

The Oregonian

Portland Mayor Expresses 'Complete Trust' In City Police As Volatile Protests Loom

*By Anna Sporre
August 3, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler is sending the city's police force out to Saturday's protest with words of encouragement following several tense exchanges with the police union in recent weeks.

Wheeler wrote an open letter Friday expressing his trust in and gratitude for the Portland Police Bureau as officers and command staff prepare for right-wing Patriot Prayer and left-wing counter-protesters to hold dueling protests Saturday. Such encounters normally lead to violence.

"Serving as a police officer is undoubtedly one of the most challenging, risky and demanding jobs in our city," Wheeler wrote.

This letter comes a day after Daryl Turner, president of Portland's police union, said the mayor has "failed miserably" as police commissioner, citing perceived "personal, political bias" as having inappropriate influence over Wheeler's command of the bureau.

Turner's was the latest in a series of statements made in opposition to Wheeler's leadership of the police. Through their union, officers have been highly critical of Wheeler's policies regarding homeless people, with Turner saying the mayor allowed the city to become "a cesspool."

An attorney representing employees of Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Monday accused Wheeler of hindering law enforcement services to ICE employees during a 38-day-long occupation. Wheeler earlier tweeted that he did not want Portland police "engaged in the conflict."

The attorney's letter claimed policies put in place by Wheeler created "a zone of terror and lawlessness" which resulted in threats of physical violence and harassment toward ICE employees.

The mayor denied such policy claims, calling the assertion "inaccurate and inflammatory" in a letter Tuesday.

Most often, Portland officers arrested homeless people on property, drug or low-level crimes. The vast majority of the arrests, 84 percent, were for non-violent offenses, the analysis found.

Wheeler's letter Friday was remarkably affable.

"... As always, you will rely on the strong leadership of your command staff, your training and your good judgment," Wheeler wrote Friday.

Wheeler in the letter said he wants to make clear his support for the bureau, citing the addition of 52 officers to the bureau, strengthened funding for the Service Coordination Team and increased support for Behavioral Health Unit and other developments.

"Chief Outlaw has exceeded my expectations," he also said of Danielle Outlaw, whom he named police chief one year ago.

Wheeler also thanked the non-sworn staff, calling them "the backbone of our operations," a group whose work he said is often overlooked.

"I know that this is a particularly challenging situation, and I want you to know that I have complete trust in your ability to manage it," Wheeler said in reference to Saturday's demonstrations.

Here is the full statement from Wheeler:

It is an honor to serve as your Police Commissioner.

Serving as a police officer is undoubtedly one of the most challenging, risky and demanding jobs in our city. Once again, you will be called upon to secure the safety of our residents during this weekend's planned demonstrations. I know that this is a particularly challenging situation, and I want you to know that I have complete trust in your ability to manage it. As always, you will rely on the strong leadership of your command staff, your training and your good judgement.

It is unfortunate that there are conflicting stories around my support for the Portland Police Bureau at such a critical time. I believe it is my duty to clarify a couple of points.

While you were doing your part to protect and serve the community, I was pleased to champion an increase the number of sworn police officer positions by 52, strengthen funding for the Service Coordination Team, increase support for the Behavioral Health Unit, fund new trainers and data analysts, and work with local business leaders to support increased revenues for critical services, including public safety enhancements. I will continue to support you as your Mayor.

I also appreciate my strong relationship with the Command Staff. Chief Outlaw has exceeded my expectations – I am glad she accepted my offer to lead our team. She has proven herself to be an effective leader for the Bureau and the community, and she and her leadership team have my full confidence.

The Bureau is fortunate to also benefit from top-flight non-sworn staff. You are the backbone of our operations, and your work is often difficult and overlooked. The Bureau could not succeed without you.

Thank you again for your service to the community. I want you to know that I appreciate it.

Respectfully, Ted Wheeler.

Chief: Injuries Suffered During Portland Police Protest Response Will Be Investigated

*By Elliot Njus
August 5, 2018*

Portland's police chief on Sunday acknowledged allegations of injuries suffered a day earlier as officers cleared streets and fired various crowd-control munitions near crowds of protesters.

Chief Danielle Outlaw said any complaints would be forwarded to the Office of Independent Police Review.

"This morning I learned of allegations of injury as a result of law enforcement action," Outlaw said in a statement. "I take all force applications by members seriously and I have directed the Professional Standards Division to begin the intake process regarding these allegations to determine if force was used and if so, was within our policy and training guidelines."

Despite weeks of heated rhetoric, the only clashes came between counter-protesters and police.

Reports of injuries appeared on social media during and after the demonstrations. Some were widely shared, but could not be independently confirmed.

The police bureau said Saturday that three people were treated by Portland Fire medics, and one was taken by ambulance to a local hospital with a non-life-threatening injury. None of those injuries were the result of police actions, police spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley said.

Police officers are required to write reports after using force, the bureau said, and the bureau said it reviews those reports to determine if the actions were within its policies.

The statement said complaints about officer conduct could be sent directly to the Office of Independent Police Review for investigation through an online form or by calling (503) 823-0146.

Police were stationed in large numbers in downtown Portland on Saturday in anticipation of a face-off between the right-wing group Patriot Prayer and groups of counter-protesters. Police lined Southwest Naito Parkway in an effort to keep the groups separated.

