

The Oregonian

Portland Police Clear Occupiers from Encampment at ICE Headquarters

July 25, 2018

Portland police Wednesday morning cleared the last remaining protesters from an encampment at the Southwest Portland offices of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

About a dozen protesters had remained at the headquarters in South Waterfront after the camp five weeks ago was created by demonstrators saying they were acting against the immigration policies of the Trump administration.

Police released a statement about 4:30 a.m. saying Portland officers were assisting in cleaning up the Occupy ICE Camp located near Southwest Macadam Avenue and Bancroft Street.

The city had warned remaining campers Monday night that they needed to leave or face arrest after Tuesday.

Most occupiers, which at the camp's height numbered in the hundreds, had left over the past few weeks.

Police Wednesday morning taped off the area around the ICE headquarters and closed the intersection. About a dozen protesters initially remained, standing at the intersection of Lowell Street and Moody Avenue. By 6:30 a.m., only about five were still at the scene.

Police said protesters were subject to citation or arrest for charges including trespassing, illegal camping on public property and illegal structures on public property. The police statement said its explosives unit and Portland Fire & Rescue personnel were present as precautions.

Shortly after 6 a.m., Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw held a news conference at the site.

She said police have received 76 calls during the encampment and have responded to 41 of them. She also said the roads near the ICE headquarters were needed for access to medical facilities in the area.

Outlaw also said the camp posed fire and biomedical hazards.

"We knew we had to get ahead of it before it spiraled out of control," she said.

Outlaw said after bringing those reasons to Mayor Ted Wheeler, he then "fully supported" clearing the camp of occupiers.

The occupation began five weeks ago, when protesters set up a makeshift camp at the building and have been there around the clock since. They said their intention is to protest the Trump administration's policy of separating children and parents who are detained after border crossings and seek the abolishment of ICE.

The field office closed for days because protesters blocked its entrances. Several demonstrators were detained and charged with misdemeanors when federal police moved to reopen the building. Protesters carried on, with tensions between their ranks and federal officers flaring up on occasion.

Demonstrations came to a head last week, when members of the right-wing Patriot Prayer group came to the campsite and argued with protesters. Three demonstrators were arrested at the time for crossing police lines and preventing access to the building.

A faction of protesters left voluntarily Monday, Eudaly said. Wheeler encouraged others to follow suit.

Wheeler said he supports protesters' cause, but believes the camp-out demonstration is no longer "sustainable."

"To all demonstrators: I urge you to keep up this effort," Wheeler said. He added that he believes it is time for protesters to "move on" and focus on changing immigration policy, rather than camping at the ICE field office.

Police said contract workers would begin cleaning the campsite at 8 a.m. They planned to collect items of "obvious utility and value" left behind. The bureau will store the items, and people can claim any belongings until Sept. 1, 2018 by contacting Pacific Patrol Services at 503-595-3440.

The action shut down numerous streets as the morning commute began, including:

- Bancroft is closed between Macadam and Bond Avenue.
- Moody is closed between Bancroft and Lowell.
- Bond is closed at Bancroft.

The Portland Tribune

No Arrests at Occupy ICE Camp Cleanup

July 25, 2018

Police and cleanup crews move in early Wednesday after city tells protesters they have to leave.

Cleanup is underway at the Occupy ICE camp in Southwest Portland early Wednesday morning.

Portland police showed up at the camp adjacent to the Immigration, Custom and Enforcement facility around 4:30 a.m. after a quiet night. By 6 a.m., Police Chief Danielle Outlaw delivered a statement and said no arrests or citations had been made or issued during the cleanup. She said by the time officers arrived, only 12 protesters remained at the camp.

Outlaw said there were reports an officer used a baton on protesters and that will be investigated.

Police said they will move into the camp in a "methodical and thoughtful manner" to dismantle and clean the camp. They said anyone who refuses to leave will be arrested.

Notices to clear out the camp were handed out Monday. Hundreds of people left on Tuesday, saying it wasn't worth it to get arrested. Many said they will move to other protests in other cities.

On Tuesday night before the midnight deadline to clear the camp, Joey Gibson and Patriot Prayer unexpectedly showed up. Tensions were high but ultimately no violence occurred.

City workers will help clean up the camp. Wooden structures and trash remains on the ground.

