

The Oregonian

ACLU: Portland Mayor, Police Should Investigate Whether Officers Profile Homeless

*By Rebecca Woolington
June 28, 2018*

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon has called on Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw to investigate whether officers are profiling people who are homeless.

The request came less than a day after The Oregonian/OregonLive published an analysis showing that homeless people accounted for 52 percent of arrests that the Portland Police Bureau made last year. Homeless people represent less than 3 percent of Portland's overall population.

The ACLU said in a news release that the organization has received complaints that Portland police officers were stopping homeless people, running warrant checks and searching them without reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Police have targeted some homeless people, the ACLU said, in areas near social services.

The organization cited a KGW News report that showed officers running names of campers, a Portland Mercury story about sweeps of homeless people during the Rose Festival and The Oregonian/OregonLive's report Wednesday on the disparity in arrests.

The Oregonian/OregonLive analysis found that police most often arrested homeless people on property, drug or low-level crimes. The vast majority of the arrests, 86 percent, were for non-violent crimes, the analysis found.

Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, and Outlaw have both said that being homeless is not a crime.

Police say a lack of housing, mental health and addiction treatment drive the arrests up. They also say they've seen a spike in calls to 911 and their non-emergency line about homeless people. Police also increased searches for wanted people at homeless encampments last year.

The ACLU questioned whether the warrant checks are legal under state profiling law.

"Stopping and searching people simply because they are unhoused isn't just illegal, but it adds to the stigmatization of poverty, contributes to the cycle of homeless, and scares an already traumatized community away from important social services," the organization said. "Homeless people cannot go to the police for help if they fear being harassed or criminalized."

Read [the letter](#) from the ACLU to Portland city officials.

Head of PPB Professional Standards Division Arrested on Suspicion of DUII

*By Jim Ryan
June 28, 2018*

The head of the Portland Police Bureau's Professional Standards Division was arrested early Thursday on suspicion of intoxicated driving, police say.

Commander Steve Jones, who's been with the Bureau for 23 years, hit a telephone pole while driving a city vehicle on Southwest Third Avenue, according to Portland police. Jones was off-duty and traveling alone, police said. He wasn't injured.

The Oregon State Police cited Jones for driving under the influence of intoxicants and released him, as is standard practice for the agency in Multnomah County, according to Portland police.

Portland police said they asked the state police to process the investigation because of Jones' status as the Professional Standards Division commander. State police will continue the criminal investigation.

Jones is on paid administrative leave, as is standard procedure, pending the results of the investigation. Captain Jeff Bell will serve as the division's acting commander in Jones' absence.

An administrative investigation will be presented to the Police Review Board, which is made up of Bureau and community members.

"As law enforcement officers, we are held to a higher standard, regardless of rank or classification, that demands accountability," Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement. "This incident will be thoroughly investigated."

Portland police initially responded shortly before 2 a.m.

The Portland Tribune

Law Enforcement Seeks Stronger Ties to Local Outreach Workers

*By Hailey Stewart
June 28, 2018*

Officers and law officials share the changes in their line of work with Portland's vulnerable populations

Three law enforcement officials talked about ways they can work with homeless people on public safety and other issues during a Portland community forum Wednesday evening.

Multnomah County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Jason Gates and Portland Police Bureau Sgt. Randy Teig joined Senior Deputy District Attorney Nathan Vasquez to shine a light on the changes Portland needs to aid Portland's homeless, addicted and mentally ill populations during the June 27 gathering.

The forum was split into two sections — one focusing on mental health and addiction issues and the other focusing on law enforcement's role.

In his 30 years as a police officer, Teig said he's seen many aspects of his job change. However, the last two years brought the biggest changes in regard to working with mental health professionals and outreach workers — groups like Central City Concern and JOIN, which had representatives speak during the first half of the forum.

"We've always been out there together but on different paths, historically. We only came together when there was disaster," Teig said of the police relationship with outreach workers. "What we've come to realize is it is better to prepare to prevent the disaster."