Around 2 p.m., officers ordered a group of counter-protesters near the intersection of Southwest Naito Parkway and Southwest Columbia Street to disperse. When the group didn't immediately leave, police fired dozens of flash-bang grenades and other crowd-control munitions. Officers rushed toward the crowd, shoving some protesters out of the street.

Police said protesters had thrown a "chemical agent" and other objects at officers.

An object thrown at police after the dispersal order was given hit Eder Campuzano, a reporter from The Oregonian/OregonLive, in the head. He was bloodied, but is doing fine.

The runup to the demonstration took on an ominous tone after Gibson moved it to Tom McCall Waterfront Park, where those with permits to carry concealed weapons could legally arm themselves. Gibson also encouraged his supporters, who were legally able, to bring guns to the protest.

Throughout the day, Portland police released images of weapons collected from both sides, including knives, sticks, shields and fireworks. Unlike past demonstrations, however, Saturday's dueling events never turned into the melee that many had predicted.

The bureau said earlier it had made four arrests during Saturday's events:

- Robert J. Majure, 27, on suspicion of harassment and resist arrest;
- Tracy L Molina, 45, on suspicion of second-degree disorderly conduct and attempted assault on a public safety officer;
- Tristan I. Rominemann, 28, on suspicion of interfering with a police officer, second-degree disorderly conduct and harassment;
- and Joseph C. Evans, 34, on suspicion of recklessly endangering another person and unlawful use of a weapon.
- Oregonian reporters Kale Williams, Eder Campuzano, Shane Dixon Kavanaugh, Anna Spoerre, Hannah Boufford and Jim Ryan contributed to this post.

Protests Converge In Portland, But Remain Mostly Peaceful

*By Kate Williams
August 4, 2018*

The concussive crack of stun grenades echoed through the streets of downtown Portland Saturday as groups on opposing sides of the political spectrum took to the streets.

But despite weeks of heated rhetoric, the protest — which was organized by right-wing Patriot Prayer and countered by groups on the left — resulted in little violence between the two groups. Past clashes have quickly devolved to open fistfights and mayhem.

The protest, billed ostensibly as a rally for free speech and campaign event for Joey Gibson, the leader of Patriot Prayer and Republican U.S. Senatorial candidate from Vancouver, saw hundreds of his supporters, many of whom came from out of state, bussed in from across the border decked out in helmets, crash pads and shields festooned with the Confederate battle flag.

They were met by counter-protesters from a coalition of organizations on the left including a group called Popular Mobilization, which formed recently specifically to counter Gibson's protest, another group dressed up as clowns and a cadre of antifascist activists commonly known as antifa.

Police formed barriers along Southwest Naito Parkway early in the day and effectively kept the groups separated, close enough to hurl insults, but too far to throw punches.

The biggest dust-up came when police in riot gear ordered a group of counter-protesters to disperse around 2 p.m. The group, which was tightly clustered near the intersection of Southwest Naito Parkway and Southwest Columbia Street, did not immediately leave and officers quickly began firing dozens of flash-bang grenades and rushing toward the crowd, shoving some protesters out of the street.

In a statement released Saturday night, officials said police vehicles were surrounded by the group and protesters were "throwing an unknown chemical agent as well as other projectiles at officers" prior to the use of flash-bang grenades. Police also fired pepper balls and so-called "less lethal" rounds at protesters.

The move elicited loud cheers of "USA! USA!" from the right-leaning group cordoned across the street.

After the dispersal order was given, some projectiles were thrown at police, one of which hit Eder Campuzano, a reporter from The Oregonian/OregonLive, in the head. He was bloodied, but is doing fine.

"Unfortunately, today, some people chose to commit illegal acts of violence, which required members of the Police Bureau to take action in order to keep all participants and non-participants safe," Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement. "This was a dangerous situation for all those involved, including officers, and I am disheartened that this kind of illegal behavior occurred in our beautiful city."

The protest shut down Naito Parkway, a major thoroughfare through downtown, for much of the day Saturday.

The runup to the demonstration took on an ominous tone after Gibson moved it to Tom McCall Waterfront Park, where those with permits to carry concealed weapons could legally arm themselves. Gibson also encouraged his supporters, who were legally able, to bring guns to the protest.

Throughout the day, Portland police released images of weapons collected from both sides, including knives, sticks, shields and fireworks. Unlike past demonstrations, however, Saturday's dueling events never turned into the melee that many had predicted.

At least four people were arrested during the protest, most for disorderly conduct.

The Portland Tribune

Mayor Wheeler Responds to Police Union Complaints

By Nick Budnick and Jim Redden

August 3, 2018

Mayor says he has supported police and continues to despite 'conflicting stories,' in wake of union criticism.

Mayor Ted Wheeler on Friday emailed Portland police officers directly to express his support for them, responding to their union president's statement Thursday that Wheeler had "failed miserably" as police commissioner.

"Serving as a police officer is undoubtedly one of the most challenging, risky and demanding jobs in our city," Wheeler wrote, noting that he had supported the addition of more than 50 new police officer positions, and thanking the police for their service to the community. He called "conflicting stories" around his support of the police "unfortunate," adding "It is an honor to serve as your Police Commissioner."

