

The Oregonian

Emotions flare as Portland, long friendly to neighborhoods, weighs gutting their powers

By Gordon Friedman

July 2, 2019

As it gets more expensive to live in Portland, officials have been pondering: What to do when the city's vaunted neighborhood associations seem to act more like swank homeowner associations?

The answer reached by a government committee – to erase neighborhood associations from the city code altogether – has dozens of neighborhood leaders sounding the alarm that their renowned system of civic engagement is under threat.

That proposed undoing has board members of Portland's nearly 100 neighborhood associations drawing battle lines against the city committee, officials in the Office of Community & Civic Life – the bureau that works with neighborhood associations – and the bureau's commissioner-in-charge, Chloe Eudaly.

It has also surfaced long-simmering tensions. Neighborhood activists view themselves as representatives of grassroots Portlanders and the distinctive parts of town they inhabit. Detractors see the associations as entrenched, overly powerful voices for homeowners, who tend to be older, white and opposed to housing density, homeless shelters and other development helpful to a growing city's health.

Sam Stucky, for example, said neighborhood associations “are just there to be obstructionist and delay housing we desperately need.” Despite that qualm, Stuckey, a 32-year-old architect, sits on the Mill Park Neighborhood Association board.

“I think there's some level of truth to that,” said Stan Penkin, chairman of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, though that line of thinking fails to acknowledge “all the things that neighborhoods do that are positive.”

John Legler, a board member of the Creston-Kenilworth association, sees it differently. In his view, the city wants to “get rid of neighborhood associations because we cause too much trouble” over land use issues. If the committee gets its way, he said, “We will exist in form but without legitimacy.”

At a meeting of the committee in June, many board members also insisted their groups are more diverse than critics acknowledge.

“I am neither old, nor rich, nor white,” said Elizabeth Deal, 33, a nurse and leader of the King Neighborhood Association who is Asian.

Erasure of the associations from city code would have sweeping effects, though the full extent is unclear. Officials say the worries of neighborhood association champions are overblown.

At its core, the change would remove the special powers of neighborhoods to officially weigh in on city government actions. The most notable of those are zoning decisions adopted by the City Council, often at real estate developers' urging. Currently, neighborhood associations must be consulted on such decisions and may formally appeal them at no cost.

Activists also worry the update is a pretext to cut off neighborhood associations from city-paid event insurance. They say doing so would prevent family-friendly events like block parties and also push some associations into financial ruin.

Neighborhood matters would also be less transparent, as the committee plans to remove requirements that associations allow the public to attend board meetings, make a record of votes and preserve copies of documents.

Activists have also cried foul about the code change process. Neighborhood board members say they were not notified of committee meetings. While officials are adamant notices were sent, members of associations across the city said, without fail, that was untrue. And a survey about the code change, which garnered more than 1,000 responses, was seen as insufficient by officials because 69 percent of respondents were white.

In a challenge to the conventions that have underscored more than 40 years of local activism, Eudaly, the commissioner in charge of outreach to neighborhoods, said many Portlanders view themselves less as members of neighborhoods than as a part of ethnic, religious or other non-geographic affinity groups.

“Personally, I am more likely to identify as someone in the disability community or as a renter than as a neighborhood resident,” the commissioner said.

Winta Yohannes, Eudaly’s aide assigned to the code change effort, said the complaints of neighborhood association board members do not reflect Portlanders’ views. “Why should we elevate them over other groups?” Yohannes said.

Asked to provide an example of another group that should be on equal footing, Yohannes said Portland United Against Hate, a coalition of 70 organizations that track and respond to “acts of hate,” according to a city webpage.

Comments such as those have led neighborhood activists who are white or not religious or don’t speak another language to ask: What group speaks for me if not my neighborhood association?

The proposed code strongly states Portland is an inclusive, welcoming city. It directs the civics bureau to connect Portlanders of all backgrounds with their government, facilitate discussions and develop “learning opportunities that focus on culturally-empowering civic engagement through community-based partnerships.”

Neighborhood association leaders say those are admirable goals but fail to acknowledge the role that neighborhoods play in making Portland vibrant. Far from being heartless NIMBYs, neighborhood leaders say they are instead focused on the mundane but important work that City Hall mostly ignores.

Consider Allen Field. His foray into neighborhood politics began 15 years ago over a typical small-time issue: dog parks.

The board of the Richmond Neighborhood Association was stacked with “dog haters,” said Field, 58, an attorney in private practice. So, he ran for election to the board and recruited other canine admirers to do so. The slate won and used the association’s influence with the city to designate a section Sewallcrest Park for dogs to roam off-leash.

As a process-oriented lawyer, Field said he is greatly concerned about the city’s plan to remove open records and meetings requirements from applying to neighborhood associations.

