

The Oregonian

Milkshake-makers in Portland protests say they got death threats after police warned of ‘quick-drying cement’

*By Diana Kruzman
July 4, 2019*

Since dueling groups of demonstrators met in violent clashes downtown Saturday, the organizers of the “queer dance protest” that served free vegan milkshakes have received death threats and online abuse, according to the Daily Dot.

PopMob, short for Popular Mobilization – which describes itself as a group of “concerned Portlanders” dedicated to “inspiring people to show up and resist the alt-right” – organized the milkshake party in Lownsdale Square, according to the group’s Facebook page. Its goal was to stage a counterprotest against the right-wing Proud Boys and #HimToo movement, which was gathering to support men accused of sexual assault.

Though the event page didn’t encourage attendees to throw the milkshakes, an unknown number were lobbed that day, including against conservative writer Andy Ngo, who also reported being assaulted by masked anti-fascist protesters.

During the demonstrations, the Portland Police Bureau tweeted that it had “received information” that some of the milkshakes thrown contained quick-drying cement, though no physical evidence has thus far been released to back up this claim. The decision has since drawn national media attention and intense criticism online.

“That cement milkshake tweet was like a death knell. We immediately started getting internet hate,” PopMob spokesperson Effie Baum told the Daily Dot.

Baum said PopMob members had been told they should be put in a gas chamber or shot, and that personal information about them had been released online. “Attacks have come from all over the world,” Baum told the Daily Dot, adding that co-ops that donated supplies for the milkshakes have faced firebombing threats.

Baum did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Oregonian/OregonLive.

In Monday news release, PopMob called the Police Bureau’s cement milkshake warnings a “misinformation campaign blatantly manufactured by the Portland police to disrupt a thriving antifascist movement.”

PopMob served over 750 milkshakes to demonstrators, according to the release, “using music and whimsy to create an atmosphere of joyful resistance to threats posed by Proud Boys and the alt-right contingent.”

National media outlets quickly picked up on the police tweet. Fox News put out a story about the protests with the headline, “Antifa, conservative protests turn violent as demonstrators throw milkshakes of quick-dry cement at police and onlookers,” which was later changed to remove the mention of quick-dry cement. NBC News had a similar headline for its story about the protests, which was also later altered: “Demonstrators clash in Portland, Oregon, throw ‘concrete milkshakes.’”

And misinformation about the attacks began to spread on Twitter, with some users sharing stock photos of chemical burns with captions identifying them as caused by milkshakes. One user’s photo of a woman with burns on her face, which was shared hundreds of times, ripped the photos

from a Teen Vogue story. That account, identified in an article in Canada's National Observer, has since been suspended.

Meanwhile, people outraged by the attacks against Ngo lambasted the city government. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, tweeted that federal law enforcement needed to "investigate & bring legal action" against Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler for ostensibly allowing the attacks to occur.

In response to the criticism, police have doubled down on their decision to tweet about the "quick-drying cement." Chief Danielle Outlaw said Wednesday that the decision was made after a lieutenant suspected as much, based on the consistency and odor of the substance he encountered.

"We put that information out in good faith," Outlaw said. "There were no ill intentions behind it whatsoever, and it was in an effort to keep everyone safe."

If later the bureau discovered that, in fact, the shakes did include a dry-cement material, the bureau would be criticized for not warning people, she said.

"Now whether or not we put the word 'may' in front of something somewhere, or put a period or comma somewhere different, I mean, I choose not to focus on that," Outlaw said.

Police arrested three people at Saturday's protests, one of whom was suspected of throwing milkshakes from a paper cup at four demonstrators, according to court papers released Monday.

Portland's police chief calls for anti-mask law, different approach for violent protesters

*By Maxine Bernstein
July 3, 2019*

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said Wednesday the city, police and community need "a better way" to address protest groups bent on brawling on Portland streets and called for laws that would bar masks worn by demonstrators, allow police to fully videotape protests and give authorities greater control of protests by groups with a history of violence.

"We have to do something differently," Outlaw said, addressing reporters directly for the first time since violence in Saturday's converging protests downtown drew national attention.

"There were entities that planned a brawl in the city of Portland and no one seems to be upset about that. ... Entities came here for a fight. ... I don't even know what they were protesting against."

Outlaw, speaking in the 14th floor Police Bureau conference room in a hastily called press conference, denied that the mayor has "handcuffed" the police response to demonstrations in any way, as the police union president alleged this week. Mayor Ted Wheeler serves as the city's police commissioner.