Portland Police Association President Daryl Turner had posted a statement on the Portland Police Association website Thursday saying there is no place for "political bias" in day-to-day policing decisions. Although not mentioned specifically, the statement was posted days after Wheeler defended his previous decision to keep police away from the demonstration outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Southwest Portland.

The union representing ICE employees has accused Wheeler of preventing police from responding to their calls for assistance during confrontations with protesters. In a letter of response, Wheeler said police were not prohibited from responding to 911 calls, but added he "consistently stated that I did not want the Portland Police Bureau to be engaged or sucked into a conflict for the purpose of securing federal property that houses a federal agency with their own federal police force."

Wheeler has repeatedly said he supported the purpose of the protest but not the camp that formed adjacent to the facility.

During a previous meeting with the Portland Tribune editorial board, Wheeler said there were occasional conflicts between his roles as mayor and police commissioner. He said they were the result of Portland's unique form of government, where the members of the council also oversee city bureaus. Mayors have traditionally assigned the police to themselves.

Turner also sent out a statement recently calling the city of Portland a "cesspool," and later said a the city needs better services for the homeless. His statement responded to a quote of Wheeler in The Oregonian about the paper's finding that half of the arrests last year were of homeless people. Turner has suggested Wheeler does not support the city's police.

Here is the text of Wheeler's statement:

It is an honor to serve as your Police Commissioner.

Serving as a police officer is undoubtedly one of the most challenging, risky and demanding jobs in our city. Once again, you will be called upon to secure the safety of our residents during this weekend's planned demonstrations. I know that this is a particularly challenging situation, and I want you to know that I have complete trust in your ability to manage it. As always, you will rely on the strong leadership of your command staff, your training and your good judgement.

It is unfortunate that there are conflicting stories around my support for the Portland Police Bureau at such a critical time. I believe it is my duty to clarify a couple of points.

While you were doing your part to protect and serve the community, I was pleased to champion an increase the number of sworn police officer positions by 52, strengthen funding for the Service Coordination Team, increase support for the Behavioral Health Unit, fund new trainers and data analysts, and work with local business leaders to support increased revenues for critical services, including public safety enhancements. I will continue to support you as your Mayor.

I also appreciate my strong relationship with the Command Staff. Chief Outlaw has exceeded my expectations – I am glad she accepted my offer to lead our team. She has proven herself to be an effective leader for the Bureau and the community, and she and her leadership team have my full confidence.

The Bureau is fortunate to also benefit from top-flight non-sworn staff. You are the backbone of our operations, and your work is often difficult and overlooked. The Bureau could not succeed without you.

Thank you again for your service to the community. I want you to know that I appreciate it.

Respectfully, Ted Wheeler.

Four Arrested During Clash Between Patriot Prayer, Antifa

*By Zane Sparling
August 4, 2018*

The rally between Patriot Prayer and Antifa takes place on Saturday, August 4 on the Waterfront.

Portland police arrested four people during an eight-hour protest in downtown Portland on Saturday, Aug. 4. Those arrested were:

- Robert Joseph Majure, 27, was arrested near Southwest Naito Parkway and Columbia Street on charges of harassment and resisting arrest.
- Tracy Lynn Molina, 45, was arrested near Southwest Second Avenue and Columbia Street on charges of second-degree disorderly conduct and attempted assault on a police officer.
- Tristan Isaac Rominemann, 28, was arrested near Southwest Naito Parkway and Columbia Street on charges of interfering with a police officer, second-degree disorderly conduct and harassment.
- Joseph C. Evans, 34, was arrested near Southwest Second Avenue and Jefferson Street on charges of recklessly endangering and unlawful use of a weapon.

"Unfortunately, today, some people chose to commit illegal acts of violence, which required members of the Police Bureau to take action in order to keep all participants and non-participants

safe," Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement. "This was a dangerous situation for all those involved, including officers, and I am disheartened that this kind of illegal behavior occurred in our beautiful city."

Police used pepper spray, rubber bullets and other "less lethal" projectiles and made several arrests after a crowd of counter-protesters ignored orders to disperse from an area near where a "Freedom March" was being held by conservatives. Dozens of flash-bangs could be heard echoing on Columbia Street and videos showed a line of officers in riot gear charging the retreating crowd of Antifa members, which police said had been tossing bottles, rocks, smoke bombs, firework mortars, other liquids and using a slingshot.

Police said the "tumultuous" and "assaultive" behavior required the presence of nearly every on-duty police officer, and that non-emergency calls were routed to other city departments for a portion of the day and evening. No officers were injured during the fray, though three police cars were vandalized.

Raw Story reported that an anti-fascist counter protester was sent to the hospital with a "head wound" caused by a flash-bang grenade canister fired by police at close range. "The hit would have been lethal if he wasn't wearing a helmet," his girlfriend told the website, which did not identify either of them.

Photos associated with the incident showed the bloody back of a man's head and what appeared to be a metal container protruding from a large hole punched in a black helmet.

Here's a previous update:

A "civil disturbance" was declared and protesters on both sides were ordered to disperse from downtown after Portland Police said members of a mob began to hurl rocks and bottles at officers.

Flashbangs rang out and the authorities appeared to deploy pepper spray shortly after 2 p.m. as they subsequently moved to clear Southwest Columbia Street at the intersection with Naito Parkway, where a large mob of Antifa members had been halted by a police line.

