

The Oregonian

Police Arrest 6 in Dueling Portland Rallies Involving Patriot Prayer

*By Eder Campuzano
November 18, 2018*

Dueling rallies concluded with police trying to separate members of Vancouver, Washington-based Patriot Prayer and counter-demonstrators as the two groups quarreled in the streets Saturday afternoon.

Media at the scene reported small scuffles breaking out, and police reported six arrests. The scene unfolded days after Portland City Council voted down Mayor Ted Wheeler's proposed ordinance to regulate some protests.

Police, both federal and municipal, kept the groups separate for most of the day.

Federal Protective Service officers barricaded Terry Schrunk Plaza, where prominent Patriot Prayer member Haley Adams hosted a sparsely attended Him Too rally, a counter to the Me Too movement of the last year.

Portland police cordoned off parts of Chapman Square where counter-demonstrators had staged an opposing protest.

It wasn't until the Him Too rally ended and its members began heading to their cars that police called the gathering a "civil disturbance" and began urging demonstrators to leave the downtown area.

Police say protesters tossed bottles and flares at officers. A few demonstrators tossed smoke bombs, as well.

Cops in riot gear followed members of Patriot Prayer as they walked to a parking garage at Southwest Fourth Avenue and Taylor Street from the rally site.

Officers kept separating the group from black-clad counter-demonstrators, a few dozen of whom waited outside the exits to confront Adams, Patriot Prayer Joey Gibson and Tusitala "Tiny" Toese.

The group left shortly after 5 p.m., three hours after the rally at Terry Schrunk Plaza began. That's also when police left the area.

The day began with a rally in support of survivors of sexual assault in Chapman Square organized by Portland Popular Mobilization, or PopMob for short. Seven survivors spoke about their experiences, urging attendees to act as allies for women and non-binary folks.

Adams said the goal of her rally was to support men falsely accused of sexual assault. She told The Oregonian/OregonLive that it was also a platform for male victims of sexual violence, although most guest spoke in muddled platitudes about freedom and some hinted at a "war on men."

While the group at Chapman Square totaled around 200, fewer than 40 attended the Patriot Prayer-adjacent rally at Terry Schrunk Plaza.

Police in a release said they arrested and booked Gary Fresquez, 52, with disorderly conduct and two counts of interfering with a peace officer.

Hannah R. McClintock, 19, was arrested and charged with harassment.

And four people were arrested and charged with interfering with a peace officer: Ruben A Delahuerge, 25; Betsy Toll, 68; Elizabeth L. Cheek, 33; and Brittany N. Frost, 35.

Portlanders Rally to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault

By Eder Campuzano

November 17, 2018

The message from Chapman Square Saturday morning was clear: Believe survivors.

It was a rallying cry for hundreds who turned out to listen to speeches from seven survivors of sexual assault in an event designed to drown out another rally organized by members of Vancouver, Washington-based Patriot Prayer in Terry Schrunk Federal Plaza.

In terms of sheer attendance, it worked.

No fewer than 200 people filled Chapman Square hours ahead of the competing rally, where demonstrators totaled maybe 40 at its zenith.

Attendees in Chapman Square chanted along to protest standards like “Whose streets? Our streets” and jeered mentions of an ordinance to regulate protests proposed by Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, which was voted down 3-2 earlier in the week.

They also listened to stories from seven survivors of sexual assault, who talked about being harassed at work. And not being believed when they reported their assaults to colleagues and authorities.

Alyssa Pariah said the three commissioners who voted against the ordinance sent a message in support of rallies like Pop Mob’s.

“I’m glad he got the message because I was going to be out here, anyway,” she said.

Shortly after the event at Chapman Square, members of Patriot Prayer hyped up a sparse crowd at Terry Schrunk Plaza, rallying attendees against what they said were unfounded accusations of sexual assault against prominent men.

Officers kept the two groups apart for much of the day. But opposing demonstrators met as everyone made for their cars.

Haley Adams, who organized the gathering, said she had a friend in high school who was falsely accused. She also cited the hearings for allegations against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, then a nominee, in early October as a flashpoint in her decision to host the event.

Adams also said the dozens gathered at the plaza were also there to support male victims of sexual assault.

Demonstrators in Chapman Square weren’t buying it.

“You might be able to fool some people, but you can’t fool us,” Pariah said, citing the influx of speakers railing against Me Too across the street. “The idea that there are men that are serving life sentences for rapes they did not commit is laughable.”