The chief again complimented officers for their response to the roving demonstrations by three groups, including anti-fascists, Proud Boys and supporters of the #HimToo movement. Three men were assaulted, including conservative writer Andy Ngo, and police arrested three people.

"We don't want anyone to be hurt at all," Outlaw said. "But it could have been a lot worse."

She spoke of how the bureau's reduced staff with 128 officer vacancies and the lack of support from outside agencies -- Washington County, Clackamas and Clark County sheriff's offices have refused to come into the city to assist police with protest coverage -- has constrained her agency's ability to respond quickly to outbreaks of violence during large, fluid protests.

Portland police often have to react, instead of being proactive in their response, to protests without proper permits, Outlaw said. The bureau aimed Saturday to separate the competing groups and directed officers to move in as a team "whenever we can do it safely," she said.

Deputy Chief Jami Resch, who also attended the news conference, added, "You have to be careful you don't create a flashpoint."

If officers are outnumbered when violence breaks out, though, it doesn't make sense to send in officers who could be injured, Outlaw said.

"There are barriers to what we're doing because we don't have strategic resources to get ahead of these things," the chief said. "Every demonstration we've responded to is reactionary. ... We need strategic resources to get ahead of this before it starts so it's not even allowed to happen in the first place."

She called for a law that would bar the wearing of masks by demonstrators in the commission of crimes.

"We cannot allow people to continue to use the guise of free speech to commit a crime," Outlaw said. "A lot of people are emboldened because they know they can't be identified."

About 15 states, and some counties and cities, have adopted some type of anti-mask law. Most ban the wearing of masks in a way that intimidates others. Opponents have argued that such restrictions deprive people of anonymity they seek to express their views or that it couldn't be enforced simply for political protests versus other displays, such as for Halloween celebrations or parties.

In New York, it's illegal to congregate in public with two or more people while each wearing a mask or any face covering that disguises identity. The law has existed since 1845, when tenant farmers, in response to a lowering of wheat prices, dressed up as "Indians" and covered their faces with masks to attack the police anonymously, according to The New York History Blog. There are exceptions for masquerades and other entertainment events.

The American Civil Liberties of Oregon would object to an anti-mask law in the city because it doubts such a law could be enforced in a constitutional manner, said Sarah Armstrong, a spokeswoman for the group.

"A policy that prohibits wearing a mask to a protest will have police focusing on the wrong issue. Behavior is the issue, not the mask," she said. "It could be argued that the mask is an important symbolic part of a protester's message... There are many legitimate reasons people wear 'masks,' including political and religious reasons."

Outlaw also pushed for changes in the law that would allow police to continually record protests, instead of only when crimes are committed, which she said slows police investigations because they only have snapshots of what occurred. Civil rights activists in Portland and Oregon, though, have objected to police videotaping people during their exercise of free speech.

Outlaw also reiterated her call for a local ordinance that would allow police to better control the time, place and manner of demonstrations by groups with a violent history. The mayor attempted to pass such an ordinance last year, but the council rejected it.

The mayor's spokeswoman Eileen Park said, "We will be engaging with community leaders to have more discussions on this. Nothing planned yet."

As for the anti-mask proposal, Commissioner Amanda Fritz's chief of staff, Tim Crail, said, "We looked into it previously and the constitutional free speech issues are difficult to overcome, at least in Oregon."

Fritz is "open to a conversation about the advantages and difficulties created with a mask ordinance, but cannot say at this point whether she would support a ban on masks for protests."

Commissioners Jo Ann Hardesty, Chloe Eudaly and Nick Fish weren't immediately available for comment.

Outlaw briefly addressed the controversy surrounding the bureau's message over Twitter, warning people that the bureau had information that milkshakes thrown during Saturday's demonstrations were laced with cement.

She said a lieutenant at the scene suspected, through the consistency and smell of the milkshake substance being thrown, that there may have been a dry cement material included. The bureau put that out "in good faith," she said. The group that brought the milkshake substance said only soy milk and coconut ice cream were the ingredients.

"As we get information, we want to alert the public," Outlaw said. "There were no ill intentions whatsoever."

Outlaw expressed frustration that she's not hearing outrage in the community instead about the violent groups that keep returning to cause melees in the city's core and are emboldened, already planning their next one in August.

"Who thinks this is OK?" she asked.

"We are a learning organization and we don't want to continually step into the same events if we know they don't work," the chief added.

The Portland Tribune

PPB Chief Outlaw: 'Entities planned a brawl'

*By Lisa Balick
July 04, 2019*

Police chief supports law prohibiting wearing masks while committing a crime during Wednesday press conference

In her first public comments since the latest protests roiled downtown Portland, Police Chief Danielle Outlaw on Wednesday defended her officers, the mayor and their response to the near-riot that drew national attention.