Standing across street along the border of Tom McCall Waterfront Park, members of the right-wing Patriot Prayer group were untouched by the crowd control measures. It was not immediately clear if both sides were throwing projectiles.

Eder Campuzano, a reporter for The Oregonian, said he was livestreaming a social media video from the Antifa side when he saw a "part-empty plastic water bottle spinning toward me." Photos posted to Twitter showed blood on his head and dripping down onto his arms.

Campuzano wrote that he did not see who threw the bottle, but that it must have been someone standing behind him, closer to the intersection of Columbia Street and Southwest First Avenue. That area was primarily populated by members of the left-wing protest group.

Campuzano indicated that he would visit an urgent care but also said he did not believe his injuries were serious. At least several other people were also injured, but officials have not yet released a final tally.

Despite the violence, Saturday's uproar was a far cry from a riot about a month ago, when packs of anti-fascists and President Donald Trump supporters openly clashed on the streets without immediate interference by law enforcement.

Police officers served as a human wall on Saturday, August 4, preventing almost anyone from either group from crossing the four-lane boulevard. The moving cordon went into effect as soon

as the anti-fascists marched from their rallying point at Portland City Hall. Police later shadowed the right-wing group when they left their staging ground in the waterfront and marched south on Naito and then west on Market Street.

The Portland Police Bureau said they confiscated knives, fireworks, poles, pepper spray, mortars, baseball bats and homemade shields during the course of the day. The size of the combined crowd was probably no more than 1,000 people.

Joey Gibson — leader of Patriot Prayer and candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington — called for a "revolution" in a speech near the Salmon Street Springs fountain during the conclusion of the day's hurly-burly.

"I have prayed about it. I envision a true revolution in this country where we don't have to hate one another just because we have differences of opinion," he said. "Where we can truly come together, where we can unite and understand that this empire above us has gotten way too big."

Kerry Hudson — a familiar face at Patriot Prayer events — told the Tribune one of his ribs was broken by an apparent Antifa member during a violent assault that was captured on video during a rally in Portland on June 2.

Yet the Tacoma, Washington resident said he was undeterred to attend again.

"If I let that kind of stuff put me on the ground, out of the game — then I'm here for the wrong reasons," he said. "What we want to do is get along with them or at least dialogue with them. You can't dialogue when you're throwing fists."

Gibson asked his supporters to vote for him in the Washington primary on Tuesday, Aug. 7. His next "Freedom March" is scheduled for Aug. 18 in Seattle.

"I am sick and tired of the leadership in the Democratic Party pandering and race baiting and trying to make us feel bad for being American, freedom loving and to believe in the Constitution and to believe in God," Gibson said.

"We're not going to stand down any more. Especially not in Portland, Oregon."

Read a previous update below:

Portland Police have blocked off Southwest Naito Parkway, preventing the crowd of anti-Patriot Prayer protesters who marched from City Hall from reaching the right's gathering spot across the street.

"Southwest Naito is closed. The pedestrian crossings are closed. Remain on the sidewalk," a police officer with a megaphone repeated around noon.

"Failure to follow this order may result in the reasonable use of force to enforce this order," the spokesman continued.

A few minutes later, he said officers have observed people on the west side of the street with weapons and warned that everyone must leave the area immediately or may be subjected to "riot control agents or impact weapons."

Many people are not heeding the police's commands.

The bottleneck leaves both sides eyeing each other warily from across the street. Numerous police officers wearing riot gear and carrying batons are blocking the street.

There are some clowns interspersed with black-clad Antifa members and other nonaffiliated protesters stuck on the west side of Naito.

"I think it's important to fight white supremacy with everything you've got: What I have is joy, music and a rubber nose," explained a clown who gave his name as Bug. "I try not to take anything too seriously, because if you don't you get stuck down there in that place of hopelessness."

Antifa members are also carrying a large effigy of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, which they've dubbed the anti-mayor or "Ned Wheeler."

"Ted tolerates Nazis," one protester wearing black and a mask said.

"Ned doesn't," said another.

Previously, at City Hall, Angelica Lim with the International League of People's Struggles gave a rousing speech from the steps of the civic building. Lim identifies as a militant queer Filipino mother.

"Use your skills and get organized. We have a world to win!" she orated. "The fascist bad boys — they are a tool of the global elite."

Read a previous update below:

The Portland Police Bureau is hoping to box in a planned protest between members of the left and the right.

The fence is intended to create "a safe space" for people to express their First Amendment rights, according to a news release.

"Everyone attending the demonstration and counterdemonstration are encouraged to obey all laws and be respectful of others who are using city streets, freeways and mass transit," a spokesperson wrote. "Marching into and blocking streets without a permit is illegal and dangerous to protesters as well as road users and has a significantly negative impact to our community."

Police say no one will be allowed to bring any weapons or "visibly displayed" guns into the fenced zone, including those with valid concealed carry permits in Oregon. Police say the rule applies to rifles, shotguns, other types of long-gun firearms.

The fence runs from Salmon to Morrison streets on the north, west and south sides of Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

By 10:30 a.m., several hundred have gathered outside City Hall for an anti-Patriot Prayer rally organized by a new face in the Portland protest scene: Popular Mobilization — or POPMOB for short.