“I want things to be open and transparent,” he said. “I believe in notice and being heard. Due process rights.”

Being active in neighborhood matters is rarely about complex land use decisions, he added. Instead, his involvement focuses on graffiti removal, coordinating movie screenings in public parks, trash clean-ups and tending community gardens.

“We’re a city of neighborhoods,” Field said. “And neighborhood associations do things that no other groups do.”

Take leafy neighborhoods like Laurelhurst, where residents shielded themselves from development by seeking a historical area designation. Or Eastmoreland, where neighborhood leaders stopped construction of an apartment complex by launching a protest against the felling of three sequoia trees on its site. And the Mt. Scott-Arleta neighborhood, where bitter opposition to a homeless shelter, spurred on by a neighborhood association leader, has delayed the project.

Using their powers to appeal zoning decisions free of charge, neighborhood associations like those in the Pearl District or Old Town have tried to stop construction of office and condominium towers with varied success.

Critics note those boards may appeal free – and therefore slow developments’ progress – even if the challenges are later deemed frivolous. The fees are waived even for neighborhoods where residents have pooled funds to hire land-use attorneys who charge tens of thousands of dollars to challenge housing density efforts.

Housing and renter advocates have an ally in Eudaly, who said the city government needs a new paradigm for engaging residents.

Yet concerns that the city wants to eliminate neighborhood associations are off the mark, she said. The groups will continue to exist and be “a critical part of what we do,” Eudaly said, adding that the notion she wishes to undermine neighborhood associations is “absurd.”

Suk Rhee, director of the civics office, said the code change is not about “the fate of neighborhood associations” and reducing the groups’ influence “is not a topic that we’ve had.”

The code change committee is supposed to recommend updated language to the City Council in July. It’s unclear if it will. The panel was scheduled to approve the changes at its meeting on June 26, but it could not establish a quorum necessary to hold a vote when a majority of the members failed to attend.

Penkin, the Pearl District leader, said neighborhood associations, ethnic and religious groups and immigrant communities tend to advocate for the same neighborly ideals. Divides are mostly a matter of perception, he said, and passions tend to erupt only when broad changes are afoot.

“This goes back many, many years,” Penkin said. “Everything’s complicated.”

How a dirty city gets clean: Efforts to clean up Portland’s downtown come together this summer

*By Peter Talbot
July 2, 2019*

It’s summer in the city. And in Portland, summer months mean increased foot-traffic and tourists downtown, as well as more visible homelessness as it becomes easier to spend time outside.

All of which contribute to trash showing up on the streets.

For the last few years, the city's public and private agencies have been working to control downtown's trash. The efforts have become more active in recent months.

New trash cans, increased downtown trash pick-up and more portable toilets have left city officials and business leaders feeling optimistic about maintaining a tidy city. It's a solution costing at least \$1 million that some see as not addressing a root issue — the growing homelessness crisis.

Every summer, complaints swell as the number of tents of homeless people pop up. City officials say portable toilets and new trash cans don't just keep residents and businesses happy — they are important resources for the city's homeless population.

City officials know this infrastructure doesn't solve the root issues of homelessness, but the city, residents and downtown businesses have a vested interest in keeping Portland clean. If it's not welcoming for workers and visitors, downtown businesses suffer, said Maureen Fisher, executive director of the Portland Clean & Safe District.

“When people see litter, the perception is that people don't care, so it's dirty, so it must not be safe,” Fisher said.

Eileen Park, a spokeswoman for the mayor's office, said the city has to address immediate problems — a lack of infrastructure to handle Portland's growing trash problem — while also working to eliminate homelessness.

Trash is part of the pains of a medium-size city growing larger, officials say. And while Portland's growth has started to slow, summer brings its own issues.

In April, the city increased its downtown trash pick-up to seven days a week. Clean & Safe's Fisher said the service had been increased over time to go from four days a week, to five, to six and finally seven.

If cans aren't emptied every night, Fisher said, they tend to overflow or people scavenge them for valuables, leaving garbage on the street.

Downtown businesses pay a fee to be part of and support the 213-block Clean & Safe District the seven-day-a-week pick-up services. In exchange, businesses get increased public services such as cleaning and security.

The increased trash pick-up also includes blocks adjacent to the Clean & Safe District that make sense to include because of foot traffic, a city spokeswoman said.

The district removed 724 tons of garbage in 2017, according to their website. That's up from 638 tons of garbage in 2016 and 485 tons in 2015.

In May, the city council voted to spend money placing portable bathrooms and showers in high-need areas including downtown, inner Southeast and outer East Portland.

The units are planned to be staffed seven days a week, 12 hours a day to deter vandalism and other damage.

