

The Oregonian

Bear Spray, Bloody Brawls at Patriot Prayer 'Law and Order' March in Portland

*By Shane Dixon Javanaugh
October 14, 2018*

A demonstration billed as a march for "law and order" in the streets of Portland descended into chaos as rival political factions broke into bloody brawls downtown Saturday night.

Members of the right-wing group Patriot Prayer and their black-clad adversaries, known as antifa, used bear spray, bare fists and batons to thrash each other outside Kelly's Olympian, a popular bar on Southwest Washington Street.

The melee, which lasted more than a minute, ended when riot cops rushed in and fired pepper balls at the street fighters.

The Portland Police Bureau reported seeing protest and counter-protest participants outfitted with hard knuckle gloves, knives and firearms earlier in the evening. Police said they made no arrests Saturday night, but will continue to investigate.

The wild scene unfolded amid mounting tensions among both groups, fueled in part by a pair of national news stories.

A march in Portland against police brutality last week drew headlines after law enforcement's hands-off approach to the event was blamed for an encounter between protesters and an elderly driver, which outraged many, including Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson and his supporters.

On Friday, viral video surfaced showing members of the Proud Boys, a right-wing fraternal organization, beating two or three protesters in New York City after an event at the Republican Party headquarters.

It was against this backdrop that Gibson, who counts a number of Proud Boys among his ranks, organized the so-called "Flash march for Law and Order in PDX" — ostensibly to protest Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and his oversight of the city's police force.

Waving American flags and breaking into patriotic chants, Gibson and several dozen supporters set off to a street memorial for Patrick Kimmons, a 27-year-old black man shot and killed by police, an incident that prompted last week's march.

As they arrived at the vigil on Southwest Fourth Avenue and Harvey Milk Street, they were met by a large group of counter-demonstrators chanting "Black Lives Matter."

The two sides exchanged taunts and threats as police stood by and warned against physical confrontation.

About 20 minutes later, the violence erupted a few blocks away among a smaller group of the participants.

[Below is a detailed timeline of events from the evening.](#)

Portland Driver at Center of Viral Protest Video Says He Just Wanted to Escape

*By Shane Dixon Kavanaugh
October 12, 2018*

A driver who pushed through a crowd of demonstrators in downtown Portland while they pounded on his sedan and yelled for him to stop says, contrary to their accusations, that he never tried to run them over.

But Kent Houser, 74, admits he was eager to bolt the chaotic scene.

"When you have an angry mob yelling at you and beating on your car you just want to get out of there," he said Friday in an interview with The Oregonian/OregonLive.

The incident, which unfolded Saturday during a march to protest a fatal police shooting the previous week, was relatively minor by Portland standards. It spawned no injuries, arrests or riots.

Police, who were nearby but mostly unseen, made no effort to intervene.

Yet within days, the encounter blossomed into a national news story.

Conservative pundits and media outlets pounced on a viral video of the episode — viewed millions of times — to paint Portland as a lawless town run by marauding left-wing mobs.

Progressive activists, invoking previous incidents in which drivers used their cars as weapons against protesters, accused Houser of reckless behavior and of trying to mow them down.

By Friday, Mayor Ted Wheeler was forced to wade into the fracas during a news conference. He came down on both sides.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said Friday he found it "appalling" how protesters treated a motorist driving in downtown during a protest Saturday.

First, he criticized the behavior of some of the protesters. He then defended the law enforcement agency he oversees against political attacks.

"I was appalled by what I saw in the video but I support the decision of the Portland Police Bureau not to intervene at that time," he said. "This whole incident will be investigated."

As for Houser's week? He said he watched replays of the incident on Fox News, turned down a few local reporters and gave an interview to The Wall Street Journal.

Houser said he also fielded a handful of threatening phone calls and at least one piece of unsolicited mail.

"I received a nasty postcard from someone scribbling with a first-grade kind of writing that I should go in for anger management," he said.

A Southwest Portland resident, Houser said he was driving through downtown Saturday afternoon on the way to meet his wife on the city's east side.

He had no idea that police the week before had shot and killed Patrick Kimmons, a 27-year-old black man, or that more than 100 people had taken to the streets over his death.

As he drove north along Southwest Fourth Avenue about 4 p.m., he saw a group of demonstrators marching down the street in his direction.

Two cars in front of him managed to turn right onto Southwest Salmon Street before the throng crowded the intersection and adjacent crosswalk. Houser said he tried to turn right as well, but couldn't as the crowd was all around him.

"I saw them, they saw me, and they rushed my car," Houser said. "Admittedly, I might have given them the one-finger salute when I rolled up."

Authorities in Portland, Michigan, have been inundated with Facebook messages criticizing protests that happened more than 2,000 miles away.

Video of the incident shows Houser's silver Lexus slowly turn east onto Salmon as a handful of protesters trail alongside his car. Some can be heard yelling. Others appear to strike and hit his vehicle.

At one point, a masked demonstrator dressed in black throws his body onto the hood of the car as it inches down the block. The demonstrator eventually slides off to the side of the car and Houser hits the gas.

"If I was really interested in running someone over, I could have just gunned the engine and that guy would have been under my car," he said. "He would have been toast."

Houser speeds off down the block before stopping and getting out of his car. He then hops back in as some of the demonstrators run after him and catch up.

