

The Oregonian

Majority of Those Arrested at Portland High Schools Last Year Were Black, New Report Shows

*By Eder Campuzano
March 7, 2019*

As Portland's three public school districts consider new contracts with the city police bureau to staff 11 area high schools with resource officers, [new data from the City Budget Office](#) sheds further light on police activity on those campuses.

Officers arrested 28 people younger than 21 in response to calls for service near high school campuses in the city during the 2017-18 academic year, according to the budget office's analysis of police bureau figures.

A majority of those arrested, 16, were black.

Another eight arrestees were white, according to the report, while three more were Latino. One arrestee was Asian.

Men accounted for 24 of the arrests made at local high schools. Women accounted for the other four. School resource officers, commonly referred to as SROs, made 20 of those arrests, while patrol officers made the other eight. Of those arrests, the police bureau said in a release, 17 occurred on campus.

[Another report released by the police bureau](#) shows that all but one of those arrested on campus during school hours were younger than 18.

The racial breakdown, [first reported by The Portland Mercury](#), stands in stark contrast to the student demographics of the three Portland districts in which the arrests occurred, Portland, David Douglas and Parkrose. Although 10 percent of the student population is black, 57 percent of those arrested on campus were black.

The budget office report did not specify whether those arrested were students nor which campuses those arrests occurred near. It did, however, signify that all of those calls were made during school hours, or between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.

The police bureau said four of those arrests were discretionary, which means an officer made the call to file a report and book the person. In 13 cases, the caller insisted on a report.

Of the 5,438 calls for service during 2017-18, 868 were from the largest high school in the city, David Douglas High. The second most calls, 666, came from Lincoln High. Grant High was the source of 266 calls for service, the lowest tally in the city, while Parkrose High accounted for 392 calls.

A majority of those service calls, 3,866, were made during school hours, according to the police bureau.

The budget office's analysis shows school resource officer program costs the police bureau about \$1.6 million. In December, the Portland Public Schools board approved a contract to pay the bureau \$1.2 million per year to staff nine officers at its high schools full-time.

One month later, amid public outcry, the state's largest school district reversed that decision. The matter has not come up for formal school board discussion since.

The latest data will likely be factored into contract talks between the city's three public school districts and the police bureau. The budget office report, which points out that eliminating the school resource officer program could partially alleviate the police bureau's staffing woes, comes as the city prepares to set its budget for the next fiscal year.

Portland Police on Scene of Andre Gladen Shooting Say They Recognized Knife

By Maxine Bernstein

March 8, 2019

Shortly after Portland Police Officer Consider Vosu fatally shot Andre Gladen inside a Southeast Portland home in January, other officers quickly noticed that a knife near Gladen's body closely resembled one that many officers carry.

Vosu was standing in the living room of the home with his gun drawn and pointed at a man lying on his back at the entry to the bedroom when Officer Justin Raphael arrived at the scene.

Raphael noticed a black dagger by Vosu's feet, stuck vertically into the hardwood floor, according to the police investigation of the shooting released Thursday.

"It's a dagger that I carry. I'm super familiar with it," Raphael told an investigator. "It's a Benchmade fixed blade dagger."

Less than three hours after the shooting, East Precinct Officer Josh Letter bluntly described the knife to an investigator. He and Raphael were among the first to respond to the scene.

When the investigator asked Letter if it was the kind of knife for "whittling with" or "knife fighting," he responded, "Basically it's the knives we carry."

Police still decline to confirm that the knife Gladen dropped at the scene belonged to the officer who shot him, though the bureau recently banned officers from carrying exposed knives on their exterior vests.

Sources have told The Oregonian/OregonLive that the knife was Vosu's.

"PPB does not have definitive information at this time to answer that question," said bureau spokeswoman Lt. Tina Jones. "We are hoping to ascertain that information once the grand jury transcripts are released."

When a forensic criminalist was photographing Vosu and his gear about an hour after the shooting, two lead homicide detectives noticed that "a knife sheath" attached to Vosu's "external vest carrier appeared empty," according to their reports.

Police obtained what they call "Touch DNA" swabs from the knife's handle but didn't include the lab results in 194 pages of investigative reports.