At least half of the filings in the city's homeless complaint system — as many as 450 a week — include reports of human waste, according to a city report.

The city is accepting requests for information before installing the toilets. The timeline for when the toilets will be installed is unclear, a city spokeswoman said.

The city estimates the portable toilets would cost \$645,500 to operate for 12 months, according to the report. At least \$615,000 of that will go to attendants' salaries.

In June, the city announced the installment of 100 high-capacity trash cans in downtown and Old Town Chinatown. The cans are painted with smiling puppies and ice cream — both looking eager to accept 35 gallons of trash.

The trash cans are the second installation of high-capacity garbage cans in Portland. The first 100 were installed in October.

The Clean & Safe District board of directors invested \$300,000 in the total 200 new garbage cans alongside a \$15,000 Community Livability Grant from Prosper Portland.

The efforts to clean up the city appear to be working, Portland business owner Eric Murfitt said. Murfitt is the controller of Mercantile, a high-end women's fashion store downtown where he has been working for 14 years.

Downtown has felt cleaner in the last few months, he said. Walking from his car to work, he doesn't see overflowing trash cans like he used to.

Having a clean downtown is vital to his business, he said. Working in fashion, his customers don't need his products like they need groceries.

"If downtown is not clean and safe, they have no reason to come downtown," Murfitt said. "Grime, dirt, garbage — it's just unappealing."

Wanting the streets to look tidy around his business creates a strained relationship between him and the homeless people living there, who he sees as contributing to the problem.

Trash has been a sticking point for those who see homeless people outside their business or home every day. In 2017, more unhoused people were staying in residential neighborhoods than in previous years, making homelessness more visible to residents.

More than 4,000 people live on Portland's streets on any given night, according to the 2017 federal homeless census. The city has focused more on what officials call "livability issues" — trash, needles and camping — as city residents become increasingly frustrated with seeing the symptoms of homelessness throughout town.

In neighborhoods, residents point out needle caps found near playgrounds and piles of litter along bike and pedestrian paths as evidence of problems that arose when more homeless camps moved in.

At the same time, homeless campers say they fill trash bags and try to keep their space clean, but struggle without a permanent place to put their things.

Past summers have seen Mayor Ted Wheeler empowering parks staff to evict homeless people, outlaw parking around outdoor destinations and other efforts to appease residents who complain of evidence of homelessness around their neighborhoods and storefronts.

Michael Turner, 67, said he'd been living on the street for a couple of weeks. He was sitting by a tree in late June near a Central City Concern office in Old Town, holding onto a packaged-up pie. Before two weeks ago, Turner said he was living inside.

Turner said there wasn't much trash on the streets, but had a bigger issue with what he said was a negative relationship between the homeless and business owners.

"The business owners and the people here got to come together," Turner said.

Bloody clashes in downtown Portland put police, mayor on defensive

By Maxine Bernstein

July 1, 2019

Two days after Portland again made national news for dueling demonstrations that erupted in at least two violent street brawls, staffers in the mayor's office fielded complaints from callers as his new public safety adviser answered media questions from across the country.

At one point, a receptionist in Mayor Ted Wheeler's office was trying to assure a caller that the mayor doesn't "condone" the violence but can't prohibit the protests, while public safety adviser Robert King told reporters that police are directed to enforce all laws as they're "able to" and work to keep feuding demonstrators separated.

The city core filled with hundreds of protesters of all stripes Saturday as Proud Boys followers, a #HimToo movement organizer and black-clad supporters of Rose City Antifa, many hiding their faces with dark motorcycle helmets or bandanas, converged.

It's clear the city and police are still struggling with how to prevent demonstrations from dissolving into bloody bedlam.

This time, police eventually declared "civil disorder" as at least three people were assaulted -- two in bloody brawls videotaped by observers and widely shared on social media. A third person, conservative writer Andy Ngo, was kicked, punched and deluged with milkshakes, in another video that went viral.

On Monday, critics blamed police for not acting more quickly to break up the attacks. In a turning of the tables, the complaints came mostly from right-wing demonstrators. In the past, police have come under fire from left-wing demonstrators for not protecting them.

Police arrested three people in the weekend fights.

Gage Halupowski, 24, of Portland, faces a second-degree assault allegation, accused of repeatedly using a baton to strike a man who had fallen on the ground after being chased near Pioneer Square. Police say Halupowski also turned on a second man, Adam Kelly, who tried to help the man bleeding on the ground.

An officer watched Halupowski deliver a "full overhead swing that struck the top of Kelly's head from behind" and reported that the "sound of the blow was sickening," causing many in the crowd to collectively gasp, according to a probable cause affidavit. Kelly received more than 20 staples to close wounds to his head and suffered a concussion.