All signs pointed to the rally at Terry Schrunk Plaza with a turnout of fewer than 40 people. So why turn out in such vast numbers?

Effie Baum, who organized the rally at Chapman Square through Pop Mob said it was about showing off what Portlanders, not outside agitators, stood for.

“Patriot Prayer is belittling the Me Too movement,” Baum said. “And we need to outnumber them whenever they come.”

Although the dueling rallies never intertwined, police did make six arrests Saturday as demonstrators from Adams' protest returned to their cars.

The Portland Tribune

Council to Consider Joining 'Sanctuary City' Lawsuit

*By Conrad Wilson
November 19, 2018*

The U.S. Department of Justice is withholding grant funds to Portland despite previous court ruling.

The City Council will consider joining an Oregon Department of Justice lawsuit against the federal government for withholding grant funds to sanctuary cities on Wednesday.

Oregon sued the Trump administration on Nov. 9 over a requirement the state work with immigration authorities if it wants to receive more than \$4 million in federal grants.

The U.S. Department of Justice distributes Byrne JAG grants, which are used by jurisdictions across the country to help law enforcement fund new initiatives and fight crime.

Last November, the Department of Justice released a list of jurisdictions it says weren't complying with 8 U.S.C. 1373, a federal law that promotes information sharing between local law enforcement and the federal government when it comes to immigration enforcement.

The list included both Multnomah County and the state of Oregon.

Mayor Wheeler Takes 'Leash Off Police,' Joey Gibson Says

*By Zane Sparling
November 17, 2018*

Antifa and those linked with Patriot Prayer gathered in downtown Portland on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Members of a conservative protest movement made a mad dash to their cars — happy hour at the Vancouver waterfront their stated destination — but were unable to avoid Portland counter-protesters once they left the safety of a designated protest area under heavy police guard.

After departing from Terry Schunk plaza, black-robed members of Antifa shadowed the conservatives from across the sidewalk for several blocks before heading off the right-wing column at Southwest Columbia Street and Third Avenue around 4 p.m.

Squaring off for the first time without a police cordon between them, people standing in the crowd of Antifa members appeared to throw a beer bottle, a partially-filled water bottle, a pink smoke grenade, as witnessed by a Tribune reporter and according to video accounts.

"Nazis go home!" the left-wing protesters chanted.

Portland Police Bureau officers wearing riot gear soon parted the mob, ordering the crowd to disperse via an amplified sound truck and tossing a "flash-bang" style grenade into the fray. Some of the items were chucked back and forth by both sides.

While the "#HimToo" style rally was not officially associated with the Patriot Prayer group that has spurred regular street brawls in downtown Portland, many of the usual suspects were present, including the organization's leader: Joey Gibson.

"It looks like (Mayor) Ted Wheeler may have taken the leash off the police," Gibson said before leaving the safety of the plaza, where federal police searched the bags and visually inspected the clothing of everyone who entered.

More than a dozen speakers intoned stories of allegedly false rape accusations and a feminist movement they say has gone too far during the conservative rally running from 2 p.m. to just before 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Haley Adams, who organized the protest, said her goal was "for men to rise up, speak out."

"A lot of people asked me if Patriot Prayer is going to ruin the name of Him Too. (I said) I don't think so," she noted.

Adams said she wished more of the Antifa members had entered her rally and spoken with the crowd of roughly 40 people.

"I think that's their right to free speech," she said. "I'm not mad at them."

"They're weaponizing the #MeToo movement," added Jen Loh, who flew out from Texas to attend the event. "You can't crucify someone in the court of public opinion."

Social media accounts suggested at least one person was arrested earlier in the day, though Portland Police did not immediately confirm that report.

While many of the #HimToo attendees had announced their plans to gather in Vancouver, Washington by 6 p.m. for drinks, crowds of Antifa continued to cluster downtown by 5 p.m.

Many in the crowd appeared confused by recent news of a failed protest ordinance floated by Mayor Wheeler, with some saying police had no right to confine them after the proposal did not find the votes to pass at City Hall.

"No way, the ordinance didn't pass," one woman said. "Are you seriously going to arrest people for standing on the sidewalk?"

In a post on social media, Mayor Wheeler said there was "misinformation" circulating about his proposal.