A grand jury last month found no criminal wrongdoing in the Jan. 6 shooting of Gladen at the home. A tenant at the house at Southeast 96th Avenue and Madison Street had called police about 2 p.m. when Gladen came to his door, began pounding on it and refused to leave. The tenant didn't know Gladen, a legally blind man with schizophrenia who appeared to be suffering a mental health crisis.

[DOCUMENTS: Portland police investigative reports on Jan. 6 police shooting of Andre Gladen](#)

The police reports don't include an interview with Vosu. Vosu declined to be interviewed by homicide detectives but was interviewed later by internal affairs investigators. He also testified before the grand jury. Vosu's account will be released when the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office releases transcripts of the grand jury proceeding. A spokesman said there was no timetable when that would happen.

The police investigation revealed that Gladen's cousin, Diamond Randolph, had called 911 earlier that day, about 7 a.m., and reported being afraid of Gladen, who had awakened her and was talking about the devil "living in his house."

Randolph told police that Gladen left her apartment through the front door, then came back in through a window and left again before police arrived, the reports said.

She told police he had been drinking some Mike's Hard Lemonade and added marijuana to it.

The reports also reveal that Gladen suddenly got very agitated when Vosu responded to the Southeast Portland home of Desmond Pescaia, where Gladen had been sleeping on the front porch and banging on Pescaia's door to come inside. After giving Gladen a glass of water and offering him money for a MAX train ride that he declined, Pescaia called 911 at 2:03 p.m. to report an unwanted subject.

When Vosu arrived, Pescaia said he grabbed a club-like tree branch he had and held it over Gladen on his front stoop.

Gladen became volatile, called the officer a "fake cop" with a "fake badge," and looked to Pescaia to help him, adamant he wasn't going to be taken away by the officer, Pescaia told investigators.

"His demeanor changed to the point where I'm was supposed to be like a brother or best friend to him. Telling me I need to protect him 'cause he's not going with this fake-(expletive) cop with a fake badge."

Vosu, standing at the bottom of the stairs leading to Gladen's apartment, called for cover officers to help him and told Pescaia to put down the tree branch, saying he'd take care of it and was calling for backup, Pescaia said.

But the shooting occurred before any other officers arrived.

Pescaia called 911 at 2:03 p.m., and by 2:20 p.m., shots were fired, according to reports.

Pescaia told police that Gladen had burst into his home once the officer arrived, and Vosu followed. Gladen fell onto his back in the living room, and Vosu and Pescaia struggled to get Gladen onto his stomach so the officer could handcuff him. Pescaia said he put his foot on Gladen's neck at one point "to try to hold him down" for the officer.

But Gladen kicked Vosu off. Vosu ordered Gladen to stand back and fired his stun gun at Gladen.

Gladen went down but then got up, Pescaia said. Gladen kept trying to rush at the officer, who was in Pescaia's back bedroom. Vosu ordered Gladen to "stand down" before firing three shots at Gladen, who was in the doorway of the bedroom when he was shot, Pescaia said.

Pescaia told police on the day of the shooting that he first saw Gladen drop a knife after he was shot with the Taser, but the next day, he clarified that he first saw the knife fall from Gladen after Vosu shot him with a handgun.

Pescaia also acknowledged that he picked up the knife after the police shooting, but said he placed it on the floor where he had found it. A day after the shooting, Pescaia also told investigators it was clear that Gladen had discoloration in his right eye.

Officers who responded handcuffed Gladen and applied pressure to his wounds before ambulance medics arrived. The police reports indicate Gladen was revived by medics at the scene and then rushed to OHSU Hospital, where they continued CPR on him as he was wheeled into the emergency department. Gladen was declared dead about 3 p.m.

Two of the three shots hit Gladen in the left side of his chest. The wounds perforated his left lung, and one of the bullets exited his back. The other was recovered in the soft tissue of his back. He also had numerous abrasions to and scratches on his torso, abdomen, forearms, elbow and knees, according to an autopsy report.

Gladen was wearing a medical-type bracelet on his wrist with his name on it when he arrived at OHSU Hospital. He also had been wearing a white T-shirt that had been cut away, gray Levi jeans, one shoe and two socks, and a hospital gown.

He was positively identified the next day through fingerprints taken at his autopsy.

Vosu was led out of the home after the shooting by another officer and waited in a police car until an attorney arrived. When asked by Portland detectives if he'd agree to give them a briefing on-scene or an interview, he declined.

