schunk Plaza at 12:30 (the Patriot Prayer rally starts at 2 p.m. at the Salmon Street Fountain):

Portland Stands United Against Hate will be mobilizing again to confront a white nationalist gathering in our town. After the horrific attack in Charlottesville, the peoples of Boston, San Francisco and Berkeley turned out in the thousands to defeat these racist hate fests. We must do our part in Portland.

Joey Gibson's "Patriot Prayer" is organizing a September 10th "Portland Freedom March" featuring Billy Sessions, a Confederate monument defender, who has been active in violent clashes with those trying to remove these symbols of slavery and racism.

The merging of the "old South" rebellion with "alt-right" white nationalism is an ominous development. Their plan is to instill fear and attack Portland's Immigrant, Muslim, Jewish, Indigenous, Black and LGBTQ+ communities.

After the rally we will be marching to the Salmon St. Fountain. We are in communication with the Portland Police and Rose City Antifa. We are committed to community safety and protecting marginalized communities. Ours will be a permitted, disciplined and secure event.

## **The Daily Journal of Commerce**

### **Anti-Freeway Activists Push Portland to Reconsider Project to Widen I-5**

*By Chuck Slothower  
September 8, 2017*

An Oregon Department of Transportation plan to widen Interstate 5 at the Rose Quarter is attracting scrutiny as Portland's City Council prepares to enact the Central City 2035 plan.

A coalition of activists wants the city to reject the ODOT project, fearing it will repeat the mistakes of the past that favored vehicle transportation ahead of walking, biking and mass transit. Some are urging congestion pricing – tolls meant to reduce traffic during peak commuting times.

They've started to gain some traction. Commissioner Dan Saltzman, in a statement posted Thursday, said he backs installing tolls, which he called "value pricing," before the project begins.

"Value pricing is a proven congestion and carbon reduction strategy, and it is an essential part of the project," Saltzman said.

The \$450 million project would add auxiliary lanes to smooth merging of vehicles on and off the freeway between Interstate 84 and Interstate 405.

It also would add shoulders to allow drivers to move their vehicles out of the way following a collision. Fender benders in this stretch greatly worsen congestion because of a lack of space for drivers to pull over, ODOT says. The corridor has the highest crash rate in the state, according to the agency.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Plan has been significantly narrowed from earlier ideas to add braided ramps and additional lanes. The current project is more in line with Portland's goals to reduce congestion and boost alternatives to driving, Saltzman said.

The project calls for an overpass for pedestrians and bicyclists at Northeast Clackamas Street and other improvements. Opponents say the plan would double down on car-centric design that creates more problems than it solves.

"Expanding urban freeways has never solved a congestion problem," said Joe Cortright, an economist and director of City Observatory, a website that focuses on urban issues.

Cortright gave the example of a 23-lane freeway in Houston that has continued to see increased trip times despite repeated expansions. The problem, he said, is a concept called "induced demand" – wider freeways generate more traffic and encourage sprawl.

Chris Smith, a Portland planning commissioner and member of No More Freeway Expansions, a local group founded to fight the I-5 project, said congestion pricing must be implemented first.



“We believe it’s irresponsible to design a project before knowing what effect congestion pricing is going to have,” he said.

Opponents of the project have drawn on Portland’s rejection in the late 1960s and early 1970s of the Mount Hood Freeway, which would have segmented much of Southeast Portland. But the I-5 Rose Quarter project is much smaller in scope.

“I don’t view this as being a massive widening,” said Nolan Lienhart, director of planning and urban design at ZGF Architects, which was involved in early project plans. The project includes “positive changes” for the surface street system, he said.

The I-5 project follows years of work on the Portland North/Northeast Quadrant Plan, which was adopted by the City Council in 2012.

More public testimony on the plan will be accepted at a second City Council hearing Thursday.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project is a transportation priority in the Central City 2035 plan, an omnibus document that sets the stage for zoning Portland’s core. It’s the first comprehensive update of Portland zoning since 1988, and covers everything from building heights and density to views of Mount Hood and requirements for bird-friendly windows.

A vote to adopt the Central City 2035 Plan is expected on Jan. 18, 2018.

## **OPB**

### **Portland Police Worry about Violence Sunday Between Dueling Protests**

*By Kristian Foden-Vencil and Ryan Haas  
September 8, 2017*

Portland Police will put extra officers on the street Sunday afternoon to protect against violence between dueling protests.