The officer radioed other officers with a description of the attacker. Halupowski also is accused of punching an officer who tried to arrest him before he was taken into custody, the affidavit says. Halupowski pleaded not guilty to allegations of assault, attempted assault of an officer, resisting arrest and interfering with police.

James Kirkpatrick Stocks, 20, of Milwaukie, is accused of throwing milkshakes from a paper cup at four demonstrators and pleaded not guilty to four counts of harassment.

Maria Caitlin Dehart, 22, of Portland, is accused of throwing water at Brandon Farley, who was filming the demonstrators, and pleaded not guilty to harassment and second-degree disorderly conduct.

“The acts of a select group of violent individuals do not define Portland but do have a negative impact on all of us,” Chief Danielle Outlaw said in a statement Monday afternoon.

She also noted the difficulty police have in trying to intervene in violence, particularly when some in the crowd are carrying weapons, including collapsible batons, projectiles and guns.

“The public should be aware of the time it takes to shift resources and address violence; it is not immediate and officers have to weigh many factors in their approach,” she said.

The police chief and King said the bureau will examine videos from the protests to make additional arrests and review the police response to figure out “lessons learned.”

Wheeler was out of the country on vacation and unavailable for comment. In a message on his Twitter account, he wrote that he stands against all forms of violence, regardless of anyone’s political leanings, and that police have the “unenviable task” and a difficult job of trying to keep the peace.

Meanwhile, Portland police union President Officer Daryl Turner blasted the mayor’s office, contending past criticism of officers from City Hall has “tied” the hands of officers.

He urged the mayor, who also serves as the city’s police commissioner, to boldly proclaim that city won’t tolerate any violence from “both Antifa and Proud Boys” and “remove the handcuffs” that are restraining police from stopping violence “through strong and swift enforcement.”

Turner said police need to cite, detain or arrest anyone who is violating the law during unpermitted protests. Otherwise, demonstrators “feel empowered to attack others,” he said.

“Our police commissioner should be condemning these attacks immediately,” Turner said.

The Police Bureau also fielded criticism for suggesting on their social media Twitter account during the protests that left-wing demonstrators had thrown milkshakes containing a dry cement-like substance.

Police learned ahead of the protests that milkshakes might be thrown on people. As the event unfolded, “some participants” told officers that a substance similar to quick-drying concrete was being added to some of the shakes, according to King and the Police Bureau.

A police lieutenant also observed the texture and smell of some of the milkshakes thrown as consistent with concrete, police and King said.

The lieutenant alerted command staff, who told officers on the street and relayed the concern publicly on social media “in an abundance of caution,” King said.

Police spokeswoman Lt. Tina Jones said the public notice was issued to bring attention to the potential hazard and encourage any victims to contact police to pursue potential harassment accusations.

King said he didn’t believe police confiscated any of the substance or had verified that the milkshakes thrown, in fact, contained any cement-like substance.

He and Jones noted that someone sent an anonymous email to police that appeared to contain a recipe for the alleged doctored milkshakes, including soy milk and “cement mix” as ingredients.

It came after police had sent out the alert about the milkshakes. Police released the email’s contents on Monday, which some observers say may have been sent as a joke by right-wing provocateurs.

Effie Baum, of the group Pop Mob - short for "Popular Mobilization," wrote on Facebook that the group made the shakes, using gallons of coconut-based ice cream and cashew milk topped with rainbow-colored sprinkles. She criticized the police for spreading "spurious allegations" of cement shakes.

"Since we cannot rely on the police to protect the people of Portland, it is up to antifascists to defend ourselves and people at risk of police and right-wing extremist violence," Baum wrote on the group's Facebook page.

The city and police face lawsuits from several earlier protests. Some of the suits accuse police of using excessive force, striking one protester with a baton or blasting another with pepper spray, while a federal class-action suit claims police improperly used a technique called "kettling" to herd and detain protesters.

An outside agency is conducting an independent inquiry into whether police have exhibited bias in their handling of Proud Boy and Patriot Prayer protesters versus left-wing counterdemonstrators.

Friendly emails and texts exchanged over months between a police crowd control liaison and Joey Gibson, the leader of Patriot Prayer, sparked widespread outrage, including from the mayor and two city commissioners who said they showed officers favor right-wing protesters over antifa. On Saturday, police were criticized for not intervening when left-wing demonstrators seriously injured right-wing protesters. A lawyer for Ngo took to Twitter, vowing to sue the city on his behalf.

A year ago, the police chief said she wasn't sure what would satisfy the public. On one hand, Outlaw said she hears complaints when police take too much action and on the other hand, they get complaints when they don't intervene fast enough.

The City Council last year voted down an ordinance proposed by Wheeler that would have given him and the police more power to restrict the times and locations for protests between groups with a history of violence.