Standing at a podium at police headquarters, Outlaw began by forcefully defending Mayor Ted Wheeler. Refuting some reports in social media, Outlaw said, "The mayor never gave us direction to stand down. Never."

She said her officers did a really good job on Saturday "given the circumstances throughout the day" and that they "were very fluid."

Outlaw also swatted away the social media comments that officers were "cowards" and "ran away."

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Outlaw said during her July 3 press conference.

Many of the questions centered around the police response to the protests, but Outlaw pointed out one fact that she said hasn't gotten as much attention.

"There were entities that planned a brawl in the city of Portland and no one seems to be upset about that," she said. "I don't know what they were protesting because they came to fight."

She also noted she and the mayor tried last November to put in place a "time-place-manner" ordinance that would help the police get ahead of these planned brawls. But "that ordinance didn't make it through" City Council.

Though the police supports everyone's First Amendment right of free speech, she noted it is illegal in other states to wear a mask while committing a crime.

"Wearing a mask makes it harder for us to identify" violent protesters, and said she supported legislation that would prohibit criminals from wearing masks.

"If you knew that you could be easily identified, would you be willing to commit that crime?" she asked rhetorically. "A lot of people are emboldened when they know they can cover their faces."

On Tuesday, PPB released more photos of violent protesters they would like identified.

Police said three people were arrested — one in relation to the milkshakes and eight were treated by medics during the demonstrations.

During the protests, PPB tweeted that milkshakes with a cement mixture were among the objects being tossed by protesters. She swiped away a question about that tweet: "That's what I mean by a shiny object."

"We received information (from an officer at the scene that cement was an ingredient inside the milkshakes) and we put (the tweet) out in good faith in an effort to keep everyone safe."

Outlaw said there was a public safety risk "we were entitled to share" about the cement.

Lt. Tina Jones, who introduced and ended the press conference, said there is an ongoing investigation into all the violent acts at the protests and declined to provide more specifics about individual cases.

Portland plant guilty of water pollution, fined \$500,000

By Zane Sparling

July 04, 2019

Bureau of Environmental Services says Oregon Oils, Inc. clogged sewer system with grease, fatty oils.

A Northwest Portland plant that promises "recycling and reclaiming" services for gunky grease traps will pay a hefty penalty — for pouring the fatty oils down the drain.

The \$538,500 in combined civil fees and sewer charges to be paid by Oregon Oils, Inc. is the largest amount ever recovered by the Bureau of Environmental Services' compliance program.

"This is an incredibly egregious event," said bureau director Mike Jordan in an interview. "This stuff mucks up our system. It gets caught up in pump stations and shuts down the pump, which can create all kinds of back-up problems."

According to the violation notice sent to Oregon Oils, sanitation workers had to dislodge "heavy accumulations" at the Yeon Pump Station at least 11 times between January and April, 2018.

With a pattern emerging, BES installed temperature probes and cameras at manholes directly up- and down-stream of the industrial facility at 2515 N.W. 29th Ave. The monitors recorded discharges into the sewage system that were heated up to 181 degrees fahrenheit — well above the official 149 degree limit.

In a likely effort to save money, the company used hot water to heat up the oil and avoid immediate detection or back-ups, says Jordan.

"Once the cooling occurred, then we got clogs," the director added.

Established in 1992, Oregon Oils was issued a permit to release waste into the sewer system at its current location in 2017. According to its website, Oregon Oils collects the grease build-up at fast-food joints, schools and nursing homes for free, claiming that the waste is refined into biodiesel fuel.

"Recklessly disposing of used oil is a big threat," the company states. "Customers can be proud of making a choice that's both financially rewarding for their business and great for the environment."

As part of a stipulated agreement, Oregon Oils must upgrade its pretreatment equipment and improve the city's ability to monitor discharges before they can reconnect to the municipal pipe network. The facility also is on two years' probation after it pleaded guilty to charges of second-degree water pollution in a case brought by Oregon State Police, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon Department of Justice.

"We're dedicated to complying with the requirements that we have set forth in our agreement," said Matt Burns, Oregon Oils' general manager. "We look forward to getting back on track and continuing to serve the community."

Willamette Week

Out-of-State Callers Inundate Portland Emergency Dispatchers With Complaints About the June 29 Protest

*By Katie Shepherd
July 4, 2019*

Some callers have been profane.

Emergency dispatchers have fielded almost 100 calls this week from out-of-state callers complaining about the Portland police response to the June 29 protest that has captured national attention.

