

The Oregonian

At least 3 Hospitalized After Saturday Protest; Police Chief Defends Tactics

*By Jim Ryan, Shane Dixon Kavanaugh, and Sarah Verschoor
August 6, 2018*

A traumatic brain injury. Third-degree chemical burns. Open wounds.

At least three people who gathered to protest a rally by right-wing group Patriot Prayer were hospitalized Saturday because of injuries sustained from crowd-control munitions fired by Portland police, according to activists, counter-protest organizers and a media report.

The city's police chief, Danielle Outlaw, on Monday offered her most passionate defense yet of officer tactics used to keep the rival political factions apart. She also said the Police Bureau would stop using flash-bang projectiles for now.

Police succeeded in preventing violent clashes between armed demonstrators that many had feared, she said.

The demonstration was widely cast as a showdown between Patriot Prayer, whose leader is a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Vancouver with a history of stirring fierce opposition in Portland, and opponents on the left, including anti-fascists.

Outlaw, speaking at a news conference, said the groups were expected to converge and emphasized "what this did not become."

"It was going to be a very rowdy, physically violent ruckus and it was not that because of the actions that the officers took," Outlaw said.

Her comments came as police have come under scrutiny for their use of flash-bang grenades, pepper balls, pepper spray and so-called "less lethal" rounds fired at or near protesters.

One flash-bang grenade — a device that delivers jarring blasts intended to disperse crowds of people — struck a counter-protester in the back of the head, lodging into a helmet he was wearing and sending him to a hospital, said Jenny Nickolaus, a friend of the injured man. She declined to name him.

[Photos show](#) a bloody gash in his scalp. The helmet he was wearing still contained the ammunition cartridge.

"It blew so much skin off, I don't even know if they were able to patch it up right," Nickolaus said. "The nurse told him the blow would have been lethal had he not been wearing a helmet."

Instead, the impact left the man with a traumatic brain injury and hemorrhaging, Nickolaus said. Her friend was released from the hospital on Sunday and will miss at least a week of work, she said.

The injured counter-protester has not yet spoken with police about the incident, Nickolaus said. He's a Portland activist who showed up in opposition to Patriot Prayer, she said.

[The Guardian also reported](#) that a flash-bang left Michelle Fawcett, 52, with severe soft tissue wounds and third-degree chemical burns. And street medics at the protest said a third person was taken to a hospital with a large arm wound that required stitches.

After hours of relative calm, the police response escalated about 2 p.m. Saturday when officers ordered a group of counter-protesters near Southwest Naito Parkway and 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 have said protesters had thrown a "chemical agent" and other objects at officers. Outlaw said police didn't give orders for protesters to disperse or use crowd-control munitions until after things were thrown at police.

Some counter-protesters and reporters, including those from Oregonian/OregonLive, didn't see that.

[A video tweeted by a KATU-TV](#) photojournalist appears to show projectiles thrown only after the munitions were deployed.

Outlaw and Assistant Chief Ryan Lee said the bureau has temporarily suspended the use of the projectiles, which they referred to as aerial distraction devices, until it can be determined if they are working properly.

Lee said officers are trained to fire the devices into the air over a crowd. He later said he didn't believe the devices were meant to puncture helmets.

"We would ask that the owner of that bike helmet come forward so we can examine it, because if that image is in fact as it appears, that would not be consistent with what we would expect that device to do," Lee said. "We need to understand why and how, if that is indeed an accurate image."

Four people also were arrested at the dueling protests. They were arraigned Monday in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Tracy Molina, shown in a video as an officer pushed her to the ground, pleaded not guilty to charges of disorderly conduct and attempted assault on a public safety officer.

Molina, a U.S. Navy veteran, said in an interview before court that she was trying to leave the area and was walking away from police while shouting, "Stop shooting" as officers fired pepper-spray balls into the crowd.

Molina, 45, said she picked up a discarded sign that condemned racism.

A video taken by another person at the demonstration shows Molina waving the poster at an officer before she turns to walk away. Moments later, the officer tries to snag the poster from her hand. Another officer pushes her, she falls, gets up and then several officers pile on top of her.

She hit her head, was bruised all over her legs and knees and had an elbow injury, she said.