Camera crews, sign-holders, a contingent of socialists and many others are outside the civic building located at 1221 S.W. 4th Avenue.

Mitzi Yates, one leftist protester, said the people in the crowd are the "true patriots."

"We are being owned and controlled by the rich," she said. "This is my country."

"We do not need out of state people coming down here trying to disrupt our city," added her husband, Phil. "They're bringing messages of hate and that's not what we need. There's too much work to do."

All eyes are on the waterfront as Portland prepares for the expected confrontation between Patriot Prayer and Antifa on Saturday, August 4.

Whatever happens, the event promises to be an all-out display attended by hundreds or thousands of protesters, counter-protesters, onlookers, bystanders, local and federal law enforcement, credential media and citizen journalists, politicians and clowns.

Yes, clowns.

At least 40 "colorful folk" are expected to appear in Chapman Square for some light tomfoolery at 11 a.m., according to an event page on social media.

"We are hopeful that making a mockery of their ilk will do a better turn than fisticuffs," wrote the Unpresidential Brass Band. "Please come and clown it up while standing up for peace and reason!"

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said on Twitter that no city permits are required to assemble on the waterfront. She said she would attend only the beginning of the rally outside City Hall at 10:30 a.m. in order to encourage others to leave as well.

"I strongly encourage Portlanders to consider staying away from this event and instead engage in a day or weekend of action," she said in a statement. "There are limitless ways we can creatively and peacefully demonstrate [that] hate, bigotry and intolerance is not welcome in our city."

Dozens of anti-Patriot Prayer posters have popped up in different parts of the Rose City. Others took to social media to criticize the sensationalistic tone of national pre-rally coverage, which has been described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as "the next Charlottesville."

Rumors swirled that conspiracy monger Alex Jones would attend today's protest. Instead, it was InfoWars reporter Owen Shroyer who announced his arrival in Portland on Aug. 3. The site is known for spreading outlandish lies while hawking health supplements to its credulous readers.

Check back here for frequent updates from the Portland Tribune throughout the day. For more background information on today's demonstration, [click here](#).

Willamette Week

Police Crackdown Sends a Woman to the Hospital, But Portland Avoids Unhinged Violence in Protester Showdown

By Katie Shepherd

August 4, 2018

Multiple observers described the police use of explosive devices as more aggressive than ever before at Portland protests.

A police crackdown on antifascist protesters in downtown Portland today sent at least one woman to the hospital after being hit in the arm and chest with a "flash-bang" grenade police launched into the crowd.

The events surrounding the Patriot Prayer demonstration this afternoon left several others bloodied and bruised, but the violence was not as severe as at a previous far-right rally that devolved into a riot on June 30.

The Portland police actions today drew immediate rebuke from left-wing groups. Multiple observers described the police use of explosive devices as more aggressive than ever before at Portland protests.

But the heavy-handed police tactics—including placing hundreds of riot cops between the adversarial groups—appeared to avert the outcome darkly hinted at by national progressive media for the past two weeks: that right-wing groups would wreak havoc and even kill someone. That didn't happen.

Instead, Portland police managed to keep the two groups of warring protesters—Patriot Prayer supporters and their antifascist opposition—separate for hours. Officers confiscated weapons, posting photos of sticks, shields, pepper spray, fireworks and a baseball bat wrapped in a Kekistan flag.

Yet as in past protests, police force was aimed squarely and nearly exclusively at one side: the antifascists.

Police in riot gear formed a line down Southwest Naito Parkway and barricaded the far-right protesters, led by Senate candidate Joey Gibson. Gibson and his supporters had made threats of violence and promised "self-defense" would happen at the rally.

A few far-right protesters, including Gibson himself, wandered into the middle of the antifascist crowd throughout the day. Gibson was spotted almost immediately and followed by a woman yelling "Joey Gibson, right here." Antifascists surrounded him and began screaming for him to get out of Portland and "go home." He was pushed out of the crowd and handed to police who forced him back onto the waterfront.

The first signs of serious trouble bubbled up as protesters from both groups began to march south in a clear attempt to outflank police and start brawls in the street.

Neither group managed to cross Naito Parkway to fight their foes for more than a few minutes—but tensions were heightened as the antifascist group in black bloc approached Southwest Columbia Street and Naito Parkway.

Police ordered the group to retreat back into downtown several times before firing flash bang grenades into the crowd.

Police then said officers had seen protesters throwing rocks and bottles and ordered the crowd to disperse. Riot police then chased protesters through the streets and continued to fire explosive devices.

One woman was hit by a flash-bang grenade and went to the hospital with cuts and a possible arm fracture, her boyfriend told WW.

Oregonian reporter Eder Campuzano went to the hospital when he was hit in the head by a projectile thrown by counter-protesters.

Counter-protesters had been chanting "Who do you protect? Who do you serve?" all day, pointing to the larger number of officers facing antifascists as evidence of biased treatment. (The antifascist crowd was, however, significantly larger than the far-right gathering, which may have explained some of the attention it received.)

One woman, who didn't give her name, asked an officer why police were asking counter-protesters to move even though they were Portland residents and pay for the police salaries. He just shook his head and didn't answer her questions.

"Yeah, we know who you protect," she told him.

Allegations of unequal treatment from Portland police have plagued city officials since at least last June, when officers kettled hundreds of counterprotesters at one of Gibson's earliest rallies.

