

## **The Oregonian**

# **Portland mayor, police come under fire after right-wing writer attacked at protest**

*By Kale Williams  
June 30, 2019*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and the city's police force have come under criticism after an attack on a conservative writer at dueling protests on Saturday.

Despite a large showing — left-wing protesters showed up in the hundreds while right-wing demonstrators numbered only a few dozen — Saturday featured only a few isolated flashpoints of violence. Still, one of them has garnered outsized attention with many in conservative circles condemning the mayor and police for perceived inaction in the face of violence.

Andy Ngo, a right-leaning provocateur with online news and opinion outlet Quillette, which identifies Ngo as an editor and photojournalist, went to the left-wing demonstration around noon on Saturday. Around 1:30 p.m., Ngo was attacked by a group of masked individuals who kicked, punched and threw milkshakes at him. He quickly left the scene and was admitted to a local hospital, he said on Twitter.

Pictures he posted after the attack show cuts and bruises to his face and neck as well as what appears to be the remnants of milkshake coating his hair and clothing. An Oregonian/OregonLive reporter caught the attack on video, though the video doesn't show what precipitated the attack.

Police were lined up along the perimeter of the park before the attack, but no one intervened to break up the fight. Late Saturday, police reported that three people had been arrested, including one for assault, but it was unclear if that person had anything to do with the attack on Ngo.

Within hours, the footage of Ngo's beating had spread far and wide on the internet, racking up more than a million views on Twitter alone. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas weighed in, calling for a federal investigation into the actions of both the mayor and the police.

Neither the Portland Police Bureau nor a spokeswoman for Mayor Ted Wheeler immediately responded to requests for comment on Sunday, but there was no evidence Wheeler ordered the police to "let citizens be attacked."

Richard Grenell, the United States ambassador to Germany, said he contacted the Justice Department to look into the matter.

The attack was widely condemned by prominent national reporters as well, who viewed the incident as an affront to a free press.

Ngo's writing, often labeled as opinion when published in mainstream outlets, has been controversial. An opinion piece he wrote for the Wall Street Journal last year about his experience visiting "London's Muslim communities" was widely panned as racist and Islamophobic. In a response to the op-ed published by Business Insider, London resident Alex Lockie called the piece "cowardly," "race-baiting" and said Ngo "engaged in a weak attempt to skew facts and promote fear of Muslims." An article he published in the New York Post questioned the veracity of reports of hate crimes against gay and transgender people that spread in Portland earlier this year. Ngo called the alleged hate crimes "hoaxes," a move his critics say

put vulnerable people in danger. Ngo is a regular fixture at protests in Portland, where he often livestreams the events.

On his Sunday morning show, CNN media reporter Brian Stelter said the attack on Ngo should be called out as “unacceptable,” even for critics of the conservative writer’s work.

While the demonstrations on Saturday did feature a few isolated flashes of intense violence — aside from Ngo’s attack, a number of protesters engaged in a bloody street brawl later in the day and police declared a civil disturbance before protesters dispersed — the event was still more peaceful than the riots that plagued downtown Portland last summer.

On Aug. 9, police fired flash bang grenades, pepper balls and other riot-control devices at large crowds of left-wing protesters. One person was hospitalized with a traumatic brain injury and another with third-degree burns from crowd-control chemicals.

Saturday’s protest was declared a civil disturbance, but police stopped short of deeming it a riot.

Assistant Police Chief Chris Davis said in a statement Saturday that the protests were difficult to handle due to their size and geographically-disparate nature, but did not comment on any of the violent incidents specifically.

"Demonstration events are very fluid in nature and the management of these events is complex," Davis said. "There are hundreds of peaceful free speech events in the City in a given year that do not result in violence. Unfortunately, today some community members and officers were injured. We are actively investigating these incidents to hold those responsible accountable."

## **3 arrested as downtown Portland protests escalate into civil disturbance**

*June 29, 2019*

Rival demonstrators clashed Saturday afternoon in downtown Portland, resulting in myriad injuries and three arrests.

Protesters from the left and right held separate demonstrations that eventually resulted in roving marches throughout the downtown core, halting traffic and public transit for much of the early afternoon amid the busy tourist season. Police declared a civil disturbance and unlawful assembly shortly after 3 p.m., and crowds dispersed before the afternoon concluded.

The demonstrations, which were mostly peaceful, started at about noon in Lownsdale and Pioneer Courthouse squares. Video of one skirmish, in which a local conservative writer was apparently attacked by a group of left-wing protesters, quickly spread across the internet.