"At this time, I respectfully invoke my constitutional rights, including but not limited to my Fifth Amendment right to remain silent and my Sixth Amendment right to counsel," he said.

Vosu was interviewed by an internal affairs investigator within 48 hours, according to police, and later testified before a grand jury. His account is not included in the police criminal investigative reports, which are separated from the ongoing internal administrative police inquiry into the shooting. Forensic photos of injuries Vosu suffered were taken days later, including injuries to his right hand, right leg and lower back, according to police reports.

The day of the shooting, police seized his handgun and found it was missing three rounds. Three bullet casings were found beside the bed inside Pescaia's bedroom, and one bullet was found near the doorway between the bedroom and living room. Bullet holes were found in furniture and a wall of Pescaia's living room.

"If I did not move that inch and a half away at the time that bullet would've gone through me," Pescaia said about one of Vosu's shots.

Pescaia's landlady had recommended Pescaia call 911 that afternoon.

Lidiya Omelchenko told police she urged police be called, saying "police will be (of) more help," and would know what to do.

"I don't know what I could have done for him to save his life but for him to die like that, that was...," Pescaia told a detective, trailing off and crying. "It's not my fault...I just feel like there was more I could do, but I don't know."

Disability Advocates Lobby for Tighter Regulations on E-Scooters in Portland

By Kale Williams

March 7, 2019

In a letter to the Portland Bureau of Transportation, advocates for disabled Oregonians called on the agency to strengthen restrictions on e-scooters, which are poised to return to the city this summer.

Emily Cooper, legal director for Disability Rights Oregon, wrote that the city had fallen short in adhering to the Americans with Disabilities Act, which calls for equal access to public space. During the city's pilot program last summer, Portlanders rode more than 800,000 miles on the roughly 2,000 e-scooters dispersed across the city.

But the devices, which users are free to leave wherever they finish their trip, often end up blocking sidewalks and other public rights of way, Cooper wrote, creating dangerous conditions for those with disabilities. The city's own report on the pilot noted that "improperly parked scooters negatively impacted accessibility and created a hazard for people with visual impairments."

"During this 2018 pilot, (Disability Rights Oregon) received several concerning calls and complaints regarding the lack of sidewalk accessibility and safety from both our staff and clients with mobility disabilities and vision impairments," Cooper wrote.

Her concerns were first reported by the Portland Tribune.

"It was unclear what additional steps the city would take to address the critical concerns with sidewalk accessibility and improve e-scooter safety," before the scooters return to Portland streets this spring, Cooper added.

Cooper requested that the city require data from the scooter companies on the number of times the devices were left blocking a public right of way, and for the city to enforce state and federal law with regards to parking and riding violations. She also encouraged the city to give priority to companies that employ "geofencing," technology that would require parking the scooters in specific areas, and to create a public forum where members of the community can address concerns about the devices.

That last request was of particular importance, Cooper wrote, because "renewal of the e-scooter program for a full year was decided without any public meetings or open discussion, especially with the disability community."

"It is unclear what efforts the city took to invite the public to comment on the possibility of any future or long-term renewal of the program or offered citizens a chance to say what might be changed in a future initiative," she wrote. "The processes of government and the votes of administrative bodies should be open to the public."

Cooper met with city attorney Ken McGair on Tuesday, and the city is considering ways to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. But, as Cooper wrote, "the City is hesitant to implement too many regulations as it may dissuade smaller, more diverse e-scooter businesses from entering the marketplace."

No date has been set for exactly when the scooters will return.

The Portland Mercury

Police Files Reveal New Information About Andre Gladen's Death

*By Alex Zielinski
March 7, 2019*

In the public discussion that's risen from the fatal January shooting of Andre Gladen by a Portland cop, there's one question that's risen above the rest: Whose knife was found at the scene of Gladen's death?

[New investigative files](#) from the Portland Police Bureau (PPB)—made public this afternoon—help bring that answer more into focus.

Gladen, a 36-year-old Black man who was diagnosed with schizophrenia, was shot by PPB Officer Consider Vosu on January 6 after he refused to leave the front steps of house in Southeast Portland. The man living at the address, Desmond Pescaia, only called PPB to the scene after trying to offer Gladen—who appeared on his porch in a state of mental distress—cash to pay for a MAX ticket and water. Pescaia called 911 after Gladen refused to leave and appeared to have fallen asleep on his front steps, according to Pescaia's followup interview with PPB.