Two men, Robert Majure, 27, who goes by Jonah, and Tristan Romine-Mann, 28, pleaded not guilty to harassment and disorderly conduct charges, accused of throwing a glitter-and-lubricant mixture in a bucket at officers. Majure also pleaded not guilty to resisting arrest.

After court, the men said they brought four buckets of gold glitter mixed with water and powdered lubricant used for horse insemination. They intended to use a super soaker-style water gun to spray the concoction at the crowd of Patriot Prayer followers.

But before they could do that, police ordered them to dump it out, Romine-Mann said.

They dumped it on the chests of six officers who approached them, he said.

Prosecutors didn't charge a fourth person, Joseph Evans, 34, who was arrested Saturday during the protests. The case remains under investigation, said Brent Weisberg, spokesman for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler weighed in on the police response Monday, saying in part that the Police Bureau's goals were to keep the opposing groups separated and "to protect lives." He said they accomplished both objectives.

"Though the worst was avoided, some individuals sustained injuries," Wheeler said in a statement. "Chief Outlaw and I take this seriously. The Chief has directed the Professional Standards Division to begin an internal review of the tactics employed and actions taken by PPB."

The Portland Tribune

City Hall Update: City Beating Deadline on Promised Affordable Housing Projects

*By Jim Redden
August 7, 2018*

Plus, more infill project work sessions set and bike art contest winners displayed at City Hall.

Portland is ahead of schedule on its affordable housing bond commitments, Mayor Ted Wheeler announced Thursday.

The City Council promised to create or preserve 1,300 units of affordable housing by 2023 with the \$258.4 million approved by voters at the November 2016 election. Wheeler says that four projects totaling at least 564 units already have been purchased or are being planned.

Those projects are the 263-unit Ellington Apartments in Northeast Portland purchased in February 2018; a 200-unit project planned on property at 3000 S.E. Powell purchased in February 2018; a 51-unit apartment building at Southeast 105th Avenue and Burnside Street purchased in June 2018; and at least 50 units being planned for a parcel in the Cully neighborhood purchased in July 2018.

Infill work sessions set

The Planning and Sustainability Commission has scheduled two more work sessions on the draft recommendations of the Residential Infill Project, which would limit the size of new homes and allow smaller multifamily housing projects in many single-family neighborhoods, among other things.

Although the City Council originally was set to receive and act on the final recommendation by the end of the year, the deadline has been delayed until March 2019, at the earliest.

In the meantime, the PSC will discuss the recommendations again at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, and 12:30 p.m. Sept. 11. Both sessions will be held at 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave., Portland.

You can learn more at www.tinyurl.com/ybqfdezz.

Bike contest winners displayed at City Hall

The Portland Bureau of Transportation announced the winners of its annual Bike to Books Coloring Contest last Tuesday. The contest was open to students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The winning entries are on display at City Hall until Aug. 24.

The first-place winning art will be installed on four bike lanes by the PBOT striping crews later this summer. Second-place winners received four full-day passes to the Lumberyard Bike Park, including rental bikes and safety equipment if needed, and third-place winners won a bike helmet of their choice from Portland-based Nutcase Helmets.

Approximately 450 entries were submitted from students across Multnomah County. You also can see the winners at www.tinyurl.com/y7euurcr.

Police Chief: Protesters Weren't There to Sing 'Kumbaya'

*By Zane Sparling
August 6, 2018*

Danielle Outlaw denied allegations of 'favoritism' during a protest between Patriot Prayer, Antifa.

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw denied all claims of "favoritism" or "special treatment" by her officers during an unruly protest between dueling factions in downtown Portland.

The city's top law enforcement official defended the conduct of those policing the Saturday, Aug. 4 protest — which culminated when baton-swinging riot cops charged into the ranks of left-wing counter protesters. A conservative group across the street was left relatively untouched.

"One side might have been impacted a little bit more than the other," she admitted, but "we have to be neutral and we call it down the middle."

Police unleashed pepper spray, launched flash-bangs and fired rubber bullets as they cleared Southwest Columbia Street of anti-fascists known as Antifa around 2 p.m. From the other side of Naito Parkway, the group known as Patriot Prayer cheered.