"Closing a portion of the park in the interest of public safety is an existing tool under the City Code, and we can use it here because of the location of the planned demonstrations," he wrote. "The ordinance would have allowed for more tools for use outside of a park that don't already exist in code."

As the game of cat-and-mouse between Antifa and the authorities continued, the police sound truck repeatedly announced: "It is time to leave."

Portland Police kept dueling groups of downtown protesters separate — for now.

Crowds of Antifa-affiliated members lined the sidewalk of Southwest Madison Street between Third and Fourth Avenues, only to be pushed back into Chapman Square Park by officers dressed in all-black riot gear.

"I'm here to protect our city," said Jett, who described herself as an experienced activist involved with the scene for over two decades.

"I'm disappointed that the city of Portland is against us," she said, her red shades matching her crimson Boy Scout bandana. "(Mayor) Ted Wheeler should drop out and let someone who cares about the city run it."

About 40 people could be seen rallying for the "HimToo" protest in Terry Schunk Plaza, but police barricades made it difficult to cross between sides.

At one point, tricksters associated with the leftists wheeled "guillotines" made out of shopping carts and cardboard onto the sidewalk across the street from the Justice Center, inviting officers to hop onboard.

"Maybe later," one authority replied.

Another provocateur dropped a throw in front of the riot cops, gleefully egging on police who did not respond to his taunts.

"Do you guys have anal recognition software," he quipped.

Paul Welch has four staples in the back of his head — the end result of a smack from a truncheon used by a black-clad protester on Aug. 4 during a Patriot Prayer rally.

Welch, 38, was carrying an American flag at the time. On Saturday, he was holding a sign reading "Support Survivors." He said it was only a case of mistaken identity that led counterprotesters to associate him with Patriot Prayer.

"Sexual abuse, misogyny, racism — it's an issue at home, at the family level," the Portlander said. "I was looking for a message of unity."

Though his attack garnered millions of views online, he has no ill will toward Antifa and says protesting is "crucially important work."

"It's fundamental to our civic life," Welch said. "If we can't engage in the marketplace of ideas, we don't have a civic life."

Neither side showed any sign of backing down by 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Will Wheeler Run for Re-Election?

*By Nick Budnick
November 16, 2018*

Mayor's muttered remark at forum after tough week reveals his frustration with the job.

Last week left Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler feeling frustrated and defensive, a fact that bubbled to the surface on Thursday when he publicly cast doubt on whether he would run for reelection in 2020.

Following a public forum about homelessness in Portland and ways to combat it, he muttered "I cannot wait for the next 24 months to be over" within earshot of several people, including reporter Molly Harbarger of The Oregonian.

Harbarger promptly broke the news on Twitter, sparking a buzz of reaction — including gloating by some of Wheeler's critics, one of whom called it "Muttergate."

He has since said he hasn't made a final decision on reelection. But what his remarks mean for the city of Portland has become a topic of widespread speculation and debate in and outside City Hall.

"He's not the first mayor to have this kind of meltdown," said Judy Tuttle, former chief of staff to the late Mayor Vera Katz and a longtime City Hall staffer. But, she added, a mayor also has the power to rise above the criticisms. "You may be incredibly frustrated. But you don't have to be frustrated in public."

Hearing sparks frustration

The move came the day after a hearing in which Wheeler's proposed ordinance giving the city increased authority to regulate potentially violent protests went down in a 3-2 vote, based largely on concerns over its constitutionality.

In his remarks upon the losing vote, the mayor faulted media coverage and suggested at least one of the opponents had mischaracterized a conversation with him. On Twitter, he'd also lashed out at another opponent before the hearing.

At the meeting, he and the other commissioners appeared to have known before the vote that the ordinance would fail. The mayor's frustrated closing remarks sparked no visible surprise among his four council colleagues, and all four of them went out of their way to praise Wheeler's good intentions and efforts even before he spoke, as if aware of his mood.

During the previous agenda item, concerning an affordable housing project, Wheeler defiantly took issue with several frequent city council commenters who criticized it.

"This is the kind of leadership that you asked me to provide when you elected me your mayor," he said. "You may have some second thoughts about that, that's OK. But this is what you asked me to do. This is the kind of leadership I told you that I would provide as your leader to address the homeless situation in our community."

Past City Hall blowups

There's been no shortage of blowups and public venting by City Hall officials — including with the media — in the past.

Mayor Tom Potter once made headlines when he walked out of a 2007 council meeting after decrying his own irrelevance.