When Vosu arrived at the house, Gladen began pounding on Pescaia's door, asking for his protection. Pescaia opened the door holding a "club" (later identified as a two-foot-long tree branch), to defend himself from Gladen. According to Pescaia, Gladen forced his way past Pescaia's house and fell backward on the floor, with Vosu chasing after him. Vosu attempted to handcuff Gladen, but Gladen "broke free," prompting Vosu to tase him. Gladen appeared unaffected by the shock.

Pescaia then recalls Vosu shouting, "Stand down or I will shoot."

"[Gladen] didn't listen and rushed your officer and...Three pops went off," Pescaia said in the transcribed interview with PPB detective Rico Beniga. That's when Pescaia saw the knife.

"Did you see where this individual... pulled it from?" asked Beniga.

"No I did not," Pescaia responded. "All I saw was him drop the knife on the ground and then he went down."

He described the knife as black and six inches long with a hole at the end. In interviews following Gladen's death, his family members insisted the knife did not belong to Gladen, who was legally blind (but able to make out general objects in daylight).

PPB officers, however, were quick to identify the knife in followup interviews included in the bureau's case file.

"It's a dagger that I carry, I'm super familiar with it," said Officer Justin Raphael, the first officer to arrive at the scene after Vosu announced he had shot Gladen on the PPB radio.

Officer Josh Letter, who showed up shortly after Raphael, said the same.

"Basically it's the knives that we carry," said Letter. "A lot of officers... can pull [it] out of a pocket really quick just by grabbing it with a finger."

In another followup report, Detective Erik Kammerer explains that he took photos of all weapons and Vosu himself shortly after the shooting.

"During the initial photographs of Officer Vosu, I noticed his Taser holster was empty, and a knife sheath attached to his external vest carrier appeared empty," Kammerer notes.

It's unknown if Vosu had a knife in that sheath before arriving at Pescaia's house. But the fact it was missing after Gladen's death is noteworthy.

PPB detectives took a DNA swab from the knife, but the results have yet to be made public.

At a February 22 press conference, Gladen's family members rejected the notion that a legally blind man would be able to see and grab the knife from Vosu's body. Gladen's sister Donna Martin told reporters that she was shocked by Vosu's "extreme and unnecessary" actions.

"For a blind man to not be apprehended without the resolution being death is shameful," said Martin. Gladen's family is expected to sue PPB and the city for Gladen's death.

A Multnomah County grand jury determined in February that Vosu's shooting was a "lawful act of self-defense," and that he should not be criminally charged. According to PPB, Vosu has since returned to regular duty.

The Skanner

Portland Grants First Two Small Business Grants to Cannabis Business Owners

*By Sandra Sorenson
March 7, 2019*

Two Black-owned cannabis businesses in Portland have been awarded the first-ever small business grants earmarked from the city's recreational marijuana tax revenue.

In 2016, Portland voters passed Measure 26, specifying that a 3 percent tax on recreational sales would be used in part to support minority-owned and women-owned local businesses in the cannabis industry. It is the first such tax initiative in the U.S. Further language in the measure emphasizes that these funds will provide "economic opportunity and education to communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition."

In January, the resulting Cannabis Business Development Equity Program awarded \$30,000 individual grants to both subscription box provider Green Box and Green Hop, a brick-and-mortar dispensary with a social justice mission.

"The voters said they cared about the economic harm done to the communities through (marijuana) arrests and the war on drugs, and want to give back," said Jeannette Ward Horton, project manager at the NuLeaf Project, a nonprofit chosen as the program's provider.

In addition to the funding, each business will receive at least four months of business advice and guidance through NuLeaf.

While exact statistics for cannabis business ownership in the state of Oregon are not available, Ward Horton argued numbers from Colorado provide a workable comparison: Only 1 percent of cannabis businesses are owned by African Americans, the racial demographic most arrested on marijuana charges. In total, 15 percent of cannabis businesses are owned by people of color.

The Cannabis Business Development Equity Program is administered by Prosper Portland, the city's development commission.