Chief Outlaw said officers focused on the left-wing group because they were tossing firecrackers and rocks at the uniformed wall blocking their path to the waterfront. Officers advanced only after Antifa ignored multiple orders to disperse that were broadcast via amplified sound, she added.

"There's a lot of fingers being pointed at us," she said, "but where's the accountability for the people that come with the intent to harm, destroy and to tear things up."

"This wasn't folks that were coming to just march peacefully and demonstrate, sing Kumbaya and go on their way," she continued.

Outlaw expressed unwavering support for the rank-and-file during the press conference on the 15th floor of the Justice Center, 1111 S.W. 2nd Ave., on Monday, Aug. 6. But it appears that online outrage over the authorities' hard-nosed response has already made a thudding impact within the agency.

The Portland Police Bureau has temporarily suspended use of "aerial distraction devices" after widely-circulated images appeared to show a black canister protruding through a bike helmet and the bloodied head of the man apparently struck by it.

"The hit would have been lethal if he wasn't wearing a helmet," the counter protester's girlfriend told Raw Story.

Police say they have not spoken with the unidentified man but strongly encourage him to come forward. Assistant Chief Ryan Lee said the distraction device makes a bright flash and loud noise but is not technically a "flash-bang."

"They're trained to fire those not directly at individuals, they're trained to fire those over the crowd," Lee said. "It's designed to startle, distract people and make them want to leave the area."

At least two other people were injured during the police charge.

KATU photojournalist Ric Peavyhouse said he was struck by a "less lethal impact round" that left a bruise the size of his fist.

The British newspaper The Guardian published an interview with Michelle Fawcett, who said she suffered "intense" injuries to her arm and chest after being hit by a flash-bang.

Reporters also questioned whether Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson cut a deal allowing his followers to avoid weapon screening stations if they entered in one area. Police spokesman Sgt. Christopher Burley said those statements were "not accurate."

When asked why the Patriot Prayer group was allowed to march west on Southwest Market Street from Naito Parkway without facing crowd control measures, Outlaw said "that's a good question, I don't have the answer to that."

Willamette Week

Portland Police Suspend Use of “Flash-Bang” Grenades After Reports That Several Protesters Were Severely Injured by the Weapons

*By Katie Shepherd
August 6, 2018*

The devices frequently cause injury and can even kill.

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw and Assistant Chief Ryan Lee say the Portland Police Bureau has suspended use of "flash-bang" grenades after reports that multiple people were severely injured as officers drove back a crowd of antifascist protesters on Aug. 4.

Outlaw and Lee say the devices should not have caused injuries if they were used properly and operated as intended.

"They're trained to fire arial distraction devices," Ryan said at a press conference Monday afternoon. "They're trained to fire those not directly at individuals. They're trained to fire them over the crowd. Those devices are designed so that if you have a 15 degree up angle... they should actuate roughly 20 feet above that person's head."

One woman says she was hit with the first explosive launched by police at the crowd of protesters standing near the intersection of Southwest Naito Parkway and Southwest Columbia Street. She went to an urgent care clinic with third-degree burns on her arm and chest.

An image of a bike helmet with the canister of a flash-bang grenade lodged in the back was posted on Twitter shortly after the protest broke up. According to Raw Story and other accounts on social media, unconfirmed by WW, the man who had been wearing the helmet had burns and lacerations to the back of his head and had to be hospitalized.

Police say they do not understand how the explosive riot control devices could have caused the injuries that have been reported.

"We've temporarily suspended the use of one of the particular devices that we think, if it was connected to that helmet, so we could take a look at whether or not there were any unintended consequences or any malfunctions," says Chief Danielle Outlaw.

Lee expanded on the temporary suspension of the grenades.

"We've removed from service the arial distraction device until we can conduct some tests to make sure that they're performing within the way that we expect them to," he said. "We would ask that the owner of that bike helmet come forward so that we can examine it, because if that image is in fact as it appears, that would not be consistent with what we would expect that device to do. We need to understand why and how if that is indeed an accurate image."

Neither Lee nor Outlaw could answer reporters' questions about what a layperson might call the "arial distraction device" used by police to disperse the crowd Saturday. But the explosive devices that emit a bright light and a booming sound are often called flash-bangs, stun grenades, or concussion grenades.