A Portland police officer also told investigators in the City Auditor's Office that he viewed the right-wing protesters as "more mainstream" than those on the left.

Joey Gibson is interviewed by KGW-TV on Aug. 4, 2018. (San Gehrke) Joey Gibson is interviewed by KGW-TV on Aug. 4, 2018. (San Gehrke)

Today, Gibson's followers cheered and chanted "USA!" as police fired flash bangs and followed the antifascists, pushing them deeper into downtown Portland.

Eventually both Patriot Prayer and the antifascists found their way back to Tom McCall Waterfront Park. A few small scuffles unfolded in the street as far-right demonstrators tried to provoke counter-protesters or tried to slip by unnoticed to get to their cars.

Overall, the event was a far cry from the riot last month that sent five people to the hospital, one with a fractured skull. The day was not, as some out-of-state observers had predicted, "another Charlottesville."

In Chaotic Scene, Portland Police Launch Flash-Bangs and Pepper Balls at Antifascist Protesters

*By Katie Shepherd
August 4, 2018*

The far-right groups stood across the street and laughed as they watched police deploy explosive devices on their adversaries.

In the latest episode of a familiar, violent dance, Portland police deployed explosive devices and chemical irritants at antifascist protesters who arrived on the waterfront to confront right-wing marchers.

The far-right groups, led by U.S. Senate candidate Joey Gibson and a men's fraternity called the Proud Boys, stood across the street and laughed as they watched police deploy "flash-bangs" on their adversaries.

Shortly before 2 pm, police gave multiple orders for people standing at Southwest Naito Parkway and Columbia Street to move west.

Antifascist protesters refused to comply. Some put their hands up. Others banged on plastic shields and shouted "Whose streets? Our streets."

After several announcements over loudspeaker, officers fired several flash bangs into the crowd. Bitter smoke filled the air and people began to scramble west.

Update: Police crackdown sends a woman to the hospital, but Portland avoids unhinged street brawls.

Protesters threw rocks and bottles at police. A reporter for The Oregonian, Eder Campuzano, was struck by a projectile during the melee and was seen bleeding from his forehead.

Antifascists scrambled for cover near the waterfront Marriott as riot police followed them, shooting off crowd-control devices like pepper balls at the retreating protesters. Someone knocked over a port-a-potty in the chaos, as smoke clouded the streets.

"All cops are bastards," the fleeing protesters screamed.

It was a familiar scene—nearly identical to the dueling protests on June 4, 2017, the last time two protest contingents of this size met in Portland's streets. The police use of force and detaining of left-wing protesters led to a lawsuit backed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. It also led the city's independent police oversight office to recommend reforms of how police treated protesters.

Today, police told the left-wing crowd to disperse because they said left-wing and antifascist protesters threw projectiles at them. It's hard to know with certainty what triggered the police use of force: Today's antifascist crowd numbers in the thousands.

Meanwhile, Gibson's group proceeded unmolested out of Tom McCall Waterfront Park and into Portland streets. Police gave them a stern lecture and ordered them back into the park.

Protesters Seeking Clash on Portland Waterfront Met by Army of Riot Cops

*By Katie Shepherd
August 4, 2018*

A massive police presence has so far successfully kept the two groups separated from each other. Few guns are seen.

Several hundred right-wing demonstrators from across the United States arrived on the Portland waterfront this morning for a rally designed to defy and agitate a liberal city they see as a redoubt against free speech and patriotism.

Thousands more Portlanders and progressive activists turned out to confront them—disgusted by more than a year of the group Patriot Prayer looking for fistfights in downtown streets.

But both groups encountered a much larger police presence that is typical at these events.

The line of riot cops signaled the Portland Police Bureau is ready to follow Mayor Ted Wheeler's urging to tamp down the violent brawls that have made Portland a target of right-wing activists and conspiracy media.

Several hundred counter-protesters, a large contingent dressed head to toe in black, showed up to oppose Gibson's rally. The police have kept the two opposed groups separate by stationing riot cops along each side of Naito Parkway, stopping either side from crossing the street to clash.

A massive police presence has so far successfully kept the two groups separated from each other, on either side of Southwest Naito Parkway.

Patriot Prayer leader and Senate candidate Joey Gibson planned the Aug. 4 rally, which he has called a "campaign event," shortly after Portland Police declared his June 30 demonstration a riot.

Patriot Prayer supporters and Proud Boys beat antifascist counter-protesters with flag poles federal police allowed them to keep. Antifascists fought back, throwing rocks and fireworks. Both sides used pepper spray.

The violence was an extreme version of the street brawls that had become routine at Gibson's events. In recent months, some of his closest followers have also taken to driving around the Portland area yelling "Build the wall" and assaulting random people who shout back from the street.

National press and hate watchdogs have stoked deep concern about today's rally, pointing to Patriot Prayer's decision to bring armed guards and open carry as a signal that even worse violence is possible.

Oregon is an open carry state, but only people with a valid concealed handgun license can carry a loaded gun in public.

"We've always had guns at the rally," Gibson said in a video on Facebook in the week before the rally. "Everyone should be carrying around guns at all times."

In the event, police did not appear to check Patriot Prayer protesters for weapons—and few of the people arriving were seen carrying guns.