Commissioner Erik Sten, a former Willamette Week intern who resigned from public office in 2008, publicly lamented what he characterized as the decline of local journalism into shallow coverage and sensationalism.

Mayor Sam Adams took potshots at the media in a 2011 interview with Willamette Week, accusing that paper of being in a "bubble" and The Oregonian of failing to correct unidentified purported errors.

More recently, Mayor Charlie Hales accused the media of "smearing" former Chief Larry O'Dea and years later, in an email, criticized The Oregonian.

Last year, the Facebook posts of Commissioner Chloe Eudaly went viral in which she blasted local media coverage and individual reporters by name.

Perhaps the only mayor in recent memory to fully retain faith in local media and the public, City Hall observers say, was Vera Katz, who served three terms and who died last December.

Tuttle, the former Katz aide, and some current City Hall staffers who spoke on condition of anonymity say it may be unrealistic to compare modern mayors to Katz. They note that the media environment has changed, and also that Katz had earned substantial deference from her colleagues and the public due to her disinterest in higher office, her history as a longtime lawmaker, and intense work ethic — making her motives less subject to question.

But several raised the question of whether Wheeler needs to reexamine his leadership style — especially as one of his frequent allies, longtime Commissioner Dan Saltzman, is about to be replaced by the more aggressive voice of longtime activist Jo Ann Hardesty.

Coming into office, there was open speculation as to whether Wheeler's lack of humility might be his biggest enemy as mayor. And the current feedback many are offering appears to echo that perspective.

One City Hall staffer remarked that Wheeler, a former state treasurer and Multnomah County chair, should lean on the consensus-oriented Commissioner Nick Fish more for guidance.

As it stands, Wheeler seems more comfortable in an executive, command role that's very different than the legislative one he now holds in Portland's so-called "five-mayor" form of government, where the actual mayor's powers are limited.

Tuttle, for her part, said some officials take longer than two years to get their bearings.

"I would be really disappointed if he made a decision not to run based on this kind of an interaction," she said of Wheeler's recent flareup. "Because first of all, the city needs some kind of stability in the mayor's office. If Ted were not to run again, this would be the fourth mayor in a row not to run for a second term, and I don't necessarily think that's good for the city."

Willamette Week

Portland's E-Scooter Pilot Program Ends Tuesday. What Happens Now?

*By Elise Herron
November 18, 2018*

Bird, Lime and Skip are making pleas to the city to keep e-scooters around.

Portland is Scooterville no more.

After four months, the city's electric scooter pilot program has come to an end. The provisional program was launched in July as a way to test out scooters while avoiding the fates of cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, where scooter rental startups launched without permission, wreaked havoc and were eventually banned. (Scoots have since returned to San Francisco, but under stricter permits with rules similar to Portland's.)

With only one pending legal complaint currently filed, by a Portland Uber driver who says two people on one Skip scooter wrecked his car, Portland's program appears to have been semi-successful in avoiding chaos and costly lawsuits.

Still, the long-term fate of the motorized machines in Portland is unclear.

"We have not made any decisions about whether shared e-scooters have a long-term future in Portland," Portland Bureau of Transportation spokesman Dylan Rivera says. "We are currently focusing our efforts on understanding the data and feedback we compiled during the pilot."

So before you try e-scooting to work next week, here's what to know about the end of the pilot program.

When will the scooters go away?

All scooters are required to be taken offline by Wednesday, Nov. 21.

But Rivera says it's unlikely scooters will disappear overnight.

"Companies have said it may take them up to a week to remove their equipment from the public right-of-way due to the holiday," he says. "Anyone who sees a shared e-scooter on public right of way is encouraged to report it to the company."

Will scooter operators actually follow the rules and remove the machines?

Probably, but begrudgingly.

They've been begging City Hall for an extension—and they're still working the refs with days to go.

Jeremy Nelson, general manager for Lime in Oregon, says: "We fully support Portland's evaluation of the pilot. However, we think the best approach would be to extend the pilot period and evaluate it at the same time."

Matt Whiffen, regional general manager for Skip, says the company will be a "cooperative partner" in agreeing to pause the program. He adds that, despite gaffes like having to pull scooters from the street in the rain, he expects data will "support a long-term program."