Several protesters can be seen attacking the car. One appears to strike Houser's driver side window and panel as he zips off again.

"They beat the living daylights out of my automobile," said Houser, adding that his window was shattered and that his car sustained thousands of dollars in damages.

Those protesting the fatal police shooting of Patrick Kimmons last weekend temporarily blocked traffic and were later part of an encounter with a motorist that drew national headlines.

Demonstrators who witnessed the incident and were reached by The Oregonian/OregonLive declined to an on-the-record interview.

Covered in shards of broken glass, Houser said he eventually drove to the Lloyd Center to call police because he left his cell phone at home. An hour later, Houser said he quietly filled out a police report of the incident.

Two days later, the incident was known nationwide.

Police on Thursday defended their hands-off approach to the demonstration.

"We recognize the strong community concern and interest regarding how police officers respond to crowd control situations," Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement. "There is no cookie-cutter response to these events."

That didn't go down well with Houser.

"I don't care what the police say," he said. "I grew up here. Lived here my whole life. I remember when it was a peaceful place."

Portland Mayor Starts Talks on Mental Health, Addiction -- at Wapato?

By Molly Harbarger

October 13, 2018

Update: A spokeswoman for Mayor Ted Wheeler said Saturday that the mayor did meet with leaders in mental health and addiction services, but that he did not mean to say he would definitely include Wapato in any proposal.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler met Friday afternoon with social service providers to discuss how the city can help provide mental health and addiction services -- an idea he linked to a possible use for Wapato Jail, the North Portland boondoggle that can't stay out of the news.

Wheeler seemed to float the idea of using it as a facility to help people with mental illness or addiction. He said in a Friday morning news conference that he has been told Wapato is likely not the right place for that kind of center, but he wants to have the conversation anyway.

Schnitzer, the prominent developer behind Harsch Investment Properties, bought Wapato for \$5 million. It was built for \$58 million by Multnomah County decades ago and has never been used.

Wheeler acknowledged the long track record of people who tried to find a use for the taxpayer-funded facility.

As Multnomah County chair a decade ago, he pitched the Oregon Department of Corrections on using the 155,400-square-foot building built to house 500 minimum-security inmates as a center recently released prisoners could use to access housing, job training, drug and alcohol treatment, and other services.

The state didn't bite.

Now Wheeler could try again.

Multnomah County oversees social services in the Portland area, including mental health and addiction services. However, Wheeler said he feels compelled to act as well.

"As the mayor of this community, it's become very clear to me that people expect me to take a leadership role on helping to fill the gaps around mental health services and addiction services," Wheeler said.

Wheeler called Schnitzer two weeks ago after Schnitzer said he would demolish the building and build a warehouse in its place if no one comes up with a proposal to use the building as a public service.

Schnitzer said he has asked engineers to draw up plans for demolition, but the process to actually do so will likely take months. In the meantime, he is open to any viable, funded idea.

The funding is the crucial point for most people.

Developer Homer Williams and his nonprofit Harbor of Hope floated the idea of a homeless shelter in the facility before Multnomah County sold it, but have not been able to line up the money to submit a formal proposal to Schnitzer.

The head of the Portland police union, Daryl Turner, has spoken to a couple of neighborhood groups about using Wapato for a homeless shelter. Portland City Council candidate Loretta Smith has used it as a rallying cry.

However, no one has ever put together a plan.

Ted Wheeler Selects Portland Housing Director

*By Gordon Friedman
October 12, 2018*

Mayor Ted Wheeler has selected Shannon Callahan as the permanent Portland Housing Bureau director, he announced Friday.

Wheeler said he has full faith in Callahan, who has been running the bureau as its interim director since 2017, after Wheeler removed Kurt Creager as director. Callahan was previously a longtime aide to Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

The mayor praised the bureau's productivity under Callahan, saying it has never run better. He highlighted its work spending Portland housing bond funds, implementing new renter protection programs and constructing affordable housing projects. She is a lawyer who specialized in consumer protection legislation and landlord/tenant law prior to working for the city.

"The case is clear," Wheeler said of Callahan. "She gets results."

Wheeler: Oregon, Washington Should 'Get Job Done' On I-5 Bridge

*By Gordon Friedman
October 12, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said Friday that officials in Oregon and Washington should begin working together again in earnest to replace the Interstate Bridge.

Yet Wheeler said he approaches talks of bridge replacement "with a healthy dose of skepticism," given that Oregon spent hundreds of millions of dollars on a river crossing project, and Washington terminated its efforts after its legislature failed to adopt funding.

Wheeler said any work by Oregon and Washington on a bridge replacement should involve the federal government. Neither state's departments of transportation should oversee the effort, he said.

The mayor said he understands officials' reservations about diving in again on a complex, expensive project. But he said leaders must press on.

"The reality is that drawbridge needs to be replaced," Wheeler said.

He went on: "If we just say we're so bruised because of what happened last time that we're going to not deal with it, what we're really saying is we couldn't get the job done so we're going to punt it to our kids and let them figure it out. That's not leadership. That's abdication of responsibility."

Wheeler said he has yet to decide if a bridge project must include a light rail component. But he praised Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle's concept that the bridge could be constructed to be "light rail-ready." He said he would insist on that standard as a minimum. That would be smart, he said, given his view that interstate light rail service will become necessary and practical someday "just by virtue of population growth."