Despite the police bureau's insistence that the grenades should not have caused injuries, plentiful evidence exists documenting that the devices frequently cause injury and can even kill. The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon has repeatedly urged the Portland police to stop using these types of explosives on crowds of protesters because of the potential for serious injuries.

The Portland Mercury

Chief Outlaw Defends Police Violence Against Patriot Prayer Counter-Protesters

*By Alex Zielinski
August 6, 2018*

Saturday's Patriot Prayer rally saw an unprecedented use of force by the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). According to the swarm of witnesses, the majority of this force was used against those protesting the alt-right group's volatile visit to Portland. One protester was shot in the head by "non-lethal" flash bang grenade. If he wasn't wearing a helmet at the time, observers say the grenade could have killed him. Another video captured on Instagram shows a PPB officer clearly shoving a fleeing protester onto the sidewalk and then dousing them in pepper spray. Another protester was left with chemical burns on her arm and chest from a PPB flash bang.

This afternoon, PPB held a press conference to respond to this apparent imbalance, during which PPB Chief Danielle Outlaw only further tipped the scale in Patriot Prayer's favor. Neither she nor any other PPB officer who spoke this morning condemned Patriot Prayer, a group tied to white supremacists, for inciting violence.

Outlaw did, however, scold counter-protesters for their violent actions.

"This wasn't folks that were coming to march peacefully and demonstrate, sing Kumbaya and go on their way," Outlaw said, referring to the counter-protesters. "They came with the intent to cause problems."

"If you're given an order to disperse and you choose not to, that tells me... that you are there for confrontation."

Outlaw claimed that all peaceful protesters left the event before PPB began shooting pepper balls and flash bangs at the crowd. The remaining counter-protesters, she alleges, were wanting a fight.

"If you're given an order to disperse and you choose not to, that tells me... that you are there for confrontation," she said.

But PPB officers didn't only use force against counter-protesters, Outlaw added.

"We also have video of Patriot Prayer members... that were also impacted by the tools that we used as well," Outlaw said. "It's a little bit on both sides, but you might see that one side was impacted a little bit more than the other. But we don't go into it saying we'll provide special treatment to anybody."

PPB spokesperson Christopher Burley said he doesn't have that video in his office.

Burley also mentioned that the weapon screening station PPB had originally set up on the protest's boundary didn't last long. He's unsure how many weapons actually made it inside the rally.

PPB did confiscate some weapons earlier in the day. Burley answered questions about the photos of those weapons he sent to reporters during the Saturday protest. Despite many of the weapons being covered in Confederate flags and other symbols synonymous with racism, Burley suggested that counter-protesters could have planted those weapons to make Patriot Prayer look bad. He offered no evidence that this had happened.

The city's Independent Police Review (IPR) has already received 30 complaints from members of the public about officer misconduct during the Saturday protest, according to IPR Director Constantin Severe.

It certainly isn't the first time counter-protesters have felt disproportionately targeted during a Patriot Prayer protest. Just this May, IPR released an investigation that underscored the bias felt by counter-protesters from Portland police during alt-right rallies.

The Skanner

Oregon Police Chief Orders Review of Use of Force at Protest

*By Andrew Selsky
August 6, 2018*

Portland police were accused Sunday of being heavy-handed against people protesting a rally by extreme-right demonstrators, reportedly injuring some counter-protesters and prompting the city's new police chief to order a review of officers' use of force.

Police in riot gear tried to keep the two groups apart, many of whom had come on Saturday dressed for battle in helmets and protective clothing. Dozens of the extreme-right protesters were bussed to Portland, one of America's most liberal cities, from nearby Vancouver, Washington.

Saturday's clashes were the most recent of several this year in the city as right-wing militants converged, met by counter-protesters, including members of anti-fascist, or "antifa," groups. City officials have struggled with striking a balance between free speech and keeping events from spiraling out of control.

But on Saturday, some said police seemed to act mostly against those protesting the presence of the extreme-right demonstrators, using stun grenades and what appeared to be rubber bullets against them.

Police "targeted Portland residents peacefully counter-protesting against racist far-right groups, including white supremacists, white nationalists, and neo-Nazi gangs," the Oregon chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America said in a statement. It called on officials to investigate.

The head of the Oregon branch of the American Civil Liberties Union also criticized the way the Portland Police Bureau handled the demonstrations.