"It is always challenging to fully ramp an operation during a short term pilot," Whiffen says. "With that said, we look forward to working with PBOT and the City of Portland to develop a long-term program that facilitates scooters as a reliable, permanent alternative to cars."

E-scooter company Bird is basing its plea to the city to extend the program on job and revenue creation.

In a letter sent to Commissioner Chloe Eudaly on Nov. 2, the company's senior manager, Marlo Sandler, touts the employment of over 700 Portlanders working as contracted e-scooter chargers. Those chargers, Sandler says, have collectively earned around \$413,000.

"To date," Sandler adds, "Bird has put aside more than \$46,000 in funds for the city as part of our Save Our Sidewalks pledge. This money, we've earmarked to help with further investment in safe streets infrastructure, education and other related programs."

When will the scooters be back?

It's too soon to say when or if scooters will return to Portland. Rivera says PBOT plans to release pilot program findings to the public in early 2019. That suggests that, if the city keeps to its planned timeline, scooters won't return until next year.

Who decides the city's next scooter policy?

PBOT pledges the old Portland standby: a public process. "We plan to share our findings with the public and seek more public input," says Rivera. Commissioner Chloe Eudaly oversees PBOT, and transportation commissioners typically take a hands-on interest in policy decisions of this scale.

What complaint could keep scooters from returning?

Rivera says it's people riding on the sidewalk.

"There are a variety of factors that PBOT and the community will need to consider for us to determine the long-term future of this new technology," he says. "More respectful riding by e-scooter users, riding in the street or bicycle lane rather than the sidewalk, and no riding in public parks would improve how the general public perceives this new transportation option."

How much did the city make on the pilot program?

"We are collecting a 25 cent surcharge on all shared e-scooter rides in the city limits," Rivera says. "We won't have final figures until early 2019."

A rough calculation—based on the city's most recent report of 676,034 total scooter trips and the \$9,000 penalty recently levied to Skip—shows the city would have made upwards of \$178,008.

Despite A Few Small Skirmishes, Saturday's Rallies Show Portland Police Can Keep Warring Protesters Apart

*By Katie Shepherd
November 17, 2018*

Portland police managed to keep violence at bay and showed restraint until the very end of Saturday's protests.

A small far-right rally and counter-demonstration unfolded Saturday afternoon with little incident until the very end, in part because Portland police effectively kept the groups almost a block away from one another for most of the day.

The mostly successful effort to keep fiercely opposed protesters apart suggested Portland police will keep seeking ways to avert violence at political demonstrations, just as Mayor Ted Wheeler promised after his plan to control brawlers died in City Council last week.

Between 30 and 50 right-wing activists, including several members of Vancouver, Wash.-based Patriot Prayer, gathered in Terry Schunk Plaza to give speeches about the so-called "Him Too Movement" and to belittle the Me Too Movement.

Across the street and a half-block away, hundreds of antifascist counter-protesters chanted "We believe survivors," and mocked the Proud Boys. (Many Patriot Prayer supporters are also members of the Proud Boys, an often-violent men's fraternity that refers to itself as "western chauvinists.")

For more than three hours, Portland police and other law enforcement officers successfully kept the two groups apart. Police shut down half of Chapman Square and the sidewalks surrounding Terry Schunk Plaza, where the right-wing group staged.

But when the Patriot Prayer contingent moved to end their rally and ostensibly return to their vehicles, the police's handle on the events slipped.

Instead of returning to their cars, the right-wing crew marched through downtown, intentionally trying to clash with masked antifascists dressed in black. The two groups lobbed water bottles, smoke bombs and firecrackers back and forth.

Police used a flash-bang grenade to break up the conflict. There were a handful of small skirmishes as the right-wing group slowly loaded up into cars and left Portland. A few punches were thrown.

But Portland largely avoided the unhinged violence that has unfolded at the last three Patriot Prayer events on June 30, Aug. 4, and Oct. 13. Portland police took a restrained approach to using force on protesters on both sides, unlike on Aug. 4 when officers sent at least two left-wing protesters to the hospital with serious injuries.

Still, officers gave confusing orders to disperse after the initial clash today.

At one street corner on Southwest 3rd Avenue, Portland police told the crowd to move north. At the north end of the block, another line of police in riot gear turned the crowd back to the south. The group bounced north and south as the two lines of law enforcement gave conflicting orders for several minutes. All the while, police kept announcing the dispersal order over loud speakers and said that anyone who did not leave the area would be subject to arrest or use of force.