The Portland Tribune

Council to Consider Saving Oak Leaf Mobile Home Park

By Jim Redden

October 14, 2018

Wednesday vote would secure \$5.2 million to preserve 22 units of affordable housing in Northeast Portland.

The cost of saving the Oak Leaf Mobile Home Park is continuing to increase.

The City Council will consider spending \$3.2 million in federal housing funds to preserve 22 units in the aging Northeast Portland manufactured home park on Wednesday.

The money would be matched by \$2 million from other public and private sources for a total of around \$5.2 million for infrastructure upgrades and other improvements intended to make it as good as new.

That comes to about \$236,000 per unit. Originally, when the Portland Housing Bureau was first asked to help save the park in the Cully neighborhood in 2016, it had 34 units. By January 2018, it was determined that zoning and other requirements only allowed for 22 units to remain.

At that time, preservation costs were estimated at \$4.3 million, or around \$195,000 per unit. The total cost the council will consider Wednesday is \$1 million more.

Despite the higher cost, the PHB Housing Investment Committee recommended approval of the funding in September.

The council voted to change the zoning for 56 other manufactured home parks in the city in July to preserve them as affordable housing.

To read a previous Portland Tribune story on the project, go to <http://tinyurl.com/yb6tzl6w>.

To read a previous Portland Tribune story on the city's efforts to save other mobile home parks, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybgrcesf>.

UPDATE: No Arrests Made at Antifa, Patriot Prayer Brawl

By Zane Sparling

October 13, 2018

A 'Flash March' organized by Joey Gibson became a spectacle of street fighting as police intervened.

Anger over a recent left-wing demonstration boiled over in Portland — propelling conservatives into downtown streets for a three-hour counter-protest march that soon devolved into scuffles, shouting and attacks.

Yelling resounded off buildings, flash bangs blasted, the police loudspeaker crackled and the smell of pepper spray wafted through the air as the twilight march broke down into random street skirmishes by 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13. Watch video of the fray [here](#).

Portland Police said they observed "assaultive" behavior and began clearing streets, at times putting their hands on journalists and bystanders in order to encourage compliance. They also fired less-lethal ammunition.

A spokesperson said they made no arrests and are not aware of anyone who was transported to the hospital. Officers witnessed people carrying "hard-knuckled gloves, firearms, batons and knives" but did not seize any weapons.

"We will continue to investigate this incident and ask that anyone who was the victim of a crime to come forward and file a report," Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a news release.

One of the first tussles apparently occurred on Washington Street near Kelly's Olympian bar. Video accounts posted on social media showed that people were clubbing and stomping each other after being squirted with pepper spray.

Earlier in the day, members of the right organized under the banner of Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson — a well-known political activist and one-time Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington — for a "Flash March for Law and Order" from 6 to 8 p.m.

"There's people that are running around and assaulting innocent bystanders," Gibson said in an interview. "The mayor didn't do a damn thing about it."

As has become customary, Gibson and his crew were outnumbered by the black-clad leftist radicals known as Antifa, who have shown a willingness to do battle against what they believe is hate speech and fascism.

The right-wing crowd first gathered at Southwest Broadway and Morrison Street, and held a brief moment of silence for truck driver and videographer Leo Stratton, who died in a crash recently.

The marchers initially stayed on the sidewalk, patrolling past Pioneer Courthouse Square to the site of a memorial at Fourth and Harvey Milk Street for Patrick Kimmons, who was shot fatally by officers in late September during a shooting where civilians wounded two other people.

But as members of Patriot Prayer held aloft flowers, they were blocked by a large group of Antifa-affiliated members who did not allow them to place the bouquets at the memorial.

"Say his name! Patrick Kimmons!" the Antifa members chanted. "Go home, Nazis!"

The right also sees fascism in Portland, arguing that Black Lives Matter protesters intimidated citizens during a Saturday, Oct. 6 event for Kimmons. One driver had his car battered after he attempted to drive through a crowd marching to the Justice Center.

"I've never seen a group so full of hate and anger in my whole life," said a Patriot Prayer supporter who gave his name as Charles. "The message that's been conveyed by the media that this is a racist hate group, I found to be an absolute lie."

Charles — who said he is a 57-year-old non-affiliated voter from Banks who supports socially-conservative ideas and the environment — was joined by another marcher named Kirt Schweigert.

"I don't want the violence that's caused by this one group," Schweigert said. "I want to make sure people follow our Constitution. The cops don't do it."

Portland Police Bureau maintained a heavy presence during the weekend brawl organized by Patriot Prayer. Police could be seen in full riot gear.

Gibson, who lives across the river in Vancouver, received about 2.3 percent of the vote during his longshot 2018 primary campaign for U.S. Senate. The winner of the GOP primary, Susan Hutchinson, will attempt to unseat three-term Democratic incumbent Maria Cantwell in November.

"I was shocked. I got 41,000 votes, I didn't expect that many," Gibson said.

Ted Wheeler Blasts Fox News: I'm Not a 'Nutcase Mayor'

*By Zane Sparling
October 13, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler is pushing back on media accounts of the Patrick Kimmons protest march.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler is weaving his own narrative after conservative media reports zoomed in on a recent Black Lives Matter demonstration that pitted protesters against motorists.