"The Portland Police Bureau's response to protest is completely unacceptable in a free society," David Rogers said in a statement issued Sunday night.

"The repeated use of excessive force, and the targeting of demonstrators based on political beliefs are a danger to the First Amendment rights of all people. We call on the Portland Police Bureau, Mayor Wheeler, and Chief Outlaw to immediately end the use of weapons, munitions, and explosives against protesters."

Police ordered the counter-protesters to disperse, then moved in behind a volley of stun grenades. One of the rounds reportedly hit a counter-protester in the head, becoming embedded in his helmet and injuring him. One woman was taken to a hospital after being hit in the arm and chest with a "flash-bang" grenade, local media reported. The blasts echoed through downtown Portland.

Four people were arrested.

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, who assumed command less than a year ago as Portland's first African-American female police chief, said in a statement Sunday she takes all use-of-force cases seriously.

Outlaw directed the professional standards division to begin gathering evidence to determine if the force used was within policy and training guidelines. The Office of Independent Police Review will be provided with the information for review and investigation.

Saturday's incidents started with demonstrators aligned with Patriot Prayer and an affiliated group, the Proud Boys, gathering in a riverfront park. The Proud Boys has been characterized as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is "dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society."

Hundreds of counter-demonstrators faced them from across the street, holding banners and signs with messages such as "Alt right scum not welcome in Portland." Some chanted "Nazis go home."

Officers stood in the middle of a four-lane boulevard, essentially forming a wall to keep the two sides separated.

The counter-protesters were made up of a coalition of labor unions, immigrant rights advocates, democratic socialists and other groups.

Patriot Prayer also has held rallies in many other cities around the U.S. West, including Berkeley, California, that have drawn violent reactions.

Saturday's rally, organized by Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson, was the third to roil Portland this summer. Two previous events ended in bloody fistfights and riots.

Gibson disputed the group's classification as a hate group.

"We're here to promote freedom and God. That's it," Gibson told Portland TV station KGW. "Our country is getting soft."

Portland Art Museum Exhibition Highlights Homelessness

August 6, 2018

Portland has a housing crisis. Rent increase or illness can lead a person to be one step away from homelessness. "One Step Away," a new exhibit at the Portland Art Museum, is a focused look at the compound and growing issue of housing insecurity in the city. There will be a community opening from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum at 1219 SW Park Ave. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, [visit here](#).

Personal objects and individual testimonies make up the exhibition, and each is an account of lived experience with homelessness. "One Step Away" is a collaboration where participant storytellers directed development of the exhibition. Local social service agencies and artists defined the theme and nominated participants. Outside the Frame, an arts organization mentoring at-risk young people, created media for the exhibition.

"One Step Away" is also an opportunity for visitors to listen to the stories and become familiar with the support resources provided. Visitors are also encouraged to play a game called "Perspective," where like life, everyone begins with different resources, abilities, and privileges that inform our point of view.

The museum received creative support from Outside the Frame, Our Bold Voices, and Pixel Arts Game Education. Additionally, the museum would like to thank Penelope Cruz, local artist Cleo Davis, Street Roots, NW Pilot Project, Multnomah County Library, Portland Meet Portland, and Outside the Frame for their expertise during the community planning session for this exhibition.

OPB

Portland Police Chief: Allegations Of Protest Favoritism 'Ridiculous'

*By Dave Miller and Amelia Templeton
August 6, 2018*

Portland's police chief has ordered her professional standards division to review police use of force during a far-right "free speech" rally and counter-protest on Saturday.

A heavy police presence formed a barrier between the far-right groups — Patriot Prayer and the Proud Boys — and the counter protesters who confronted them, including antifa.

Officers were largely effective in keeping the two groups from brawling in the street, but have since faced criticism for deploying pepper spray, rubber balls and flash grenades against counter protesters.

The Guardian reported that one woman sustained chemical burns, possibly from a flash grenade, while photos circulating on social media show another protester with a head injury.

Portland Police Bureau Chief Danielle Outlaw spoke to OPB about how police approached the protest and the perception that officers treated the two sides differently.

Below is her unedited conversation with OPB's Dave Miller:

Q&A with Police Chief Danielle Outlaw

Dave Miller: I know that you've called for complaints about excessive use of force to be investigated, but at this point what is your take on how, overall, police handled the rally?