Since early 2017, Teig said Portland police have utilized data and outreach workers as a concerted effort to mend the relationships police have historically had with vulnerable populations.

Communicating with the homeless or mentally ill, while wearing a uniform and a badge isn't always easy. "They frequently do not trust me," Teig said. "So I can bring somebody in that has built that rapport and when the outreach worker trusts me, we build a bridge. This is an important piece and it's a huge change."

For Gates, communicating with Portland's homeless population begins with finding the root of individual problems and using the right kind of language. "We don't come in leading with 'You're trespassing,'" Gates said. "We come in asking, 'Why are you here and what is it we can do to help you be out of this situation if you want to be out of this situation?'"

When the Homeless Outreach and Programs Engagement Team was created at the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office last year, the main goal, Gates said, was to begin forming relationships with outreach service providers. HOPE deputy jobs range from helping the homeless get IDs to finding jobs, he said.

Beyond the day-to-day law enforcement, Vasquez said the justice system that people part of these vulnerable populations are often thrown into does not always provide productive outcomes. "To be very frank, the criminal justice system and the tools we have are not well suited to deal with the population," Vasquez said.

Other than Mental Health Court, which Vasquez said can be helpful, the resources for the criminal justice system, outside outreach workers, are limited.

Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran, who spoke during the first section of the forum, said the system needs policies that directly impact services and resources for homeless, mentally ill and addicted people in the city, instead of directly transporting them to jail or the emergency room. "How can we implement policies that can help direct our resources, rather than people ending up in the least effective and most expensive places?" Meieran said.

In terms of the 4,000 homeless people living in Portland, according to local officials, Gates said he believes if there was a property where camping was legal, it would help outreach officials find the vulnerable people they work with on a daily basis. However, he said it's not the most popular opinion within the city.

"No one size fits all in reference to the diversity in which people are living outside," Gates said. "Some of those folks want to be there, and that's the most challenging part."

It's not just the stronger ties with police and outreach workers that help law enforcement better interact with vulnerable populations, it's the act of "slowing down," Teig said.

Every Friday, Teig said 50 to 60 safety professionals — officers, firefighters emergency responders — meet to discuss community concerns about public safety and health. Those discussions help everyone learn to "slow down" and zone in on individual issues rather than the broad topic. "If there's room to slow down, you slow down and make good decisions," Teig said.

Police Commander Cited for DUII After Crash

*By Pamplin Media Group
June 28, 2018*

Steve Jones, a 23-year police bureau veteran, was placed on paid administrative leave during an investigation into the incident.

An off-duty Portland Police Bureau commander was arrested early Thursday morning after a single-car crash damaged a utility pole in the 2600 block of Southwest Third Avenue.

Police said Steve Jones, a 23-year police bureau veteran, was cited and released by Oregon State Police at about 1:55 a.m. June 28, for driving while intoxicated. Jones was placed on paid administrative leave during an investigation into the incident.

Jones was driving a city vehicle as part of his assignment as head of the Professional Standards Division. No one else was in the vehicle and Jones was not injured.

"As law enforcement officers, we are held to a higher standard, regardless of rank or classification, that demands accountability," said Chief Danielle Outlaw. "This incident will be thoroughly investigated."

Willamette Week

After a Dawn Raid, Federal Agents In Riot Gear Stand Watch Over “Very, Very Peaceful” Protest at Portland ICE Building

*By Katie Shepherd
June 28, 2018*

"We're going to be here for a while."

After a dawn raid that dislodged a protest blockade, U.S. Department of Homeland Security officers plan to hold a barricade between the protest camp and the building used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Portland's South Waterfront.

"We're going to be here for a while," says Federal Protective Services spokesman Robert Sperling. "The intent is to make sure the employees, as they return to work, are safe and secure and the facility remains safe and secure."

Sperling says ICE agents will likely return to work next week, though he did not offer specifics about their plans.