People as far-flung as Australia have phoned into the police non-emergency line to offer vague complaints about the Portland Police Bureau, antifascists and the assault of conservative journalist Andy Ngo.

"We're not able to take police reports," says Bureau of Emergency Communications spokesman Dan Douthit. "It's odd, people are calling from all over the country."

Some people have been profane, cursing at dispatchers. Others have simply aired frustration with the response to the demonstration where violence broke out.

[These four calls, provided by the bureau at WW's request, offer a sample.](#)

The calls have occupied dispatchers who would otherwise be taking calls from Portlanders reporting crimes and asking for help. (Non-emergency calls are given lower priority, but are answered by the same dispatchers.)

Instead of calling the non-emergency line, people who want to rail against the Portland police about Saturday's protest can contact the Independent Police Review directly, Douthit says.

"Please don't call non-emergency," he adds.

Portland Mayor and Police Union President Renew Their Feud Over Whether Cops Need “Handcuffs” Removed at Protests

*By Sophie Peel
July 3, 2019*

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw says: "The mayor never gave us direction to stand down on Saturday, ever."

A barrage of intense national criticism of how Portland police handled a June 29 protest has renewed a fight between Mayor Ted Wheeler and police union president Daryl Turner.

An assault by antifascist demonstrators on conservative journalist Andy Ngo triggered a storm of partisan outrage, most notably on Fox News, which has long made Wheeler a favorite target. (Donald Trump, Jr., the president's son, chimed in today.) Police fueled the fury by tweeting a rumor that Antifa had stirred fast-drying concrete into milkshakes—a claim that they now concede has no physical evidence.

The most immediate effect of the controversy was to give oxygen to Turner's longstanding gripes about the mayor. His chief complaint: He claimed Wheeler was preventing police from controlling violent extremists who gather in Portland to brawl.

"It's time for our Mayor to do two things," Turner wrote in a Monday open letter to Wheeler. "Tell both ANTIFA and Proud Boys that our City will not accept violence in our City and remove the handcuffs from our officers and let them stop the violence through strong and swift enforcement action. Enough is enough."

Turner also alleged that liberal Portland politicians were afraid to criticize violent leftists. "Where are the voices condemning the lawlessness and violence? If this violence had been directed at Antifa, there would have been an immediate call for an independent, outside investigation," Turner wrote on July 1. "This is a perfect example of Portland politics at work and why our great City is now under fire in the national news."

Wheeler responded to Turner's letter in a Facebook post on July 2.

"As a sworn officer," Wheeler wrote, "Daryl Turner should know the dangers of spreading misinformation. These unsubstantiated false narratives are a disservice to the Portland Police Bureau and the public at large." He continued: "It spins up extremists and oversimplifies a very complex, fraught political dynamic in our city. Ginning up anger without offering any real solutions impedes progress."

Today, the mayor took to social media again to explicitly deny that he had ordered officers to take a hands-off approach to protesters last weekend.

"Since this continues to be widely circulated and believed, let's break this down factually," Wheeler wrote on Twitter. "Concerning the recent protests: There were no orders to police to stand-down. No 'handcuffs' placed on them."

This afternoon, Police Chief Danielle Outlaw opened a press conference by confirming that Wheeler had issued no such order for the June 30 protests.

"First and foremost," she said, "I want to use this opportunity to let everyone know: The mayor never gave us direction to stand down on Saturday, ever."

The attack on Ngo—and the resulting arguments—come after more than two years of regularly scheduled street brawls between right-wing marchers and their antifascist foes. Police have rarely made arrests at these fights, and have been repeatedly criticized by both political factions for their tactics.

Likewise, this isn't Wheeler and Turner's first standoff. Here's a timeline of Turner's criticism, and Wheeler's defense, of his handling of police policies.

May 2017: The city posts a job description as part of its hunt for a new police chief and adds in a blurb acknowledging Portland's "history of legally sanctioned systemic racism with legally enforced exclusionary practices."

Turner, who is African-American, said in a statement that he took issue with the "verbiage" and added that the post had a "clear implication" that the bureau supported "a racist culture in the City."

Wheeler defended the posting and said, "I have never called into question the values and beliefs of our rank and file police officers."

July 2018: Turner issues a statement blaming Wheeler for letting the city devolve into a "cesspool." Turner said that "livability that once made Portland a unique and vibrant city is now replaced with human feces in businesses doorways, in our parks, and on our streets."

Turner's statement came shortly after Wheeler expressed his support for an internal investigation to be done on the Portland Police Bureau after The Oregonian reported that half of the arrests made in 2017 were of people living on the streets.