The mayor's direction to police has been to ensure people's right to free speech, enforce all laws "when you're able to" and protect the safety of all, King said.

"That direction has been very clear and made very explicit," he said.

"At the end of the day, the expectation is that officers take action to protect people and enforce the law, and that is what I believed happened on Saturday," King said. "I'm sure there will be more discussions about what we can do ... to reduce the likelihood of violence in the city."

Right-wing demonstrators, angered by the assaults Saturday, already are planning to return to downtown Portland next month, circulating ads on social media for an Aug. 17 "End Domestic Terrorism Rally" or "End antifa.com – Better Dead than Red."

Former prosecutor selected to lead Portland's police oversight division

By Maxine Bernstein

July 2, 2019

Ross Caldwell, a former deputy district attorney in Multnomah County who has worked for the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission since 2015, has been selected to lead Portland's police oversight division, the city auditor announced Monday.

Caldwell, a Washington native, served as program director of the Criminal Justice Commission and oversaw its Justice Reinvestment grant initiative, designed to support programs that reduce prison use and offenders' likelihood of recommitting crimes.

He previously worked for about three years as a prosecutor for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. He was hired as a deputy district attorney in December 2012 after serving as an intern in 2011. As a deputy district attorney, he prosecuted misdemeanor, domestic violence and juvenile crimes. He also worked as a neighborhood crime prosecutor, with stints in the Police Bureau's North and East precincts.

"I got to see what cops do on a day-to-day basis," Caldwell told The Oregonian/OregonLive. "I have a ton of respect for cops but I also think they need to be held to a high standard. I'm very interested in accountability in all aspects of the criminal justice system."

Caldwell, 41, will take over as director of Portland's Independent Police Review on July 29 and earn an annual salary of \$125,345. The office serves as the intake center for complaints against Portland police and also reviews bureau actions and tactics.

Caldwell said he'll work to ensure complaints against police are handled in a timely and effective manner.

He also said he recognizes that he must build trust among communities of color and vulnerable populations at a time when the city faces a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice over police handling of people with mental illness, controversial police shootings and debate over how police should handle violent protests.

"I'm very aware of the fact I'm another white guy in a suit," he said. He said he hopes to do community outreach and educate residents about the role and authority of the oversight division and its limits.

"Ross' expertise working with community and system partners to identify and reduce disparities and inequitable outcomes in the criminal justice system, coupled with his experience working in the Neighborhood Unit of the District Attorney's Office will serve Portland well in this role," City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero said in a statement.

Caldwell, of Toledo, Wash., graduated from the University of Washington and attended Lewis & Clark Law School. He has lived in Portland for about 11 years.

He replaces Constantin Severe, who left the job in April to join Gov. Kate Brown's staff as a public safety adviser.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to continue the important work of impartial police oversight and look forward to working with the team at Independent Police Review, Portland's community leaders and the Portland Police Bureau toward the goals of accountability, transparency and public trust," Caldwell said in a statement.

The Portland Tribune

Police seek clues on robbery, assault suspects at protest

By Zane Sparling

July 01, 2019

Chief Danielle Outlaw, Portland Police say there is no law against covering of the face in public.

UPDATE: The Portland Police Bureau continues to investigate individuals "believed to be involved in criminal activity" during the riotous events surrounding a political protest in downtown Portland on Saturday, June 29.

"The acts of a select group of violent individuals do not define Portland, but do have a negative impact on all of us," said Police Chief Danielle Outlaw.

She continued: "We are determined to pursue every lead with the goal of arresting those who engaged in crimes and holding them accountable. The public should be aware of the time it takes to shift resources and address violence; it is not immediate and officers have to weigh many factors in their approach."

The Monday afternoon release of information may be intended to brunt the nationwide scrutiny and condemnation from some who say police did not do enough to prevent the day's violence.

Police noted that, per Oregon law 181A.250, they are not allowed to film demonstration events unless a crime is occurring. At the same time, there is no law against covering or masking one's face in public or while committing a crime.

Authorities also say they are limited by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which enshrined freedom of speech and freedom of peaceful assembly into the Bill of Rights.

"Attention is given to balancing the safety of demonstrators, safety of officers and first responders, First Amendment rights, infrastructure, and property," officers noted.

Local critics aren't satisfied. James Buchal, party chair of the Multnomah County Republican Party, slammed Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler for his "continued refusal adequately to police Antifa thugs that ran wild again."

"It is long past time for the federal government to invoke fundamental federal civil rights statutes, like 18 U.S.C. 241, that make it a felony for groups of people to run around in masks attacking other people for exercising their First Amendment rights," Buchal said.