At Lownsdale, a group opposing right-wing demonstrators pumped music and distributed vegan milkshakes. Meanwhile a separate, loosely organized demonstration by the #HimToo movement occurred at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Group members say they support men who have been falsely accused of rape.

Protesters from the competing factions converged near Pioneer Courthouse Square, leading to brief flashes of violence and pointed confrontations.

At one point, people in the crowd threw eggs and milkshakes at Portland police officers. Some milkshakes that were thrown may have contained “a substance similar to quick-drying cement,”

police said. They also asked for people who witnessed violent assaults to email them. Protesters were also seen using bear and pepper spray.

Officers deployed pepper spray into the crowd near the Pioneer Courthouse Square at some point during the protests.

Police said they arrested three people during the course of the afternoon. Gage Halupowski, 23, was charged with second-degree assault and assault of a police officer, both felonies, as well as resisting arrest and interfering with a police officer. Maria DeHart, 23, was charged with second-degree disorderly conduct and harassment. James Stocks, 21, was charged with harassment.

Medics treated eight people, including three officers, for injuries, according to police. One officer was punched in the arm, another officer was hit in the head by a projectile and two were pepper-sprayed. At least two people were seen being treated for injuries near the Nines hotel on Southwest Morrison Street.

Police said three of the injured people received medical care at area hospitals. Among the people injured over the course of the afternoon was Andy Ngo, the conservative writer who appeared to be attacked by antifa members.

The demonstrations came nearly a year to the day after Patriot Prayer and antifascist activists broke out in violence last June 30. Portland police declared that clash a riot.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **PBOT surveying public on East Portland transit needs**

*By Zane Sparling  
June 30, 2019*

#### **Bureau of Transportation seeks input on 11 major roads for East Portland Arterial Streets Strategy.**

The Portland Bureau of Transportation is seeking input from East Portlanders regarding their "transportation experiences and investment preferences" along major streets in that portion of the city.

The East Portland Arterial Streets Strategy involves eleven roadways — nine of which are considered high-crash corridors — with four or more traffic lanes that are east of 82nd Avenue. The goal of the plan is to reduce risk for all road users.

"In addition to changes to driving, the team will also look at how changes to the street could make walking, using transit, or riding a bicycle safer and more convenient for those traveling in East Portland," the bureau reports.

The survey closes to respondents on July 15. You can take the survey [here](#).

## **Willamette Week**

### **Mayor Ted Wheeler Snags a Staffer from Possible Challenger—County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson**

*By Rachel Monahan  
June 28, 2019*

#### **Pederson is weighing a run for mayor in 2020.**

Mayor Ted Wheeler has hired a staffer from Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, who has been weighing a challenge to the mayor next year.

While staffing decisions don't usually merit scrutiny, the move has sparked more interest because it's a staffer jumping ship on one possible mayoral contender in favor of the incumbent.

Tia Williams, who has been policy director for the Vega Pederson after working in Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office, says she wanted to return to City Hall.

"Having cut my teeth at City Hall almost right out of college, I've missed the pace and scrutiny that the city receives, and I'm excited about the opportunity to go back," Williams writes in a June 25 email announcing her departure to county employees.

Williams also praised the work being done at the county: "I have truly enjoyed working for Jessica and the D3 [District 3] team, particularly on issues of early learning, immigration, and reproductive health."

Her last day at the county is July 19.

Wheeler is up for reelection next year. Vega Pederson says her plans are still up in the air: "I'm still deciding what I'm going to do in 2020."

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Alt-Right, Antifa, Cops, and Milkshakes Clash in Downtown Portland**

*By Alex Zielinski  
June 29, 2019*

It's officially summer in the Pacific Northwest, which means it's time for our first alt-right vs. left-wing clash in downtown Portland.

This afternoon, an estimated 300 members of left-leaning groups (including Portland's Democratic Socialists of America chapter, Rose City Antifa, and Popular Mobilization) met in Lowndale Square to protest an expected visit from members of Vancouver, Washington's alt-right contingent, Patriot Prayer. Protest organizers danced to music and handed out homemade milkshakes to attendees. (Later, these same organizers drove around downtown Portland, handing out milkshakes from the back of a U-Haul truck.)

About thirty people showed up for the scheduled Patriot Prayer rally in Pioneer Courthouse Square at 1 pm—some identifying as members of the Proud Boys, a white nationalist organization labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Small, confrontational crowd at Pioneer Square. Got your usual patriot prayer/proud boy folks, sans joey. A lot of regular "copwatchers" and people wearing PRESS hats who I don't believe are press?