The Tribune's on-the-ground coverage and several videos captured the hurly-burly on Saturday, Oct. 6 after a 74-year-old motorist slowly piloted his car into a group of people marching in the street in response to a fatal police shooting.

The brief incident spawned a trending Breitbart article headlined "Antifa Takes Over Portland" and an eight-minute Fox News segment deriding the mayor for his alleged lack of leadership.

"C'mon, you've got to have some standards, and this place is now a loony bin over there because the mayor is a nutcase," pundit Jesse Watters said during a taping of The Five opinion show that was later posted online.

"Ted Wheeler is incredibly unpopular," added Lisa Kennedy Montgomery, a commentator who grew up in Lake Oswego.

During his monthly press conference, Wheeler said the authorities were well-aware of the "unacceptable behavior" occurring during the unpermitted protest march but thought that intervening would only escalate the situation. Wheeler also said he's no "nutcase mayor."

"I am willing to take criticism all day long from Fox News, but I am not willing to accept criticism from Fox News of the men and women of the Portland Police Bureau," he said on Friday, Oct. 12. "It's not as easy as it may seem sitting in the basement with a beer, watching a Youtube video."

The mayor also compared the situation to the unevenly-heated porridge portions featured in "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," explaining that police are either criticized for being too heavy-handed — or too standoffish.

Wheeler says he was not in town on the day of the protest for Patrick Kimmons, who was killed by officers responding to a late-night shooting that wounded two others on Sept. 30.

A Tribune reporter covered the march and was standing very close to the silver Lexus sedan as it turned off Fourth Avenue onto Salmon Street, ignoring protest organizers who were ahead of the column and unlawfully directing traffic.

The driver of the Lexus first stopped his car on Fourth before inching forward into people's bodies. Several people immediately began to beat the vehicle and one person threw themselves onto its hood. The motorist, a local named Kent Houser, later told police they inflicted \$3,000 in damage.

As police commissioner, the mayor can hire or fire the police chief, provides high-level strategic guidance and must convince his four companions on the dais to approve the bureau's annual budget. Wheeler says he does not oversee the response to individual incidents.

Experts Studying Wapato as Mental Health Treatment Center

*By Zane Sparling
October 12, 2018*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler to meet with service providers, law enforcement on Friday, Oct. 12.

Homeless service providers, medical professionals and law enforcement authorities have convened at Portland City Hall to put Wapato Jail under the microscope — again.

This time, the experts are examining the possibility of transforming the never-used lockup into a facility for treatment of mental health and addiction issues.

The first in an apparent series of closed-door meetings was held on Friday, Oct. 12 after being organized by Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler.

"As the mayor of this community, it's become very, very clear to me that people expect me to take a leadership role on helping to fill the gaps around mental health services and addiction services," Wheeler said earlier in the day during his monthly press conference.

"The initial read I'm getting from folks is that it's not the right scale, but I want to reserve judgement completely," he added.

Wheeler says he never expected a "great big media frenzy" after word leaked of his continuing conversations with the new owner of Wapato Jail.

In late September, Wheeler personally called the jail's new owner, Jordan Schnitzer, after learning that the noted developer and philanthropist planned to apply on Oct. 1 for demolition permits for the site located north of the St. Johns neighborhood.

Schnitzer purchased the 22-acre property in April for \$5 million, and later announced at a joint press conference with City Council candidate Loretta Smith that he was seeking proposals to use the site as a homeless shelter of some sort.

None were forthcoming, and Schnitzer told local media he was losing \$50,000 a month in upkeep costs. His new idea was for the site to be razed and rebuilt as warehouses.

That's when Wheeler picked up the phone.

"I know you're on a tight timeframe... but could you wait a little bit," Wheeler recalled himself saying to Schnitzer. "And that's what we're doing."

The new meetings include representatives from Multnomah County, the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health and Central City Concern, among others.

Wapato Jail was completed in 2004 as a 500-plus bed detention facility after voters in 1996 approved a \$46 million construction bond. It has never held a single inmate.

Wheeler first sought to repurpose the jail as a re-entry center for those who had exited the correctional system while serving as chair of the Multnomah County Commission.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler Inoculated

By Zane Sparling

October 12, 2018

Mayor Wheeler received an injection of the influenza vaccine at City Hall on Friday, Oct. 12.

Mayor Ted Wheeler displayed his enthusiasm for public health — and a bare forearm — while receiving his flu shot during a brief immunization ceremony at City Hall on Friday, Oct. 12.

"It's very important. We all know that getting a flu shot reduces the likelihood that you'll actually get the flu," Wheeler said afterward. "It's not only good for you, but it's good for your family, it's good for the people you associate with and coworkers."

Just like everyone else, Wheeler first signed a consent form affirming that he is not currently sick, has never had a bad reaction to a flu shot, is not nursing or pregnant and does not have an allergy to chickens or eggs.

Then the city's occupational health and well-being manager, Joel Michels, administered the lightning-fast poke in the arm inside the Lovejoy Room at City Hall. The registered nurse applied a bandaid to finish the job.

Other city staffers soon followed Wheeler's example. A permanent flu shot station was set up on the third floor for all City Hall employees.