In the posting at the OccupyICE site, the City of Portland said:

"All campsites at the identified locations below will be cleared beginning July 24, 2018 and continuing until complete."

The locations are the intersection of Southwest Bancroft and Moody, Southwest Bancroft and Macadam, Southwest Macadam and Moody, and at 4330 S.W. Macadam.

The City also said: "Persons who have not vacated any campsite will be subject to citation or arrest by police."

The Portland Police Bureau released the following statement early Wednesday:

Today, Wednesday, July 25, 2018, the Portland Police Bureau is assisting in the cleanup process at the Occupy ICE Camp located near Southwest Macadam Avenue and Southwest Bancroft Street.

On Monday, July 23, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., City of Portland contractors posted Notice of Intent to Clear Unlawful Campsite signage through the encampment. The notices provided people at the Occupy ICE Camp notification that on or after Tuesday, July 24, 2018, all belongings and people camping at the location should move elsewhere. Since the posting, the majority of the occupants have moved out and taken their belongings.

During this camp clean-up, the Police Bureau plans to move in a methodical and thoughtful manner. Anyone refusing to leave the campsite may be subject to citation or arrest for charges including, but not limited to, Criminal Trespass (ORS 164.245), Camping Prohibited on Public Property and Public Right of Way (PCC 14A.50.020), and Erecting Permanent or Temporary Structures on Public Property or Public Rights of Way (PCC 14A.50.050).

The Metropolitan Explosives Disposal Unit (MEDU) and Portland Fire and Rescue will be on scene as a precaution.

After officers have entered and secured the camp, contract workers will clean the campsite. During the camp clean-up, workers will collect items of obvious utility and value that are left behind. The collected items will be stored and available for pick-up until September 1, 2018. Anyone seeking to reclaim their property should contact Pacific Patrol Services at 503-595-3440.

During the camp clean-up traffic in the area may be impacted. Updates about road closures will be provided throughout the morning.

Willamette Week

Portland City Council to Vote on a Rental Registration System

By Elise Herron

July 24, 2018

"It's time for Portland to catch up."

Portland City Council will vote this week on a requirement for landlords to register with the city.

Mayor Ted Wheeler says it would help direct housing policies by giving City Council members access to rental inventory data, including the number of units being rented in the city.

In a statement, Wheeler says council members could use the data collection system to "direct policies to better address Portland's housing crisis."

"We need quality data," Wheeler says. "Most jurisdictions, including Gresham, Eugene, Seattle and San Francisco, have data and registration collection systems. It's time for Portland to catch up."

The registry of rental housing would be maintained by the city's Housing Bureau, Revenue Division and Bureau of Technology Services and would include data on how many landlords there are in Portland, as well as how many units there are and where they are located.

According to today's release from Wheeler's office, the registration system might help inform things such as safety inspections, rental unit health, landlord and tenant education training, low income tenant legal representation, and rent stabilization.

If implemented, the system would be rolled out in phases, starting with the Revenue Division requiring all landlords to register rental property data on a Business License Tax return. There would be no fees the first year of the program.

Record Rains Sent a Portland Man's Land Sliding Onto a City Road. Is That His Fault?

*By Karina Brown
July 25, 2018*

Portland officials are holding property owners responsible for landslides that damage city roads. As severe weather increases, that's going to be expensive.

Dave Pollock has lived for the past 21 years on his savings and pension from teaching history at Centennial High School.

But last year's record rains could ruin him.

In February 2017, a landslide on the West Hills property he inherited from his parents sent a scree of rocks and mud tumbling onto a curve on Southwest Skyline Boulevard. Now the city of Portland wants to fine Pollock \$6,000 for not repairing the landslide damage—and then have him build a \$400,000 retaining wall.

Pollock, 76, is not a rich man. He's puzzled why the city wants to blame him for a natural disaster.

"I didn't cut down any trees," Pollock says. "I didn't build any new structures. Nothing has changed on my property since 1937. I don't see why I'm responsible here."

Portland homeowners are still struggling to repair damage from landslides during the winter of 2016-17, which the National Weather Service says was the wettest winter on record. Some, like Pollock, say the city is using the opportunity to make them pay to fix city streets.

Pollock recalls a time when the city paid for the damage caused by landslides along its roads. But with budget woes and severe weather growing more common, the city is not only demanding homeowners pay for repairs, it's placing liens on homeowners' property—including Pollock's—if they don't pony up.