Chief Danielle Outlaw: I'm actually very proud of the work that the officers put in. We didn't know exactly what we would have. There was a lot of build up, from the media, as to what people expected the event to be.

I think it was the Southern Law Poverty Center that told the Washington Post that it could possibly be the next Charlottesville.

I had residents send me emails out of fear and concern of what could happen on Saturday, and when I say I'm proud of the work that the officers put in, it's because of what didn't happen on Saturday.

Everything that was anticipated ... with the very clear intent of what people wanted to do, with the level of confrontation and violence that they were expecting to bring, that did not occur. The officers were there and they prevented all of that from happening.

Miller: Yesterday, as I mentioned, you acknowledged that there had been reports of injuries due to the use of force by officers, you said that the Independent Police Review was on hand and they would handle any of those complaints that came in. Have any complaints so far been lodged?

Outlaw: Yesterday, I learned of a complaint of someone possibly being injured from one of the devices that we used.

We still haven't had an opportunity to speak with that person or even get a name from that person. Personally, we sent staff around to the local hospitals, to find out if there were any injuries that had been sustained from the protest. So far, there may be one. Everything else thus far has been a result of fighting among each other.

We are aware of some and we've made ourselves available to accept any complaints, if there are additional ones.

Miller: What do you make of the basic narrative — I saw this in responses to what happened this past weekend, as well as many other events of the last year — the basic narrative is when these rallies happen, it seems some people say that police are defending far-right groups and cracking down on anti-fascist groups?

Outlaw: I think that's ridiculous. We are neutral. Regardless, let me tell you flat out, I don't favor anyone who supposedly favors white supremacists, and I don't favor anyone who comes to

bring violence and physical harm to any person or place or property. Because of that, we have to remain neutral. We are there to ensure safety for everyone involved. We don't get to pick sides.

Miller: But why does it seem that when police are shooting off flash bang grenades or running into crowds with batons, that more often than not it's the Antifa group, or various versions of counter-protesters that are the recipients of police use of force?

Outlaw: I was there on Saturday. I personally saw, whether they were fireworks, M-80s, explosives, I saw those being set off by the anti-racist groups. The projectiles — pieces of cement that are large as grapefruit, pieces of brick, broken glass bottles — all of that was not coming from the Patriot Prayer side at that time.

We focus our attentions on behaviors. When you see people coming, with the intent, after we've given the order to disperse. Those who remained, usually what we see is a large amount of people peel off after we give dispersal orders. But people remained, which shows us they had the intent to be there to cause harm.

Miller: How much time do you think there should be between that order, and police cracking down in some way, using force of some kind?

Outlaw: I think there should be a reasonable amount of time. It really depends on what's going on at that time. People should also not only have a reasonable amount of time to leave but they should have a way to get out.

Miller: That's in official city training and police protocol.

Outlaw: ... Which is what they had on Saturday.

Miller: Willamette Week reporter Katie Shepherd tweeted out two pictures of the training descriptions for the use of these kind of devices. She noted that Portland Police directives on flash bangs, that there is some guidance on when to use these devices, but not how — and that there are no stated restrictions on aiming them at people. Should that change? Should the police develop more explicit directions on how to use these devices?

Outlaw: I shared this when we debriefed after the event was over. We don't know what we don't know. And we seek to improve after each and every event. That's the whole purpose. We take lessons learned from each event, and we make sure that we incorporate that moving forward so we can avoid any pitfalls moving forward. We are an introspective organization.

And if that's something that needs to take place, because with these types of tools that we use, there are very specific ways that they're supposed to be used. If they weren't used in that way and we need to go back and make sure that our policy dictates that, then obviously that's something that we'll take a look at.

Miller: You have the luxury, if that's the way to put it, of a lot of data points to look at from more than a year now of these incidents. What have you taken personally from the most recent one? It's only been a couple days, but are there things you feel like you learned based on what happened Saturday that you will apply to the next one? Because it's pretty likely there will be another event like this.

Outlaw: Oh yeah. And it's still really early. This just happened on Saturday. We're still getting information in, after the fact. But I will say, one of the things that we did differently this time that helped us, and I want us to focus us on what did not occur and ...