But—unlike at past events—officers did not arrest the protesters, journalists and observers trapped in the confusion, nor did they use riot control agents on that crowd.

Portland police made six arrests throughout the day.

The protest came on the tail end of a week when Portland officials reckoned with how to handle far-right demonstrations that often end in shocking violence.

City Council voted against an ordinance championed by Mayor Ted Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw. Commissioners Chloe Eudaly, Amanda Fritz and Nick Fish asked the Police Bureau to reevaluate how it could use existing laws to better prevent violence.

Saturday's protests show promise for the argument that the police already have the tools needed to police demonstrations. Although police did not keep the two protest groups separated at the end of the day, they managed to keep the events under control for far longer—and with far less use of force—than in the past.

Portland Police Peacefully Keep Apart Far-Right Rally and Antifascist Counter-Protest

*By Katie Shepherd
November 17, 2018*

The protests cap off a week when city officials tried and failed to expand police authority to control public demonstrations.

After a week of heated debate about how Portland should control protesters who brawl in city streets, police today have kept far-right and far-left groups separated, while using very little force themselves.

More than 200 antifascist demonstrators gathered downtown around 1 pm today to oppose a small far-right rally attended by fewer than 50 people.

Portland police and other law enforcement agents successfully kept the two opposing sides separated with minimal force and no riot control agents for more than an hour. The city shut down half of Chapman Square, citing an emergency ordinance, before either demonstration began. Then they closed the sidewalks surrounding Terry Schunk Plaza.

The closures kept the much larger antifascist crowd away from the right-wing "Him Too" rally organized by far-right activist Haley Adams to mock and discredit the "Me Too" movement. Several Patriot Prayer supporters, including Joey Gibson and Tusitala "Tiny" Toese, showed up and gave speeches.

The protests cap off a week when city officials tried to expand police authority to control public demonstrations. Mayor Ted Wheeler proposed an ordinance that would have allowed the police commissioner to authorize the Police Bureau to limit when and where protesters could gather if they had a history of violence.

City Council rejected Wheeler's proposal, telling the mayor and police to return to using existing laws to prevent or stop street brawls between the far-right and left.

About an hour into Adams' rally, police maintained the barrier between the two groups. They had not used riot control agents, which have previously caused backlash at past protests.

The Portland Mercury

Portland Police Use Tools to Restrict Dueling Rallies, Despite Failed Protest Ordinance

*By Alex Zielinski
November 17, 2018*

Patriot Prayer's top brass met in a heavily-policed Terry Schunk Plaza this afternoon to talk broadly about men being wrongly accused of sexual assault. Dubbed "Him Too," the rally's twisted response to the "Me Too" movement drew a few hundred Portlanders out to counter-protest in neighboring Chapman Square. Less than 50 members of the Vancouver, WA extremist group Patriot Prayer showed up, including founder Joey Gibson.

The downtown rallies were separated by Portland police, Multnomah County Sheriff's deputies and Department of Homeland Security officers (tasked with policing the federally-owned Terry Schunk Plaza). The Portland police arrested six people during the demonstrations for disorderly conduct, harassment, and interfering with a police officer.

The dual rallies fell three days after Mayor Ted Wheeler's proposed changes to protest rules failed to pass a council vote. Wheeler's rules would have restricted the location, time, and size of two simultaneous protests if neither group had a permit to protest and if the two groups had a "history of violence" against each other. The proposal was pitched as a needed "tool" to help the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) deter violence between opposing rallies.

If anything, today's clash was proof that those rules wouldn't have altered the way Portland police address tense protests. Largely, because the proposed restrictions are tools the Portland police already have—and use.

The counter-protest, which featured speeches by sexual assault survivors and chants of "believe women," was organized by a group called Popular Mobilization (or "Pop Mob"), who partnered with Rose City Antifa and Portland's Democratic Socialists of America faction to hold the event. According to the PPB, the group did not obtain a permit to protest.

Yet, before the group showed up, Portland police closed off the southern half of Chapman Square with plastic fencing and yellow caution tape, creating a buffer of sorts between the north

side of Chapman Square and neighboring Terry Schunk Plaza. This clearly limited where attendees were allowed to protest.

Officers are legally allowed to do so under the city's "Emergency Park Closure" ordinance.