The bureau additionally released more information regarding a PPB tweet claiming that protesters were mixing quick-drying concrete into their milkshakes. According to a release, a PPB lieutenant in the field noted "the texture and smell" of some of the material and determined it was consistent with concrete.

"We knew going into this event that milkshakes were going to be thrown at people," added Robert King, a former PPB commander and Mayor Wheeler's senior adviser on public safety.

While the brawling captured by videographers has drawn wide attention, King said police were largely successful in their stated aims.

"We were largely effectively in maintaining separation of the different groups," he said.

Portland Police announced three arrests — and first-responders provided medical care to eight people — during the tumultuous events surrounding a political protest in downtown Portland on Saturday, June 29.

Authorities said "multiple assaults" were reported, and the demonstrators' use of bear spray and thrown projectiles spurred police to also deploy pepper spray at times. Police said one bat was confiscated at Lownsdale Square, as weapons are banned in that park.

"Demonstration events are very fluid in nature and the management of these events is complex," Assistant Chief Chris Davis said in a news release.

He continued: "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."

Medics with Portland Fire & Rescue said three of the injured people were police and three were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment. Police said two officers were pepper sprayed, an officer was punched in the arm and another sustained a non-life-threatening head injury after being struck by a projectile.

The most high-profile injured person was undoubtedly Andy Ngo, a famous live-streamer whose opinion pieces have been published in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Post.

Ngo's attorney, Harmeet K. Dhillon, wrote that Ngo had been admitted to a hospital overnight due to a "brain bleed." A GoFundMe created for Ngo has raised more than \$110,000 in less than 24 hours.

The three Saturday arrests were not related to Ngo's attack, though a reporter for The Daily Caller quoted a police spokesperson as saying: "There is an open investigation on that incident, however."

Here's who was arrested:

- Gage Mackinnon Halupowski, 23, of Oregon City, was charged with first-degree assault, resisting arrest, interference with an officer and attempted assault of a police officer.
- James Kirkpatrick Stocks, 21, was charged with harrasment.
- Maria Caitlin Dehart, 23, was charged with second-degree disorderly conduct and harrasment.

Dehart and Stocks were released without bail from the downtown jail on Saturday, according to official records. Neither has a history in the local court system. Halupowski remains in the county jail as of Sunday, June 30. He was charged with possession of less than an ounce of marijuana in Klamath County in 2014, according to court records.

While the protest itself drew only several hundred attendees, the commotion has recieved wide attention in the national television news and in countless online publications, as well as million of views on social media.

Of particular note: A Twitter report by the Portland Police Bureau, which was subsequently repeated in a news release, that milkshakes distributed to protesters contained a substance "similar to a quick drying cement."

Around 12:30 on Saturday, the Tribune witnessed another live-streamer who was doused with milkshake. The man was seen cleaning his clothes with a water bottle and then continued to film the day's events.

PPB did not immediately respond to the Tribune's request for comment regarding the milkshakes.

Milkshake protest stirs up controversy across U.S.

By Zane Sparling

July 01, 2019

Ted Wheeler's adviser offers support to Andy Ngo, but says no 'physical evidence' of quick-drying cement

In the wake of a violent, Saturday, June 29 political rally that provoked nationwide attention, the Portland Police Bureau and Mayor Ted Wheeler found themselves, once again, playing defense.

Everyone from a U.S. senator to the president of the local GOP piled on criticism, with many wondering how only three people could be arrested during the sprawling, six-hour-long duel between conservative Proud Boys and the black-clad anti-fascists fighters known as Antifa.

Daryl Turner, president of the Portland Police Association union, called on the mayor to kick both sides out of the city and "remove the handcuffs from our officers."

"If this violence had been directed at Antifa, there would have been an immediate call for an independent, outside investigation," Turner said of the downtown protests.

The disagreement even touched on, of all things, milkshakes.

The authorities' claim of "quick-drying cement" in protesters' concoctions quickly became the proverbial tweet heard round the world, with more than 14,000 retweets that largely appeared to take the information as Gospel.

Several local reporters were more skeptical, with one photojournalist noting that "its consistency doesn't jive with my experience" with tilework. The Tribune witnessed dozens of people drinking the vegan milkshakes that were distributed for free by protest organizers, seemingly to no ill effect.

In an interview with reporters, Wheeler's senior adviser on public safety said the tweet was issued around 4 p.m. by command post staff after a police lieutenant on the scene witnessed a man with "irritation" around the skin and eyes after being struck by a milkshake.

"There was a powdery substance," said Robert King, the adviser. "There was also an odor."

Mayor Wheeler, who oversees the police bureau, tweeted out a condemnation of political violence. King, a retired Portland police commander and former union president, said PPB would write and release to the public a report on the milkshake incident.