Wheeler's zeal for modeling upright civic behavior is well known. The mayor takes a dip in the Willamette River annually to encourage public use of the waterway, and also participates in trash pick-ups around the city.

Last month, he urged citizens to get out and stretch their legs more often. The influenza vaccine is something he signs up for each year.

"It's easy to do, and it doesn't hurt at all," he said. "It was harder to roll up my sleeve than it was to get the shot."

Willamette Week

Portland Streets Descend Into Bedlam, Again, as Proud Boys and Antifascists Maul Each Other

By Katie Shepherd and Mike Bivins

October 13, 2018

"Flash march" leads to wild brawls in downtown after national media stoked tensions between warring protest groups.

A sudden march by Proud Boys through downtown Portland tonight turned into a melee, as tensions between radical groups stoked by national media erupted in a street brawl that police struggled to contain.

Right-wing extremists and masked antifascists clashed on the street outside of Kelly's Olympian, a downtown bar. Several brutal fights broke out at once, with black-clad leftists swinging at their

MAGA-hat wearing adversaries. Some of the right-wingers struck with batons. Both sides used pepper spray.

[Video by Mike Bivins.](#)

Joey Gibson, the leader of Vancouver, Wash.-based protest group Patriot Prayer, organized the march in response to a series of conservative media stories criticizing Mayor Ted Wheeler and Portland police for a hands-off response to small protests against police brutality last weekend. A couple of videos showing protesters yelling at motorists and standing in the street led Fox News and others to criticize Wheeler for allowing "mob rule" in his city.

Adding to the already high tensions between warring protest groups in Portland, videos showing a large group of Proud Boys beating two or three protesters in New York City after attending a Friday event at the city's GOP headquarters drew widespread attention today. The videos led national media to scrutinize the Proud Boys, a fringe group that has close ties with Gibson and Patriot Prayer.

Tonight, the Patriot Prayer crowd, peppered with Proud Boys and others sporting American flags and "Don't Tread On Me" banners, marched through downtown Portland shouting about unseating Wheeler and sending Antifa home.

The crowd chanted "USA" as it approached a vigil for Patrick Kimmons, a man fatally shot by Portland police last month. The leftist protesters at the vigil had been chanting "Black Lives Matter." Someone in the left-wing crowd set an American flag on fire, but a Patriot Prayer marcher snagged it before it could burn to ashes.

Shortly after leaving the vigil, some people in the far-right crowd clashed with antifascist protesters for the first time. After exchanging insults, a masked left-wing protester pepper sprayed a handful of right-wing supporters.

But the true chaos broke out later, shortly before 8 pm, on Southwest Washington Street outside Kelly's Olympian.

A man who appeared to be Tusitala "Tiny" Toese kicked a counter-protester who was on the ground. Another right-wing supporter ran up and stomped on the man's face. One of his fellow protesters pushed him away and said "Let him go."

[Video by Mike Bivins.](#)

Portland police intervened to break up some of the skirmishes. An officer can be seen on video firing pepper balls at four right-wing protesters who were beating a single antifascist protester on the ground.

The street brawl is just the latest in a long list of violent clashes between Patriot Prayer and antifascist protesters. Past run-ins have sent people to the hospital.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler Denies Allegations That He Hindered Portland Police: “They Will Find Nothing”

By Katie Shepherd

October 12, 2018

"I guess they want me to have the investigation the Supreme Court nominee didn't have."

Mayor Ted Wheeler pushed back against allegations that he has hindered Portland police at a press conference Friday morning.

Wheeler had particularly harsh words for the union that represents federal immigration officials, which has called on U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum to open criminal investigations into Wheeler's actions after a 39-day protest camp outside of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building.

"I guess they want me to have the investigation the Supreme Court nominee didn't have," he said. "I am very confident that if they investigate they will find nothing."

Wheeler says the allegations the National ICE Council has made against him have wilted under scrutiny.

"Every example that they have put forward so far as an example of 'proof,'" the mayor said while miming quotation marks with his hands, "that I somehow directed police to engage or disengage in certain tactics has proven to be false."

He pointed specifically to the allegation that police refused to intervene when an ICE employee called 911 after protesters surrounded his vehicle. The 911 tapes, first reported by KGW, showed that Portland police responded to the call but did not immediately intervene because they were outnumbered. Eventually, the ICE employee found a way to drive out of the lot.

Wheeler says the union's call for investigations are political. He implied that the lawyer for the union, Sean Riddell, is more interested in swaying public opinion than a judge.

"Why is he making his case on conservative talk shows as opposed to a court of law?" the mayor asked. "I say bring it on. It's politics."

Riddell says he welcomes the mayor to debate the issue with him and his clients.

"My clients and I are still in the investigatory phase of our litigation strategy and exploring all our options," Riddell says in response to the mayor's comments. "My clients also believe that this is a matter of public concern, and the people of Portland have a right to know, question and openly criticize Mr. Wheeler as a public officer. Open discussion of this matter is why the First Amendment exists. I invite Mr. Wheeler to join me at the public forum of his liking to debate his actions."

Wheeler also struck back at claims on Fox News and Breitbart this week that Portland had descended into chaos after videos of protesters blocking traffic and harassing drivers inspired panicked discussions of "mob rule" on the streets of Portland. Police did not intervene in the two encounters between motorists and protesters.