Supporters from many states outside of Oregon joined Gibson in Vancouver, Wash. Saturday morning, then took a chartered bus to Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

They were met by thousands of antifascists and progressive counter-protesters, who ignored pleas from city officials to stay away. Members of Rose City Antifa carried a banner reading "GTFO ya jabronis" and a cardboard cutout of Wheeler clad in a bandanna and the Black Bloc clothing favored by antifascists.

Right-wing protesters attempted occasional, solo forays into the left-wing crowd—including one man who was dragged by police, head bleeding, to his own side of the street.

Tuasala "Tiny" Toese, who has started several brawls in Portland and at allegedly attacked at least one bystander, arrived in a T-shirt reading "Pinochet did nothing wrong"—and proceeded to dance to "Cha Cha Slide" with fellow members of the Proud Boys, a right-wing men's fraternity.

For his part, Gibson—whose Washington-state run for U.S. Senate appears a thinly-veiled effort to draw attention to his street marches—gave a pep talk to his supporters that focused on two topics: Wheeler and fighting.

"When we march, we are not here to beat people up," Gibson said. "We are not here to fight. But you have a God-given right to protect yourself if this mayor refuses to protect your constitutional rights."

City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly Urges Portlanders: Stay Away from Patriot Prayer Rally

*By Rachel Monahan
August 4, 2018*

In a strongly worded statement Friday evening, Eudaly condemned the political violence that has filled city streets.

Stay away from Saturday's Patriot Prayer protest—that's the request to Portlanders from City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

In a strongly worded statement released late Friday afternoon, Eudaly said she'll be attending a counter-protest at City Hall at 10:30 am, a good distance from the Tom McCall Waterfront Park where Joey Gibson's right-wing "March for Freedom" is scheduled to take place.

The march has drawn the interest of white nationalists and a far-right men's fraternity called the Proud Boys.

"I strongly encourage Portlanders to consider staying away from this event," Eudaly writes, "and instead engage in a day or weekend of action—attend an event in your community, donate to organizations doing vital work in this area, sign up to volunteer, write letters to elected representatives, spread messages of love, peace, and resistance on social media, and talk to friends and family."

"There are limitless ways we can creatively and peacefully demonstrate but hate, bigotry, and intolerance is not welcome in our city."

A large coalition of antifascist protest groups, organizing under the name POPMOB, short for "popular mobilization," plan to confront Gibson and his far-right allies. On Friday afternoon, the Democrat Socialists of America urged its members to join the counterprotesters and overwhelm the far-right march.

Eudaly says if First Amendment and local free speech protections didn't stand in the way she'd block Gibson's group from coming.

"To be clear, the law does not allow me or my colleagues, including the Mayor, to prevent this gathering," she says. "If I was able to prevent it I certainly would: I believe that the principles these groups espouse are intended to foment hatred and violence in our city."

She praised Mayor Ted Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw "for taking this threat seriously, doing everything they can to keep the public safe, and for sending a strong message that Portland will not tolerate hate."

In an earlier open letter to the police, Wheeler said he had "complete trust" in the Portland Police Bureau's ability to handle Saturday's demonstration. (The police union president harshly rebuffed Wheeler earlier today over the handling of an immigration protest.)

"Once again, you will be called upon to secure the safety of our residents during this weekend's planned demonstrations," Wheeler said. "I know that this is a particularly challenging situation, and I want you to know that I have complete trust in your ability to manage it."

Eudaly's full statement:

PORTLAND, OREGON, August 3, 2018 – Tomorrow (August 4th) white supremacists, fascists, and assorted far-right conspiracy theorists, largely from outside of our city, plan to gather in the Tom McCall Waterfront Park to exercise their First Amendment rights. According to reports, they specifically chose the location of their event in order to ensure that they could carry weapons and there have been multiple threats of violence by participants on social media. I want to thank Mayor Wheeler and Chief Outlaw for taking this threat seriously, doing everything they can to keep the public safe, and for sending a strong message that Portland will not tolerate hate.

No city permits were issued, nor are they necessary to assemble on the waterfront or march on the sidewalks. Despite threats made by individuals, these groups still have a right to peacefully assemble and to freedom of speech. What they don't have a right to do is commit acts of violence or engage in speech meant to cause physical harm to others. To be clear, the law does not allow me or my colleagues, including the Mayor, to prevent this gathering. If I was able to prevent it I certainly would: I believe that the principles these groups espouse are intended to foment hatred and violence in our city.

There are multiple ways to respond to injustice, and the right response is different for different people. I am choosing to express my voice by attending a counter protest at City Hall tomorrow at 10:30am and then leaving the area for the remainder of the day.

I strongly encourage Portlanders to consider staying away from this event and instead engage in a day or weekend of action — attend an event in your community, donate to organizations doing vital work in this area, sign up to volunteer, write letters to elected representatives, spread messages of love, peace, and resistance on social media, and talk to friends and family.

There are limitless ways we can creatively and peacefully demonstrate but hate, bigotry, and intolerance is not welcome in our city.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

The Portland Mercury

Recap and Photos from Saturday's Patriot Prayer vs. Portland Rally

*By Steven Humphrey
August 5, 2018*

Yesterday, in their continued admitted attempts to "troll the left," Patriot Prayer held another of their series of rallies on the waterfront and were met by hundreds of Portlanders dedicated to stopping fascism in its tracks.