In the hours after today's raid, protesters milled about on one side of a strip of yellow police tape, occasionally yelling obscenities at DHS officers in full riot gear who formed a barricade just steps away.

"How would you like it if someone came and took your family and put them in dog kennels?" one protester shouted at the federal agents.

Scattered behind the black-clad riot squad, a few Special Response Team officers in camouflage uniforms carried bright yellow rifles. The Special Response Team is the federal equivalent of a police SWAT team.

Despite the heavy law enforcement presence, FPS says the protesters have overwhelmingly cooperated with official orders.

"It's been very, very peaceful," Sperling says. "Other than the yelling and screaming and calling of names, but I consider that peaceful. No one has thrown anything or hit anybody. There's been no violence."

Eight protesters were arrested as DHS agents cleared the building's entrance and driveway. FSP declined to release their names or charges, though Sperling said they would likely be charged with failing to comply with a directive, obstructing a federal agent, or a similar charge.

Shortly after clearing the protest barricades from the entrance and driveway at the ICE building, DHS officials also removed a flag protesters had been flying that read "Refugees Welcome." They replaced it with an American flag.

Near a pile of discarded wood, signs and tarps that were torn down when DHS officers arrived this morning, a few protesters shouted at the officers calling the "pigs" and yelling "Fuck ICE."

Occupy ICE following a dawn raid in Portland on June 28, 2018. (Sam Gehrke) Occupy ICE following a dawn raid in Portland on June 28, 2018. (Sam Gehrke)

Protesters say they don't intend to leave the camp, which has been dubbed Occupy ICE PDX. The occupation shut down ICE operations last week after demonstrators blocked the entrance and driveway, trapping some federal agents inside the building for hours.

Local officials have been distancing themselves from the federal immigration agency. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler called the Trump administration's family separation policy "un-American." City commissioners Amanda Fritz and Chloe Eudaly joined protesters in calls to abolish ICE at yesterday's city council meeting.

Wheeler pledged not to involve Portland police in dismantling the protest camp. But this morning, PPB officers blocked traffic and pedestrians as DHS cleared the entrance to the ICE building.

"PPB did not assist DHS in clearing the camp," says the mayor's chief of staff Michael Cox. "PPB provided traffic control in the area affected by the action to protect commuters and pedestrians."

PPB spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley echoed the mayor's office. He says police responded to traffic backups after DHS had already started clearing the protest camp.

"In line with the Mayor and Police Commissioner's directions, the Police Bureau was not involved in the Federal Protective Services (FPS) actions as it related to Occupy ICE PDX," Burley said in a statement. "Portland Police Bureau officers recognized the need to assist motorists in identifying alternative routes around road closures due to actions related to Occupy ICE PDX."

Portland Police Commander Arrested For DUII After Crashing His City-Owned SUV Into A Telephone Pole

By Katie Shepherd

June 28, 2018

Jones, a 23-year-veteran with the Portland Police Bureau, is Commander of the Professional Standards Division.

Portland Police Cmdr. Steve Jones crashed a Portland police bureau vehicle into a telephone pole early Thursday morning and was arrested by Oregon State Police on a DUII charge.

Jones, a 23-year-veteran with the Portland Police Bureau, is now on paid administrative leave pending an investigation into the crash. He is the commander of the Professional Standards Division.

He had been assigned an unmarked and city-owned Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicle—the same type of SUV that police officers often drive on-duty. The car was assigned to him because his position required him to be on-call to respond to crime scenes at all times. He was off-duty when he careened into the pole, around 1:55 a.m.

"As law enforcement officers, we are held to a higher standard, regardless of rank or classification, that demands accountability," Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement. "This incident will be thoroughly investigated."

PPB did not release a mug shot or Jones' blood alcohol level, saying the agency is not in charge of the criminal investigation. Oregon State Police did not immediately respond to questions about the case.

Update: Oregon State Police records show that Jones' blood alcohol content was .10 percent. He was cited and released to friends.