The group Patriot Prayer is planning a “Freedom March” downtown from 2-5 p.m. At the same time, Rose City Antifa has organized a counter protest called “Stand Up! Community Defense Against Patriot Prayer.”

The dueling protests are the latest in an ongoing series of showdowns in West Coast cities between far-right and far-left groups, which at times have devolved into street fights.

Portland Police Sgt. Chris Burley said the city will have a significant presence because of past violence.

“Our primary focus is going to be monitoring behavior and those actions that put other people’s lives in danger, their safety in danger and potentially even property in danger,” he said.

The Police Bureau said attendees should not bring firearms, knives or anything that could be used as a weapon to the events. Those items will be confiscated and anyone carrying them could be arrested.

Mayor Ted Wheeler also issued a statement Friday, saying Portland rejects racism, white supremacy, violence and vandalism, but that police will focus on ensuring the freedom of expression.

“Messages of hate are not welcome in Portland. We have seen — far too often — how these words of hate can quickly turn to acts of violence. Portland also rejects violence,” Wheeler said.

Several other rallies are planned Sunday, including a demonstration by Portland Stands United Against Hate. The coalition of groups has said they intend their rally to be free from violence and an environment of inclusiveness.

The events are expected in Waterfront Park, Pioneer Square and Terry Schunk Plaza.

Wheeler said he is hopeful the weekend demonstrations can remain peaceful, unlike recent violent rallies — including one in late August that took place in Berkeley, California.

“My hope is that we are better than that. We can do it better. We can do it the Portland way,” Wheeler said. “In Portland we celebrate diversity, we stand up for others, we promote unity and we practice non-violence.”

Whether or not the mayor’s plea will have an effect remains to be seen.

Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson, who lives in Vancouver, Washington, has taken to social media in the days leading up to Sunday’s rally to call for non-violence. He has said he sees it as a way to draw liberals and moderates to Patriot Prayer’s cause.

Gibson has also portrayed himself and his followers as victims of left-wing violence after the fights in Berkeley.

“I am beginning to realize that a lot of people don’t understand the philosophy of non-violent resistance. I just assumed most people understood the revolutionary history behind it. Jesus and MLK jr.,” Gibson wrote to his group Aug. 30.

Joey Gibson, the Vancouver, Washington, resident who organized a June Trump Free Speech Rally in Portland addresses the crowd. Gibson held a moment of silence for the victims of the MAX train stabbings.

Joey Gibson, the Vancouver, Washington, resident who organized a June Trump Free Speech Rally in Portland addresses the crowd. Gibson held a moment of silence for the victims of the MAX train stabbings.

However, members of Patriot Prayer and people who have come to their rallies have also often engaged in violence against counter-protesters.

For their part, Rose City Antifa has said it is also ready to fight on Portland’s streets.

“Many leftists have taken up arms throughout history against fascism and tyranny,” the group wrote in a Sept. 6 Facebook post.

The group went on to criticize Gibson for comparing himself to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. saying it is “not only ludicrous but extremely offensive.”

Rose City Antifa also criticized the mainstream media, which widely portrayed far-left groups as the instigators of violence at the most recent Berkeley rallies.

“We have been asked by allies if we are planning on switching gears for the 10th based on this latest media manipulation by Gibson,” Rose City Antifa wrote. “While there is quite a lot to this discussion that we can not address here, the short answer is ‘No.’”

Past rallies in Portland have drawn a significant number of people, with the number of left supporters significantly outnumbering far-right demonstrators.

But Sunday's social media reservations for each group appear to be down compared to past events, with only a few hundred people from each group saying they plan to attend.

## **Portland Police to Stop Labeling People As “Gang Members”**

*By Kristian Foden-Vencil  
September 8, 2017*

The Portland Police Bureau announced Friday it will stop labeling people as gang members following concern the label disproportionately affects people of color.

On Oct. 15, the bureau will send out letters to the 300 people on its gang designation list, promising to purge all designation documents.

Sgt. Chris Burley said gang violence isn't going away, but the bureau recognizes the designation is a barrier for those who've turned their backs on gangs and tried to find work.

“With new scientific tools that we have today, we can continue to decrease gun violence without the use of a gang designation policy,” he said.

For example, Burley said, the Oregon State Police Crime Lab now has a much quicker and more efficient system for matching guns with bullet casings.

That means investigators can quickly match crimes using evidence rather than gang affiliation.

A review last year showed Portland police labeled people criminal gang affiliates more than 100 times, without conviction or arrest.