The rally/counter protest started and ended in a similar fashion to previous Patriot Prayer events: Leader Joey Gibson makes veiled threats that violence will occur; Portlanders take Gibson at his word and vow to show up in huge numbers; Portland police dons their riot gear in response; the two groups are separated and scream at each other for three to four hours; the police say that someone allegedly throws something, which the cops use as an excuse to employ overly rough crowd control tactics on counter protesters, making them appear to be protecting the fascists; as the cops chase (and injure) counter protesters, it frees up the fascists to go on the attack; people (usually on our side) are injured; Patriot Prayer celebrates the success of their trolling, and get on their busses and leave, knowing they've secured lots of national press which they hope will embolden more fascists.

For them, it's a formula that has worked before, worked yesterday, and will undoubtedly work in the future. Next stop for them is Seattle on August 18, where they will surely employ similar tactics, and then back to Portland in the not-too-distant future. In short, rinse and repeat.

On the upside, the Mercury Photography Action Force (Kathleen Marie, Kenton Waltz, and Patrick Bunch) were in full effect yesterday and came back with great photos. [Check them out!](#)

The Daily Journal of Commerce

Portland's BDS Seeking \$4.5 million Software Upgrade

*By Chuck Slothower
August 3, 2018*

Portland's Bureau of Development Services has City Council's approval to pursue a \$4.5 million, five-year contract with a software vendor to upgrade the city's permit-tracking software.

The contract would extend the city's relationship with CSDC Inc., of Austin, Texas. BDS has used the company's AMANDA software since at least 2009. Other city bureaus also use AMANDA, according to a draft ordinance presented to the City Council.

The existing contract will expire on Aug. 31. The new contract would be in effect Sept. 1, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2023. The contract has a five-year option.

AMANDA is part of the Portland Online Permitting System, or POPS. The system will transition BDS from working with paper plans to electronic plans. BDS Director Rebecca Esau has said the project is her top priority.

"It is horribly inefficient to work with paper plans," Esau told the DJC in December. "I wish that we would have done it years ago. But we're doing it now."

The system is designed to make permitting easier for large commercial customers who already have electronic plans. It will also allow some steps of the permitting process to be done remotely, eliminating the need for an estimated 33,000 vehicle trips annually to BDS' downtown office.

The City Council issued authorization to move forward with the software upgrade during its meeting on Thursday.

OPB

Portland Police Arrest 4 At Downtown Protests

*By Ericka Cruz Guevarra
August 4, 2018*

UPDATED (9:01 p.m.) – Police arrested four people at dueling rallies between the right-wing group Patriot Prayer and counter-protesters in downtown Portland Saturday.

The charges include harassment, reckless endangerment, unlawful use of weapons, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and attempted assault of a public safety officer.

The opposing factions remained largely separated Saturday by police officers who at one point blocked sidewalks to prevent the two groups from clashing.

But things turned sour when protesters began throwing rocks and bottles.

Portland Police say officers deployed pepper spray, rubber balls, stinger rounds and aerial distraction devices after crowds failed to disperse.

Portland Fire and Rescue treated at least three people, and one was transported by ambulance for non-threatening injuries. At least one journalist with The Oregonian/OregonLive was injured with a water bottle and was seen bleeding from the head.

"The Portland Police Bureau is, and will always be, committed to providing a safe environment for all individuals to exercise their First Amendment rights in a peaceful manner," said Chief Danielle Outlaw in a statement.

"Unfortunately, today, some people chose to commit illegal acts of violence, which required members of the Police Bureau to take action in order to keep all participants and non-participants safe. This was a dangerous situation for all those involved, including officers, and I am disheartened that this kind of illegal behavior occurred in our beautiful city."

Hundreds of people converged in downtown by late morning Saturday. Police declared it a civil disturbance just before 2:30 p.m., ordering the crowds to disperse.

The Portland Police Bureau setup weapons checkpoints in the main protest area near the Salmon Street fountain and SW Naito Parkway. Police confiscated sticks, bats, shields and other items that could be used as weapons.

Traffic through the area was disrupted throughout the event, with SW Naito Parkway not passable to vehicle traffic between SW Morrison and SW Main streets due to it serving as a barrier between protesters and counter-protesters, according to police. Crosswalks were also closed to pedestrians.

The run-up to the protest garnered national attention that largely drew from perceptions of Portland's potential for "Another Charlottesville." The Southern Poverty Law Center suggested the Aug. 4 rally could be the most violent the city has seen.

The hype largely drew from Portland's rise in clashes between right-wing protestors and counter-protestors in recent years, compounded by concern over Oregon's conceal carry law. While Oregon is an open-carry state, the law also allows local regulation of guns. Portland bans loaded firearms in the city without a concealed carry permit or other exemption, and the Portland Police Bureau staged weapon screening locations near the entrance to Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The bureau also deployed explosive detection dogs before and during the event.

Further, Oregon does not automatically recognize concealed handgun licenses issued in other states, including Washington, where Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson and many of his supporters live. Gibson told OPB ahead of the rally that he would not be bringing a gun, despite earlier calls to his supporters to carry their guns at all times.

"I can't legally carry in Portland," Gibson confirmed to OPB in an interview. "In Portland, you have to have your concealed license."