"I was appalled by what I saw in the video, but I support the Portland Police Bureau's decision not to intervene," he said. "I'm willing to take criticism all day long from Fox News, but I am not willing to accept criticism from Fox News of the men and women of the Portland Police Bureau."

Why Don't Portland Police Stop the Proud Boys From Brawling?

*By Aaron Mesh
October 14, 2018*

City officials point to a court decision that says governments can't prohibit gathering based on past behavior—no matter how violent.

Whose streets? Who knows.

For nearly two years, violent encounters between right-wing demonstrators and their antifascist adversaries have raised questions about the tactics of the Portland police in handling protests. In particular, Portlanders have wondered: Why don't police stop the out-of-town right-wing marchers from picking fights with local leftists?

In fact, a similar subject was the pretext of last night's downtown rally by Vancouver, Wash.-based protest group Patriot Prayer and their allies, a far-right men's fraternity called the Proud Boys. They held a hastily-scheduled "flash march for law and order" to denounce Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and the Police Bureau's supposedly gentle handling of left-wing protesters.

After Patriot Prayer interrupted a vigil for Patrick Kimmons, a black man killed by police, antifascists deployed bear spray and set off a rolling downtown brawl.

Cops jumped in—using pepper balls to break up fights. But they made no arrests.

In the aftermath, a familiar chorus rises: Why don't police do something?

"The Portland Police Bureau's objectives for today's events were to provide a safe environment for everyone, including participants, non-participants and bystanders," Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement issued shortly after the brawls ended last night.

"We are aware that there was a large, violent encounter between opposing groups on Southwest Washington Street," Outlaw continued. "Officers responded to the scene and used less lethal munitions to break up the fight and prevent further violence. We will continue to investigate this incident and ask that anyone who was the victim of a crime to come forward and file a report."

This answer is unlikely to satisfy anyone—either the participants in what amount to gang battles, or the observers who have come to view downtown Portland as a war zone.

A police spokesman said he would respond to WW's follow-up questions on Monday.

This is a subject WW has visited before. In June, the worst street fights Portland has seen left one participant in the hospital with a skull fracture and a minor brain hemorrhage.

Reporter Katie Shepherd examined the laws that Portland City Hall is using to determine how to police protests. City officials pointed to a court decision that says governments can't prohibit gathering based on past behavior—no matter how violent.

Meanwhile, both parties in last night's melee released statements doubling down on their commitment to taking the law into their own hands.

Rose City Antifa urged Portlanders to make Patriot Prayer and its allies feel unwelcome in any civic space. "You think these people are scary, and shouldn't feel like they can walk the streets harassing as they see fit?" the group tweeted. "You can help make sure that they can't even go out and get takeout or drinks with friends without being reminded of every unconscionable choice they've made."

And Patriot Prayer released a "highlight reel" of the brawl, complete with inspirational music.

"There are times where citizens have to step up and do the job that politicians will refuse to do," Patriot Prayer organizer Joey Gibson says in the video. "There are times when citizens have to step up and clean up the streets."

He then shifts the subject to antifascists. "If they want to get in our way, then they're going to have to deal with the punishment," Gibson says. "We're not here to punish them. They have a right to be here, as long as they're not being violent. But if they want to attack us, then they're going to feel the pain. Can I get an amen?"

The Daily Journal of Commerce

Portland Working to Boost Firms, Industry Diversity

*By Chuck Slothower
October 12, 2018*

Since starting 3 Diamond Construction, a small Portland company, in 2014, owners Ofelia Lara and Dionicio Fernandez grew interested in bidding for public projects.

The company at first had tackled mostly small residential projects. That changed when 3 Diamond joined the city's Prime Contractor Development Program, which coordinator Stacey Drake Edwards got off the ground in 2013. Since joining the program, 3 Diamond has won several city contracts, including work on Lents Park and the Springwater Trail.

"This program helped us," Lara said. "We had no clue. Thanks to Stacey's program, we were able to get into those projects."

The program works to help women-owned, minority-owned and emerging small businesses bid on city contracts valued at \$5,000 to \$1 million. In fiscal year 2017-18, via the program, 42 contracts totaling \$29.3 million were awarded to such firms. That was an increase of \$2.3 million from the previous fiscal year.

The PCDP, part of the city's Procurement Services office, aims to create a roster of contractors with capacity to bid on public projects. Once part of the program, contractors are encouraged to grow so that when they graduate, they can go on to bid on progressively larger contracts.

"The market right now is really hard," Edwards said. "Everybody is really busy, and because there's a lot of public projects going on, you're competing for these small contractors to bid on your projects."

The PCDP provides ongoing technical assistance to the small, emerging contractors that take part. As obstacles crop up during projects, the city helps contractors work through the issues. That can involve anything such as invoices, project forecasting or foreman certification. A technical assistance officer will visit project sites and sit in on progress meetings.

"One of the things I always say is I'm not teaching the contractors how to do the work; they know how to do that," Edwards said. "The key is to get them to understand how the city works and how we do things on our end."

More agencies are turning to alternative contracting methods that don't simply accept the lowest bid, said Nate McCoy, executive director of the National Association of Minority Contractors-Oregon.