Asked if PPB had physical evidence of a weaponized milkshake, King said: "At this point I'm not aware of any, but there may in fact be physical evidence that exists."

King also extended his sympathies to Andy Ngo, a prominent conservative voice who became a cause célèbre after he was beaten and drenched in liquids while live-streaming marchers near the Multnomah County Justice Center.

A third-party fundraiser netted \$150,000 for Ngo's recovery efforts in less than two days, while his Twitter account apparently grew by more than 50,000 new followers.

"On behalf of Mr. Ngo, we will do everything we can to support him and others that were injured in the demonstration," King said.

"Our investigators have been very successful in identifying people," he continued. "I suspect that arrests will be made."

Your City Hall: Civic Life bureau rewriting its rules for operations

By Jim Redden

July 02, 2019

The goal is to increase community engagement, but some neighborhood activists fear they are being cut out of the process

WHAT IS HAPPENING? The Office of Community & Civic Life, the Portland bureau formerly known as the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, is rewriting the section of the City Code that governs its operations for City Council approval. The final proposal will be released soon and the council is expected to hold at least one hearing and vote on it in July or August, but no date has yet been announced.

WHAT IS THE GOAL? The office operates under Chapter 3.96 of the code. The council passed a resolution last summer changing its name and requesting the rewrite to better reflect its responsibilities helping all communities engage with city government. A citizen advisory committee was appointed to work on the rewrite, which acknowledges that Portland is becoming a more diverse city, with different needs and challenges than in the past.

"This chapter creates the Office of Community & Civic Life and sets out its functions, duties, and responsibilities to serve, respond, and adapt to the needs, aspirations, and opportunities of its evolving communities. This chapter outlines the basis for the role of civic engagement in creating an inclusive city in which each of us can contribute and belong. The Office serves people who live, play, worship, and/or work in the City of Portland as individuals and through all forms of groups (including but not limited to affinity-, business-, community-, issue-, and neighborhood-based groups) and across generations," reads the "purpose" section of the proposed replacement chapter.

IS THERE ANY CONTROVERSY? Yes, the process has raised concerns among some neighborhood association and neighborhood coalition members that the rewrite will eliminate the traditional public involvement process that grew out of the grassroots fight to stop the proposed Mount Hood Freeway project in the 1960s. Portland has long been known for its neighborhood system, which has land use review and other responsibilities in the City Charter.

"The unusual thing about this process to date is that in writing the new code, CAC (citizen advisory committee) members were asked to consider eliminating the reference to neighborhood associations and neighbors," wrote Leslie Hammond, president of the board of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc., in the coalition's July newsletter. "The neighborhoods should be prepared to send letters and to testify on the new language at the hearing in late summer."

WHAT CAN I DO? You can learn more about the Chapter 3.96 rewrite at the office's website at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic>. It will include the proposal to the council when it is finalized.

You also can express your opinions on the issue to the council members, and testify at the hearing when it is scheduled. Their contact information is on the city's website at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov>.

The Portland Mercury

Mayor's Office: Portland Police Decision to Share Cement Milkshake Rumor Was "Responsible"

*By Alex Zielinski
July 1, 2019*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's office has confirmed that only one person—a police lieutenant—reported that a milkshake thrown during a Saturday protest in downtown Portland might have contained quick-dry cement. Despite the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) publishing a mid-protest tweet Saturday stating this concerning claim as fact, there is no physical proof to substantiate this unnamed lieutenant's allegation.

In a media call, Wheeler's police liaison Robert King explained that midway through the Saturday clash, a PPB lieutenant "saw a powdery substance that appeared to cause some irritation [when in contact with skin]." The lieutenant also said the milkshake smelled similar to wet concrete, a smell they were familiar with from "having worked with concrete before."

According to King, this was the evidence that PPB used to inform a tweet alleging that "some of the milkshakes thrown today during the demonstration contained quick-drying cement."

Although the city has no additional evidence to support this claim, King says that PPB's decision to fire off this tweet without confirming its validity was responsible, and an "operational necessity."

"We're committed to sharing as much information as possible," said King. "Even if suspected, sharing that in an abundance of caution for our community is a responsible step."

With this logic in mind, it's unclear why PPB did not share any information about confirmed threats of violence observed Saturday—whether it was people engaging in fist fights, spraying bear mace, or every silly-stringing each other. Or why, during an August 2018 protest, the PPB did not immediately tell the public about stumbling across a cache of guns.

PPB has not clarified or deleted its initial tweet about the cement milkshakes. Meanwhile, nearly 14 thousand people have retweeted the claim, including CNN's Jake Tapper, Senator Ted Cruz, and conservative talking head Ann Coulter. The proliferation of this rumor—paired with the news of anti-fascist protesters beating up right-wing writer Andy Ngo—has again brought a negative national spotlight on Portland.