Miller: Can I ask you did it surprise you what did not occur? It seems like you were blaming the media a little bit for amping this up, the fear that this would be another Charlottesville. Did you yourself think that it might be?

Outlaw: No, and I want to be clear, I'm not blaming the media. We didn't hype it up, we asked people not to come. But it was hyped. It is what it is. So I'm not placing blame anywhere, but because of that information that was put out there, we were very careful in our planning and how we prepared for it.

Miller: What's an example of that, the planning you did or the orders you gave to officers or commanders based on the way people had been talking about this leading up to it?

Outlaw: Our actions were dictated by tone. It was very, it was very progressive. When you first saw us out there, there were officers out there. We were going to have a visible presence from jump. We had already days before established, we fenced off areas. Because our intent the whole time was to make sure that each side was separated. Our entire goal was to keep them separated.

Miller: That was the No. 1 goal, was don't have a brawl in the streets again?

Outlaw: Yes, and to not allow them to make contact with each other from jump. It didn't work out the way we initially planned because everyone did not stay inside of the railing that we provided.

OK, that was fine. But now we had to escalate from the railings. So people saw a lot of police out there on bicycles. Not in hard gear, right away, but they saw us on bicycles. Again all dictated by the tone.

Once the projectiles were being thrown, safety was clearly an issue. We had declared a civil disobedience. Now, you see the resources come in, with the harder squads. We asked for resources from Oregon State Patrol, Multnomah County was there as well in hard gear.

So again, our response was dictated by what we were dealing with, but the whole plan was to keep people separate. If that meant us walking alongside some of these groups to keep them separated, that was what we had to do.

Miller: It wasn't just walking though. After the order was given to disperse, and after some of the crowd dispersal devices were used, there was actually a video I saw on social media, shot by the former Portland Mercury reporter Doug Brown, now at the ACLU, and it shows police essentially running into a crowd with their batons in front of them, yelling at people to move west.

The people seem to be complying. It's a pretty chaotic video. But they also seem to be confused. It happens very quickly.

Is that standard procedure, to essentially bum rush people as you're telling people to move along?

Outlaw: It depends. I haven't had a chance to see that particular video yet, but I'm familiar with the one you're referencing.

It goes back to your question about, how long do you give somebody to leave when you ask them to move? I will say this: There have been reporters that acknowledged that they heard a dispersal order and they chose to stay. Once a dispersal order is given, you have to leave, or at least look like you're leaving, or make some attempt to leave. You don't get to stick around, and look, that means everybody.

Miller: I should say that the guy who shot this video, Doug Brown, he was moving backwards the entire time, and being repeatedly hit by police running at him with batons.

Outlaw: Like I said, I haven't seen it and we're still gathering information. All of this will be investigated. I don't have all the answers today. We don't know what we don't know. But we are open to feedback and criticism, and making sure that we don't continue to repeat things that happened in the past.

Miller: Do you think that there's anything that the police could have done differently to prevent what ended up happening from happening?

Do you think there's anything that police could have done to prevent that use of force by police?

Outlaw: I don't know. Because the question is this: You have folks that came, thousands of people that came with the very clear intention of causing harm. I can't control what they think and what they want to do.

Miller: Is it fair to say that thousands came with the intent to cause harm ...

Outlaw: Hold on

Miller: ...or they came prepared potentially to do that?

Chief Outlaw: Hold on, most folks, when they say we're here to exercise our First Amendment right to assemble and free speech, right, that's a little different than coming in flak jackets with guns and with vests and helmets. A little different.

Then, once given the order to disperse, and you still remain — to me, that proves more intent. After there has been clear danger, clear violence. And I'm not just talking about against police officers, I'm talking about others in the area, I'm talking about the community at large. We're not just talking about officer safety. We're talking about safety of everybody.

We said, you have to leave, it's a civil disobedience. Like I said, I personally saw people setting off these explosives, we thought there were trees on fire, the whole nine. And they still chose to remain after that?

That shows that there's an intent there. Regardless of what you initially came for, you were there to do something. You were there for a confrontation, or you were prepared to be in a confrontation, and you chose not to leave, when we asked you to do it.

Further Reading (linked below)

In Expensive Cities, Rents Fall for the Rich — But Rise for the Poor