“Agencies are starting to lean more into these conversations, and look at new and innovative procurement policies for (minority-owned business enterprises) at the sub- and (general contractor) level,” he said.

McCoy praised the program’s emphasis on providing on-site technical assistance.

“As a contractor, who has the time to be in workshops instead of running their businesses?” he said.

City projects larger than \$1 million are bid in the open market. Some minority-owned contractors have made significant strides in getting those too.

A \$27 million project to renovate the entries and interiors at the Oregon Convention Center isn’t one of the city’s. But it is a public project, and Metro chose a team of Colas Construction and Raimore Construction over Hoffman Construction, a larger and more established firm.

“Some of our members who have worked alongside some of the bigger (general contractors) now are beating them out on projects,” McCoy said. “That’s not a new trend, but the fact that a Colas and Raimore (team) is capable of beating out one of our partners in Hoffman is kind of exciting.”

McCoy said the Convention Center contract was a particularly poignant example because the site was once home to a largely African-American neighborhood that was cleared to make way for the development.

Women-owned firms are also playing increasingly visible roles in programs such as the PCDP and groups like NAMC-Oregon. Examples include Chick of All Trades, a company owned by Valerie Solorzano that provides flagging and traffic-control services, and T Edge Construction, owned by Tammy Edgerly.

“We do really look at ourselves as a program that supports building in the current climate with increasing the number of certified firms,” Edwards said.

The PCDP will be accepting applications in November for its next class.

The Skanner

Nike and the Portland Trail Blazers Celebrate the Tip-Off of Citywide Basketball Courts Revitalization Project

October 12, 2018

Thursday, kids in outer southeast Portland gathered at Portland Parks & Recreation’s Parklane Park with Nike, the Portland Trail Blazers, Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish, Mayor of Portland Ted Wheeler, and guests to celebrate the beginning of the 2018 Portland Basketball Courts Revitalization Project. This three-year project, announced in June, will refresh and upgrade outdoor basketball courts in up to 30 Portland Parks & Recreation sites – including Parklane Park, one of the first to be revitalized – thanks to a more than \$1 million donation by Nike and the Trail Blazers.

“Portlanders are rightfully proud of our world-class parks and recreation system. And basketball courts are a place where people of all ages and backgrounds gather and play,” said Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish. “Thanks to our strong partnership with Nike and the Portland Trail Blazers, our courts are getting a makeover.”

From now through 2020, basketball courts in up to 30 parks in Portland will be repaired and refreshed with new paint and a new design featuring the name of the park. Repairs to the court surface and replacement of backboards and hoops will take place as needed. The general contractor for the project is Verde Builds, a program of Verde, an innovative Oregon nonprofit organization that serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach and advocacy. The builder is local company Pacific Ace, LLC.

Nike's contribution to the 2018 Portland Basketball Courts Revitalization Project is a one-time donation of \$750,000 to Portland Parks & Recreation, administered by Verde, to be used for the revitalization of the courts. The Portland Trail Blazers will donate \$100,000 a year for the next three years (2018-2020). Nike and the Trail Blazers will also continue to support youth programming on the courts.

This afternoon's project tip-off celebration took place on the recently revitalized basketball court at Parklane Park (SE 155th Avenue and Main Street). Children from Rockwood Boys & Girls Club, Hacienda CDC, and Parklane Elementary School participated in fun basketball skill sessions led by Portland Trail Blazer Center Jusuf Nurkić and accompanied by the Blazers' mascot, Blaze. Also in attendance was Trail Blazer President and CEO Chris McGowan, Trail Blazers Broadcasting Color Analyst Lamar Hurd, Nike

The event also celebrated the news that four more basketball courts at Argay Park, Harney Park, McKenna Park and Trenton Park will open this month, with the other revitalized courts to be ready within the next year.

"We're excited to debut the new court design, and begin the full process of restoring and renewing courts across the city. This project means so much to us – not only is it continuing our long-standing commitment to Portland and the initial court resurfacing project we embarked on more than 15 years ago, it speaks directly to our beliefs in the power of sport to create equal playing fields and that all kids are made to play," said Caitlin Morris, Nike Global Community Impact General Manager.

This project is a continuation of the 2002 Nike Anniversary Project in which the company donated more than \$2 million to the Portland Parks Foundation, in celebration of its 30th anniversary, to resurface outdoor basketball courts at 30 park sites in 75 days, as Nike's way of thanking the Portland area for being its home since 1972.

"Our partnership with Nike continues to be among our strongest, and this effort to refurbish courts around the Portland area to make basketball widely accessible is a major achievement," said Chris McGowan, President and CEO of the Trail Blazers. "We thank Portland Parks & Recreation and Verde for their pivotal roles, too, in selecting the locations across our community with the most need. The investments of time, effort and resources by all involved will have a positive impact for many years."

Said Mayor Ted Wheeler, "Nike and the Portland Trail Blazers are tremendous community partners, and the City of Portland is extremely grateful for their ongoing commitment to our community, and for their passion to renew our city's basketball courts. This is an incredible gift – not only for those who live here, but for those who will visit and fall in love with Portland, too."

The order in which the original 2002 Nike Anniversary Project parks are being revitalized is determined in large part by a Vulnerability Index, a point system based on the estimated aggregate demographics of a service area, as compared to citywide Portland estimates.