Patriot Prayer, meanwhile, had received a permit from the feds to protest in Terry Shrunken Plaza, meaning they were solely monitored by federal officers throughout their rally. Federal officers also checked each attendee for weapons and explosives before entering the park.

Once the rally dispersed, federal and local officers escorted Patriot Prayer members out of the park and down a sidewalk, as counter-protesters shouted from the other side of the street.

They weren't divided for long. A number of scuffles, a tossed water bottle, and what appeared to be a protester's firecracker resulted in PPB officers corralling counter-protesters on the sidewalk multiple times, yelling orders to disperse as members of Patriot Prayer sauntered past, heading to their parked cars. PPB also shot at least one "flash-bang" grenade into the crowd, which emitted loud popping noises and smoke.

This police tactic could also be seen as limiting the time and location of a protest (by telling people to leave and physically blocking them from moving in a certain direction). However, Portland police are allowed to "restrict access to certain areas" if officers believe there's a threat to public health or safety.

Yesterday's conduct also could be seen as Portland law enforcement favoring Patriot Prayer—a concern many have raised in city council meetings and echoed by counter-protesters at today's rally.

"They city needs to stop buying in to this both sides rhetoric and stop supporting hate speech in our city," said Effie Baum, spokesperson for Pop Mob. "They need to start supporting the people who are showing up to defend the people of Portland. Because they sure as hell are not."

Both rallies wrapped up by 5 pm, more than an hour after officers began telling attendees to disperse.

Wheeler took to Twitter to point out how today's tactics were legal and unrelated to his proposed ordinance. He did not explain how his proposed rules would have changed the outcome of today's clash.

OPB

Protesters Take To Portland Days After Mayor's Ordinance Fails

*By Ericka Cruz Guevarra and Bradley W. Parks
November 17, 2018*

A counter-protest to the #MeToo movement was met with backlash from Portland protesters in a demonstration that resembled the type over which the city's mayor sought more power.

Left-leaning Portlanders came to protest a so-called #HimToo rally, which was billed as the antithesis of the #MeToo movement and was started by people who believe that men are victims of false accusations of sexual assault.

Saturday's protest marked the first demonstration since Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's proposed protest ordinance failed in City Council. That ordinance would have given Wheeler discretion over when and where protests between groups with a history of violence could take place.

Absent the ordinance, officers closed Chapman Square Park as a method of crowd control to separate protesters and counter-protesters. Portland Police utilized city code to block an entire portion of the park, effectively dividing the two factions of protesters. Portland City Code 20.12.190(B) allows the mayor, director or an officer of the Police Bureau to close any park "whenever it is in the interest of public health or safety to do so." Police announced several times that certain sidewalks surrounding the park were closed, and that protesters were not permitted to stand there.

Right-wing group Patriot Prayer obtained a permit for a rally at Terry Schunk Plaza according to a spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The plaza is located across from Chapman Square Park.

Opponents of the mayor's proposed protest ordinance were critical of the sweeping powers it would give him. In casting his 'no' vote on the ordinance, Commissioner Nick Fish said he was not convinced the city had done everything it could "with the tools already at our disposal."

At the tail end of the protest, Wheeler tweeted that the city closed a portion of the park using "an existing tool under City Code."

"And we can use it here because of the location of the planned demonstrations," he said.

The mayor then defended his failed ordinance, saying it would've expanded powers mirrored in city code to other areas of the city.

"The ordinance would have allowed for more tools for use outside of a park that don't already exist in city code," he tweeted.

Though left-wing protesters were there to counter right-wing groups' planned protest, tensions boiled mostly with police. A line of officers in riot gear attempted several times to move protesters off of the sidewalks on Southwest Madison between 2nd to 4th avenues and back into Chapman Square. Police faced retort from protesters who questioned their demands to get off a public sidewalk.

"This is my constitutional right to be here," one protester yelled at an officer.

Just as it appeared right-wing protesters were preparing to leave, chaos ensued.

The Portland Police Bureau threatened citations, arrests and potential use of force after officers say they observed people with weapons. Shortly after, police say projectiles were thrown, ordering the crowd to disperse.

Local media outlets reported seeing Portland Police surround antifa protesters. Police also deployed flash bangs and smoke bombs.

The demonstration stemmed from the September confirmation hearings of now Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. A woman named Christine Blasey Ford accused Kavanaugh of attempting to rape her while they were in high school in 1982. The organizer of the event, Haley Adams, has expressed white supremacist beliefs online.