Three people were arrested during the Saturday protest for crimes ranging from second-degree assault to harassment. King said PPB detectives are investigating Ngo's attack.

Mayor Wheeler, who also serves as Portland's police commissioner, has not spoken publicly about PPB's actions. He did post a few tweets this afternoon condemning violence.

Popular Mobilization, the activist group who concocted Saturday's vegan milkshakes, has published their recipe online. According to spokesperson Effie Baum, the group handed out no less than 750 milkshakes to attendees—which were both consumed and tossed at people.

The Daily Journal of Commerce

Portland Design Commission gains member

By Alex Visser

July 1, 2019

The Portland City Council last week confirmed the addition of LEVER Architecture project director Chandra Robinson to the Portland Design Commission, following a recommendation from Mayor Ted Wheeler.

Robinson has a bachelor's degree from Portland State University and a master's degree from the Boston Architectural Center. She has a wealth of local and international experience. She spent a decade working with Architects Without Borders, serving communities in a number of different countries, including Tanzania, Haiti and Nepal.

“Working with Architects Without Borders-Oregon exposed me to a lot of cultures that have perspectives different from my own,” she stated in a press release. “My experience there made me realize equitable outcomes to me are providing equitable access to good design and making sure that people impacted by the outcomes are heard.”

As a black Latina woman who grew up in a mostly white part of the city, Robinson said she brings a unique set of experiences and viewpoints to the Design Commission. She told the DJC that she thinks it's important to have commissioners who have witnessed Portland's development over the years, as she has.

“Having that history and knowing what was there before, I'll bring that to the Design Commission,” she said. “I'm excited about change.”

The Design Commission has a lot of potential in its current makeup, Robinson said. She expressed optimism that the group will be able to work effectively with affected neighborhoods and ensure that any changes made to the city are for the better.

“Right now we have an especially diverse group, and everyone has such a different perspective,” she said. “I think it might be less rigid than it used to be.”

Robinson's term began Monday. The Design Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for July 11.

OPB

Portland Mayor's Office Defends Response To Protest, Concrete Milkshake Claim

By Amelia Templeton

July 1, 2019

Staff for Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler are weighing in on the controversies provoked by national media coverage of a weekend protest in Portland.

What started as peaceful protests involving Antifa, an anti-fascist group that has engaged in violence, and the Patriot Prayer, a Vancouver-based group that attracts white supremacists and is also prone to violence, collided Saturday, attracting nationwide scrutiny.

The mayor's public safety advisor, Robert King, says police detectives have been assigned to investigate assaults during the protest, including a violent attack on Andy Ngo, a photographer and writer for the conservative online magazine Quillette.

The protest left eight people injured, and police arrested three on charges of assault and harassment, but have not made any arrests in connection with the attack on Ngo.

King says police have reviewed video footage of the attack posted on social media — captured by a reporter from The Oregonian, among others — and hope to use it to help identify suspects.

“I watched the videos of that occurring, as many people have. I'm concerned about any person in our community that were injured,” he said.

“There are people in the community who think that they have anonymity to commit crime. When we can identify them and establish probable cause, we will make arrests.”

Conservative media outlets and politicians have widely condemned the violent attack on Ngo — and Portland's mayor and police for, they claim, allowing it to happen. On Monday, the mayor's communications director estimated that they had received more than 1,000 emails and phone calls complaining about the weekend's events.

The police were attempting to keep the groups of antagonistic protesters separate to prevent assaults, but King says it was difficult given the number of people involved.

Ngo is a gay, Vietnamese-American writer who attended Portland State University and is frequently critical of left-wing protesters. He has been harassed previously and tweeted one day prior to the protest that he had been singled out by Antifa as a target for assault. A GoFundMe account to benefit Ngo set up by a person claiming to be a friend of his raised almost \$150,000 in a day.

King also defended a controversial police claim that some at the protesters threw milkshakes containing quick-dry cement during the weekend protest. The police bureau warned about possible cement mixed into milkshakes in a tweet from their official account. Fox and NBC News picked up the story.

Activists at the protest refuted the claim on social media, saying the group PopMob was handing out vegan coconut shakes, and people had been drinking them, without problems.

King says the official tweet was based on the observations of one police lieutenant, “Who saw a powdery substance, saw a milkshake thrown on a person, appearing to cause some irritation. And then also smelled a smell,” King said.

King said the lieutenant, who had worked around concrete, thought it was a similar odor.

The Portland Police Bureau also said it had received an anonymous email, purporting to include a recipe for the milkshakes including soy milk and cement mix.

King wouldn't say whether the bureau could prove the lieutenant's suspicions about the shakes. The lieutenant is working on a police report about the incident that will be publicly released.