Demographics of interest include persons under the age of 18, households below poverty status and people of color.

Currently, Portland Parks & Recreation and Verde are evaluating the courts and determining the revitalization work schedule. Parks that were a part of the original 2002 Nike Anniversary Project and now under consideration for the 2018 Portland Basketball Courts Revitalization Project include (in alphabetical order):

- Alberta Park
- Argay Park
- Bloomington Park
- Brooklyn Park
- Clinton Park
- Colonel Summers Park
- Dawson Park
- Ed Benedict Park
- Gabriel Park
- Grant Park
- Harney Park
- Healy Heights Park
- Irving Park
- Kenton Park
- Lents Park
- McKenna Park
- Mount Tabor Park
- North Park Blocks Park
- Oregon Park
- Overlook Park
- Parklane Park
- Peninsula Park
- Pier Park
- Portland Heights Park
- Powell Park
- Sellwood Park
- Sewallcrest Park
- Trenton Park
- Wallace Park
- Woodlawn Park

OPB

As E-Scooters Roll Into American Cities, So Do Safety Concerns

*By Deen Prichet
October 15, 2018*

Over the past year, companies have been rolling out electric scooters by the thousands in cities across the country — from Washington, D.C. to Milwaukee, to Lubbock, Texas. People download the app, find a nearby scooter and then just unlock and ride. But as these shared scooters have spread, so have concerns about safety.

Portland, Oregon is in the middle of a four-month e-scooter pilot program. You see these scooters everywhere — parked on sidewalks (they don't require docking stations as most shared bikes do,) taking fast corners, zipping through traffic. But one thing you don't see much of are helmets.

On a recent weekend, a 32-year-old woman who didn't want to give her name because she's breaking the city's helmet rule is riding for the first time with some of her friends. None of them are wearing helmets, which both the city and the scooter company require — with good reason.

“One of our friends almost just got run over. The brake lights on theirs don't work,” she says.

Part of the draw of these scooters is their flexibility — most riders we talked to hopped on a scooter on the spur of the moment. And, given the fact that most people would not want to share helmets with strangers (nor could integrity and safety be ensured if they did,) they don't come with helmets attached. So people end up riding without any safety gear.

Yes, this is against the rules, but many people just don't want to carry helmets around. Data from bicycles suggest that people participating in share programs have lower rates of accidents than those using their own vehicle. And many transportation advocates point to the fact that helmet requirements deter bike usage.

Still, helmets provide protection. Riding a scooter is very different from riding a bike. They accelerate without you pedaling, have a different center of balance, and take some getting used to — for both riders and the cars driving around them.

And people on e-scooters are starting to show up in emergency rooms with injuries. “We've seen things from broken bones to punctured lungs to shattered pelvis,” says Catherine Juillard, a trauma surgeon at Zuckerberg San Francisco General and an assistant professor at the University of California, San Francisco.

While many cities are collecting transportation injury data, San Francisco is taking a comprehensive, science-based approach through its Vision Zero SF Injury Prevention Research (VZIPR) Collaborative. Juillard is a member.

The collaborative aims to standardize data collection and work with the city to get a fuller picture of exactly what these injuries reveal. Are they happening at particular intersections, are people fracturing skulls or spraining ankles, or are some types of scooters more dangerous than others? And based on that, they'll figure out the next steps. Other cities are watching closely.

“Technology and disruption — when they enter the sector of transportation, [they're] also entering the sector of public health. So it becomes a different ballgame, and we need to make sure that we're doing it safely,” Juillard says.

California has welcomed e-scooters — even changing the law so adult riders don't have to wear helmets. Whereas other places, like the city of Seattle, are so concerned about injuries that they're not allowing e-scooters at all.

As a trauma surgeon, Juillard has seen the dangers. But she also sees the potential — because San Francisco is a city dealing with a lot of car traffic. And so is Portland.

“We're going to have many more thousands of jobs, many more thousands of residents — we're not going to be building many more thousands of streets,” says John Brady, spokesperson for Portland's Bureau of Transportation.

To continue to have a city that works — that moves — Portland wants to welcome innovation. Knowing you can just hop on a scooter for a few bucks might encourage more people to leave their cars at home. But Portland wants to make sure these innovations meet all of the city's transportation goals: moving people efficiently, cutting emissions, and making each trip as safe as possible.

“If at the same time we're seeing a rise in injuries, but we also see that people are getting out of their car, and potentially helping to relieve congestion, is that a trade-off from a public agency standpoint that we think is a good one? I don't know. And we don't know yet,” Brady says.

Portland, of course, does not want a rise in injuries — they're handing out free helmets, and doing a public education campaign. Brady says the city has given out about 500 helmets (the city currently has 2,000 scooters on the street.) And the scooter companies are working on distributing free helmets across the country — both directly on the streets in the cities they serve, and through mail-in programs. Bird scooter company reports distributing over 50,000 helmets, and Lime (which also offers dockless bikes) reports having distributed tens of thousands of helmets.

But you only have to look at the scooters zipping by in the street to see that this is a big change in how people move around in a city. Cars and scooters are still learning how to be around each other, and not many people are wearing helmets. Cities and physicians will get a better sense of scooter dangers as the data come in over the next few months.

In the meantime, scoot safely. Or, you could always walk.