Officials point to city code that allows the Bureau of Development Services to decide when a homeowner should have to pay to repair grading or geologic conditions that affect public roads.

Thomas Ngo, spokesman for the bureau, says the city isn't out to ruin anyone financially.

"It's an unfortunate risk if you have property on the West Hills," Ngo says. "The West Hills are not exactly the most solid ground. Fixing code violations can become a hardship for property owners, but our job is to make sure that life safety, building and zoning codes are being met."

Damage from landslides in Portland could be as high as \$81 million in extreme weather years, according to a 2017 study by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Portland had more wet days in winter 2016-17 than in any other winter recorded by the National Weather Service. Record levels of rain and melting snow contributed to 71 landslides recorded by the city that winter.

One expert says the way some roads were built in the steep West Hills might be contributing to the problem.

Tom Westover, an engineer with Portland geotechnical engineering firm Landslide Technology, says many of the older roads in the West Hills were built using a "cut and cast" design, in which workers sliced into the hill above the road to create a flat surface, then used the material they cut out of the hill to fill the downside below the road. That material wasn't usually the best thing to prevent erosion. Now, engineers match fill to the specific requirements of each site.

And many of the banks around the roads in the West Hills are just too steep to be stable in intense winter storms, Westover says. Some were originally gravel roads installed by farmers.

"Today, there's a lot more that would need to happen in terms of investigation," Westover says. "For some of these roads, if we were to do it now, it just wouldn't be built."

Pollock says the city tacitly acknowledged its responsibility for the road's structural problems by paying to clean up landslides on his property for more than 60 years.

Officials at BDS and the Portland Bureau of Transportation declined to comment on when city policy changed, but pointed WW to a code amendment in 2009 that clarified property owner responsibility for landslides.

Until the most recent event, Pollock says, the city would automatically come out after a slide and clean up any damage. And in 2003, he says the city paid to cover the slope in a layer of small boulders called "riprap." (City officials say they don't have any record of that.)

This time, the city waited six months after the February 2017 slide—then started billing Pollock \$565 per month for failing to establish a plan for repairs. That amount has ballooned to \$6,000, because Pollock hasn't devised that plan. He can't afford the \$400,000 retaining wall.

Pollock isn't the only one in this situation. Out of 71 documented landslides in Portland in the winter of 2016-17, the Bureau of Development Services issued notices to 42 homeowners requiring them to stabilize potentially hazardous land.

The bureau said it levied fines against eight property owners for foot-dragging on repairs.

That includes a prominent company. In July 2017, the city placed a lien on Adidas' North Portland campus for its failure to immediately repair damage from a Feb. 17, 2017, landslide. Adidas declined to describe the scope of the landslide or comment on the lien.

In emails obtained by WW, city geotechnical engineer Ericka Koss told a homeowner she was "sincerely sorry" there was no public money available to help fund such repairs but that "the risk of losses due to landsliding is borne by the homeowner."

South of Pollock's property, where Southwest Broadway dead-ends in the West Hills, homeowner Mark Melman says he has racked up city fines totaling nearly \$5,000 after a landslide on the empty lot he owns across the street from his home.

Melman says he has already paid \$35,000 for a geoengineering report and temporary measures to stabilize the slope. He worries that a permanent fix will cost much more.

Melman says the 2017 snowstorms that shut down the city and prompted Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to declare a state of emergency caused the landslide at his place.

Melman says the city plowed the snow in front of his house on Broadway, piling it up into huge drifts on each side of the road. He says it took a week for those piles to melt, and all that flowing water took a slice of the downhill slope across the street from Melman's house with it.

"I feel like the city is asking me to stabilize Southwest Broadway," Melman says. "I don't think I should be responsible for the structural support of the roadway."

Both Pollock and Melman say their insurance providers refused to cover landslide damage.

Pollock says he might end up paying as much to repair the landslide as his property is worth.

As a last resort, he hired a lawyer to consider suing the city. Attorney Brooks Foster said he and Pollock discussed two unsavory possibilities: bankruptcy or offering to deed his property to the city in lieu of paying for repairs. They discarded both options, and Pollock says he doesn't know what to do next.