Both groups remained in their respective areas until around 1:15, when the left-wing congregation began walking north down SW 3rd, despite not having a permit to march in the street. When the crowd reached Pioneer Square, heavily armored officers with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and Multnomah County Sheriff's Department blocked their path, broadcasting over a loudspeaker that everyone standing in the street could be subject to arrest or be targeted by "riot control agents and impact weapons."

Members of Patriot Prayer taunted the group of protesters from the other side of the armored police line.

The rest of the afternoon consisted of the left-wing protesters marching around downtown, mostly on the sidewalks, attempting to circumvent PPB blockades and confront the few members of Patriot Prayer. The police were not entirely successful at keeping the opposing groups separated, and several tense confrontations ended with punches, kicks and violent threats. According to the PPB, at least three people, including conservative blogger Andy Ngo, were taken to the hospital for injuries sustained in one of these clashes.

PPB declared the rally an unlawful assembly and civil disturbance by 3 pm.

At least one member of the Patriot Prayer group was seen wearing gloves with metal spikes on the knuckles, and another used an American flag to swing at a group of left-wing protesters. The lefty groups, meanwhile,

doused the alt-right ralliers with milkshakes and silly string.

According to other videos and reports, PPB fired mace and pepper bombs (non-lethal bullets filled with pepper spray) towards the antifa-led group several times, in an attempt to disperse the crowd. PPB allege several protesters threw eggs and milkshakes at the police.

UPDATE, June 30, 7 am: PPB issued a press release detailing three arrests made during yesterday's protests. According to the report, officers arrested Gage Halupowski for assault of a public safety officer, resisting arrest, felony assault, and interfering with a police officer. He remains in custody with a \$257,500 bail.

Officers also arrested James Stocks and Maria Dehart for harassment. (Dehart was arrested after throwing water on a opposing protester.) Both have been released from jail.

PPB says officers used pepper spray during the rally, but did not mention use of any other riot control weapon.

Medics with the Portland Fire Bureau treated eight people, including three PPB officers. Per the press release: "Two officers were pepper sprayed during the incident and were treated. Another officer was punched in the arm by a demonstrator and sustained non-life threatening injury. Another officer sustained a non-life threatening head injury from a projectile."

Perhaps the most concerning piece of information shared by PPB is that officers heard rumors that the milkshakes thrown by protesters included a substance "similar to a quick drying cement." Despite perpetuating this allegation on social media, PPB has provided no evidence to substantiate this claim.

# Portland Police Offer No Proof That Protesters Had Milkshakes with "Quick-Dry Cement"

*By Alex Zielinski*

*Jun 30, 2019*

In the midst of the Portland Police Bureau's (PPB) live-tweeting of yesterday's clash of left-wing and alt-right groups in downtown Portland, the bureau fired off an unusually alarming message:

"Police have received information that some of the milkshakes thrown today during the demonstration contained quick-drying cement," read the PPB tweet.

It's since been determined this claim was based on one officer's assumption, rather than truth. However, this sweeping allegation has already been regurgitated as fact by mainstream news organizations and popular right-wing leaders, contributing to an already warped national perception of Portland politics, policing, and protest.

PPB's tweet is referencing the homemade vegan milkshakes that Popular Mobilization, one of the left-leaning groups, handed out to hundreds of attendees during the day's events. Several people ended up throwing their 12-ounce milkshakes at people associated with the alt-right and at PPB officers—but most people consumed the coconut milk-based treats.

PPB did not immediately offer proof to substantiate this claim.

Yet, PPB's tweet containing this rumor has gained nearly 13 thousand re-tweets and has been regurgitated by national media outlets like NBC News, CBS News, ABC News, and, of course, FOX News. Conservative leaders—like US Senator Ted Cruz, Ann Coulter, FOX's Laura Ingram, and former NRA spokesperson Dana Loesch—also parroted the claim on their popular Twitter accounts.

More than 24 hours after posting this Tweet, PPB explained why they chose to publish it.

"A Lieutenant in the field broadcast information of his observation of a cup with appeared to have material on it consistent with quick drying cement," wrote PPB spokesperson Lt. Tina Jones in an email to the Mercury. "We put out the tweet to bring attention to this potential hazard and to encourage people to contact us if they were the victim of a crime."

It's unknown if anyone else provided actual proof that there were toxic chemicals blended into the vegan shakes. Meanwhile, many people who drank the milkshakes Saturday have shared their lack of symptoms on Twitter.

It appears that one officer's recognition that a coconut milkshake looks a little like wet cement convinced PPB to issue the worrisome tweet.

Only after PPB published this tweet did the bureau receive an anonymous email from someone sharing a "recipe" for a cement milkshake.

As of 9:30 pm Sunday, PPB had not clarified—let alone deleted—its inflammatory tweet.