"We have a \$3 million program called the Inclusive Business Network, where we fund 16 organizations that serve entrepreneurs of color and women," project manager Katherine Krajnak said.

"We served 735 businesses last year: 70 percent (were owned by) people of color, and 60 percent were women-owned."

Ward Horton explained how Green Box and Green Hop were chosen out of the more than dozen applicants.

"These are strong businesses ready to explode, ready to scale with the right capital. They're just missing the capital to scale," she said.

"The subscription model economy is exploding outside of cannabis, and there aren't a lot of delivery licenses in Oregon. So you corner the market. Green Hop is a retailer, but what makes them special is they're creating this cannabis hip hop experience, having these events and culture activities. They're really trying to push what is retail and what it means to serve a community."

Green Box owner Adrian Wayman says his business, now in its second year, caters to "people that tend to be overwhelmed by shopping in a typical dispensary environment, or absolutely don't want to be seen by others," as well as customers who want more consistency in product -- the decrease in overhead costs means Wayman can better keep up with inventory.

The new funding source will enable Wayman to expand his previously one-man operation. He confirmed to The Skanner that since receiving the \$30,000 grant, he has been holding interviews with potential drivers, fulfillment team members, and creative and marketing staff.

"I think I deserve (the grant) for the simple fact I have been affected due to harsh laws," Wayman said. He was arrested for possession 19 years ago in DeKalb County, Georgia, while waiting for his bus. He says he was approached by a number of police officers with guns drawn, and that they discovered a small amount of marijuana on him. He spent the next 18 months on probation, and saw an adverse impact on his job prospects after.

Wayman acknowledged another piece of city legislation that helps residents with past cannabis convictions pursue expungement. "That's something that I could pursue, but at this point, I think that as a business owner now I don't need it. It may be something I do down the road just to get it done, but at this point I'm not in any hurry. I'm not applying for anyone's job."

OPB

Portland Police Release Documents In Shooting Death Of Andre Gladen

*By Ericka Cruz Guevarra
March 7, 2019*

Documents released Thursday from the Portland Police Bureau suggest the officer who killed Andre Gladen may have lost possession of a knife during the fatal encounter.

One officer who responded to the scene saw Gladen lying in the doorway and noticed "'a double-edged knife' sticking in the ground at the feet of Ofc. (Consider) Vosu," according to

police bureau officer statements. Det. Erik Kammerer said he observed an empty knife sheath on Vosu's vest.

"During the initial photographs of Officer Vosu, I noticed his Taser holster was empty, and a knife sheath attached (to) his external vest carrier appeared empty," Kammerer's report states.

Documents also show a Taser was found on the floor under Gladen's body.

According to initial reports of the incident, Gladen had pushed into the southeast Portland apartment of Desmond Pescaia.

Pescaia called 911 and reported that Gladen was acting erratically. Police reports indicate that Vosu arrived on scene, attempted to apprehend Gladen, shocked him with Taser and eventually shot him. Pescaia said Vosu fired because Gladen was carrying a knife.

It's unclear whether the knife belonged to Gladen or someone else, though The Oregonian has reported the knife recovered at the scene is similar to those that officers carry.

The release of the documents comes almost two weeks after a Multnomah County grand jury decided not to criminally charge Vosu for Gladen's killing.

Details in the officers' reports also raise more questions about Gladen's mental state during his fatal encounter with police. Gladen's family has continued to assert that he may have been in the middle of a mental health crisis when he was shot and killed.

Gladen was an African-American man from Sacramento who was in Portland visiting his cousin. Gladen was blind in one eye, struggled with schizophrenia and took medication for bipolar disorder, family members told OPB.

Evidence collection following Gladen's autopsy show he had two hospital gowns, a personal effects bag from a hospital, and hospital ID bands on his left wrist.

Gladen also had prescription paperwork. It's unclear what the prescription was for.

Family members confirmed to OPB in January that Gladen was at the Adventist Medical Center less than a mile away in the hours before he was killed.

Gladen's cousin and self-described lover, Diamond Randolph, said she last saw Gladen after he woke her up and threatened her, according to an investigator.

"Andre Gladen was telling Diamond Randolph the devil was talking to him. Diamond Randolph was so afraid she was going to be stabbed or assaulted by Andre Gladen she called 911," the report read.