"I did nothing to cause the slide," Pollock says. "The road was there before me, and I did not compromise the slope. I feel like they are forcing me to give up my retirement savings."

The Portland Mercury

Portland Police Clear Occupy ICE Camp

By Alex Zielinski

July 25, 2018

The Occupy ICE PDX camp is no more.

Just over 24 hours after posting a notice to vacate, Portland police officers entered the Southwest Portland protest camp to ask the remaining campers to leave. According to Portland Police Bureau (PPB) Chief Danielle Outlaw, police only encountered around a dozen people at the camp when they arrived around 4:30 am.

In a morning press conference, Outlaw said the sweep did not result in any arrests or citations. Remaining tents, structures, garbage, and other items left after the five-week-long campout will be cleared from the TriMet-owned property by 8 am, she added. Officers will collect and hold any valuable items left behind for their owners to retrieve.

A number of TV reporters watched PPB officers dismantle the camp and surveyed the leftover debris (thanks for the early-morning coverage, reporters!) Here's what remained of the camp this morning:

"For the most part, everything was done with very little incident," Outlaw said.

However, she said PPB is investigating reports of an officer using a baton to "push apart people that were about to be actively engaged in some sort of physical altercation" after the camp was cleared.

Outlaw didn't mention the sweep was preceded by a 11 pm visit from members of Patriot Prayer, a Vancouver alt-right group with a history of violence against Portland leftist groups. Led by Patriot Prayer founder Joey Gibson, the visitors came to shout insults at the remaining campers and watch the camp evacuate. The group left before the PPB made its morning sweep.

Patriot Prayer members first appeared at the camp Friday night to "engage" with the ICE protesters and question their demonstration. The visit resulted in a number of tense arguments and at least one punch being thrown by a member of Patriot Prayer. On Monday, Mayor Wheeler said Patriot Prayer's visit was one of the reasons he wanted the Occupy ICE camp gone.

To ICE protesters and other progressive activists, this morning's sweep sent a clear message to Patriot Prayer that their Friday intervention was successful in getting Portland police to do their bidding.

City Officials Attended a Conference on Controversial Anti-Terrorism Surveillance Strategy

By Kelly Kenoyer

July 24, 2018

Four Portland city staffers spent the past few weeks in England learning about a social surveillance program perhaps best known for infiltrating American Muslim communities to seek out terrorists.

Unsurprisingly, this news doesn't sit well with Portland's Muslim population.

The surveillance tactic, called Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), is also the name of a US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program which helps law enforcement spy on Muslim communities in their mosques, schools, and communities. The DHS program purports to prevent terrorism by getting community members—including teachers, nonprofits, and mental health providers—to monitor their clients, students, friends, neighbors and family members for signs of radicalization and report suspicious activity to federal agents. The expectation that those in charge of Muslim youth should report them to the authorities for their opinions undermines the trust those youth can have in their schools and authority figures.

Existing CVE programs in England—programs Portland employees have learned about—have proven to negatively impacted children they serve. One Muslim student decided to write an essay about the psychology of terrorists for class, but her Google searches on a school computer flagged her for investigation by CVE-trained teachers, who pulled her aside for questioning. A 14-year-old who talked to his teacher about raising money for Palestinians had police come to his home with a file on him—he was already being watched, and his teacher had reported his speech to authorities. Even children under the age of nine are flagged for investigation under England's CVE program.

Over 100 academics and professors have come out against the UK's CVE program, noting its lack of basis in science and the negative impacts on the communities it monitors.

Khan says that that kind of flagging system has been used in the United States to create "false terrorism charges using entrapment," similar to how FBI agents worked with a Muslim man to plan a terror attack on Portland's Christmas tree lighting ceremony in 2010. (This plan was unrelated to CVE, however).

In 2009, a Somali non-profit in Minneapolis was set to receive federal funding for CVE programs like after-school programs and job training—an attempt to provide young Muslim kids alternatives to joining extremist groups. But the federal funding came with strings attached: it required program team members to "identify radicalized individuals, gang members, and violent offenders who refuse to cooperate with [the program's] efforts." In other words, Muslim kids

might be flagged as potential terrorists if they refuse to join the after-school programs. After significant outcry from community advocates, the non-profit rejected the federal CVE funding.

According to legal experts, the federal CVE program has escalated under the Trump administration, with triple the budget and an added focus on non-Muslim minority groups, including Black Lives Matter.

While Portland city employees—including a police officer—spent time abroad attending the US-UK CVE Community Leaders Exchange, members of the local Muslim community have voiced concern that this exchange may escalate tensions in Portland between the police and the Muslim community.

“CVE can be used as a tool to oppress the people who don’t think like you do. It can be a tool of the state to criminalize free speech,” says Zakir Khan, the chair of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Oregon.

Portland does not currently have a CVE program. However, the Portland officials were joined in the UK by delegates from Seattle, a city that has a federal CVE program in its police department. In Seattle, that looks like a Somali community outreach program receiving orders to spy on the Somali community, and FBI agents showing up unannounced on an immigrant’s doorstep to question her about phone calls to family in Afghanistan.

Mayor Ted Wheeler’s office says the city staff aren’t in England to receive CVE training, and that any learning will likely be applied to hate crimes and gang activity, not “radicalism.”

“The focus in England around community policing is on countering extremism and radicalism, but the city can learn a lot from the methods they employ to build cohesion within communities, and reach youth and polarized communities,” says Sophia June, a spokesperson for Wheeler. She calls the the program a “cultural exchange” to “learn about best practices for policies and programming.”

Portland’s Muslim community already has a tense relationship with Portland Police Bureau (PPB) thanks to the bureau’s participation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The JTTF is a partnership between the FBI and local law enforcement which gives the FBI access to detailed information on local community members for the purpose of preventing terrorism. JTTF programs act similarly to CVE programs, in that they are government-funded and are known to target minority groups in every city they operate in, including Portland. Portland has an on-again, off-again relationship with the JTTF, with the most recent fling beginning in 2010, after a five year hiatus.

The JTTF has been widely criticized by groups like the ACLU for its secrecy and for assisting the feds with profiling operations. PPB has assigned two officers to work with the JTTF, but their identities are unknown.

One PPB officer, lieutenant Tashia Hager, attended the CVE training in England alongside three other city employees from the mayor’s office, the city’s Office of Equity and Human Rights, and the Office of Youth Violence Prevention. Khan says the representatives from Portland are hallmark examples of the groups the federal government tries to enlist to report on Muslim communities: law enforcement, nonprofits, youth services and educators.

For Khan, who already worries about the negative impacts of the JTTF and the rising tide of anti-Muslim hate crimes, the possibility of Portland acquiring a CVE program is troubling.

“The world that’s being created for Muslims in Portland is a world where we are being treated in a discriminatory fashion,” he says. “We’re not getting equal justice under the law.”

Randy Blazak, chair of the Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes (CAHC), joined the Portland officials in the UK for the CVE program. In messages to the Mercury, he argues that the program isn't about targeting the Muslim community, it's about identifying people "at risk of radicalization."

"I understand people have issues with CVE. But this work is much broader than the American idea of it," Blazak says. He dismisses concerns by Oregon Muslims, saying "it's the opposite of whatever they're going on about." Blazak cites a CVE program in Luton, England as a positive example: a soccer team for Muslim girls called the Luton Tigers.

Blazak says he joined the US-UK exchange to learn about fighting right-wing extremism. "My goal is to learn what's being done here to fight right wing extremism and see if any of that is applicable to the Oregon landscape. That's all," he says.

Khan's not convinced. He strongly believes there's no funding for programing against right-wing extremists—the CVE focus in the United States is entirely on Muslim communities.

"We're worried about the investments that are being made," Khan says. "That's highly concerning because the Muslim community is already dealing with hate crimes, we shouldn't have to also deal with a CVE program in Portland."

OPB

Portland ICE Protest Camp Cleared Out By Police

By AP

July 25, 2018

Police have cleared out the few remaining protesters left at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters in Portland, Oregon, with no arrests.

Several news outlets report that police moved into an encampment at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday and that about a dozen remaining protesters left the area.

The activists had been protesting since June 17. They want to abolish ICE and end the Trump administration's zero-tolerance immigration policy.

Authorities on Monday told protesters to leave by Tuesday evening or be arrested, and hundreds did leave by the deadline.

Portland Police spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley says police on Wednesday morning moved "slowly and methodically" through the camp and there were no injuries and no arrests.

City workers will remove wooden structures at the camp and clean up the area.