Turner wrote that Wheeler was using the police bureau as a scapegoat for his own failures. "True to form, instead of standing up and leading, Mayor Wheeler has reverted to the, 'Is there some sort of profiling or implicit bias by the cops' rhetoric to smokescreen his own failed policies."

August 2018: Turner attacks again, this time criticizing Wheeler for his instruction that police not intervene during an occupation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters. Turner said Wheeler had "failed miserably." Turner said in the statement that Wheeler needed to "put his personal political beliefs aside and ensure public safety is his top priority."

October 2018: A downtown protest devolves into violence between Antifa and right-wing groups in Portland's streets, and Turner strikes again. He calls out City Council for not stopping violence

in the streets: "The culture of enablement, restriction of enforcement, criticism of police when we act, and criticism of police when we don't act, along with an over-emphasis on de-escalation and disengagement has led us to our present, unacceptable situation," Turner said in a statement.

Several days after the brawl, Wheeler announced he would be proposing an emergency ordinance that would put restrictions on where and when groups could protest. Civil-liberties advocates took issue with the proposal, and it was rejected by City Council.

Today, Outlaw suggested City Council reconsider. She said the debate over police tactics was a distraction from the central problem: extremists entering the city intending to hurt each other.

"I don't know what they were protesting against," Outlaw said. "Because they came to fight."

Portland Police Chief Suggests Banning Masks at Protests

By Katie Shepherd

July 3, 2019

But police have rarely arrested unmasked brawlers.

In her first extensive public comments about last weekend's violent protest, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw suggested today the city should ban masks at protests.

It is the most direct suggestion of a change in local laws to address violence at protests proposed by a city official since Mayor Ted Wheeler tried to pass an emergency protest ordinance that would have allowed police to place restrictions on demonstrations that could become violent.

"In other states, you'll see that it's illegal to wear a mask during the commission of a crime," Outlaw said at a press conference July 3. "If you knew that you could be easily identified, do you think you would be as inclined to commit that act of violence, or commit that crime?"

The suggestion would appear to target antifascist demonstrators, some of whom wear masks and dress in black to conceal their identities. An assault committed by antifascists in Portland on June 30 has drawn national media attention.

The far-right groups who plan frequent rallies in Portland that often devolve into violent skirmishes typically do not conceal their identities. The far-right organizers have admitted publicly that their intention is to bait antifascists into violence, either with right-wing supporters or the police.

The Police Bureau and the mayor's office did not immediately respond to follow-up questions about Outlaw's suggestion to make it illegal to wear a mask at a protest.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon is skeptical an anti-mask law would pass constitutional muster.

"There are many legitimate reasons why a person might want to wear a mask," says Kimberly McCullough, the ACLU's policy director. "People who wear clothing that covers their faces for religious reasons. They may be going somewhere they don't want to be recognized: at treatment centers for certain types of illnesses; at a protest where they might be recognized by boss or landlord or overbearing parents; people might fear being doxxed; they might be worried about an abusive ex-partner; they might be worried about tear gas or pepper spray."

McCullough says masks can also be a part of protected speech, either for expressive or religious reasons. Even if an anti-mask law would be effective, it may easily violate the First Amendment.

“I don’t know that we could ever overcome the First Amendment implications here,” she says. “We would be chilling all sorts of legitimate uses of masks. I don’t think you can overcome that by saying it’s going to work really well.”

The fact that such a law would apply primarily to antifascist groups could renew questions about which brawlers the city sees as a threat.

The Portland Police Bureau is under an external investigation looking into allegations that officers show bias against leftist demonstrators, particularly antifascists protesting far-right extremists. Wheeler ordered the inquiry after WW and the Portland Mercury published friendly texts between a police lieutenant and Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson.

Portland police have rarely arrested unmasked brawlers at past protests, even when they have been caught kicking, punching, and striking people with weapons on video. Police and prosecutors have pointed to "mutual combat" and a lack of cooperative victims as reasons for the inaction. WW's reporting revealed that mutual combat is not a defense under Oregon law.

There has been at least one high-profile exception, when the Portland police arrested Tusitala "Tiny" Toese for punching a protester at a Dec. 9, 2017 rally. Police again arrested Toese for a June 2018 assault, who was eventually prosecuted after WW reported on the large quantity of video evidence and testimony against him.

A spokeswoman for Wheeler's office says the mayor will be discussing this suggestion further. "We're going to talk with Chief Outlaw more about this suggestion," says Wheeler's spokeswoman Eileen Park. "We'd also like to get community leaders to weigh in."

The Portland Mercury

Hall Monitor: No Concrete Evidence

*By Alex Zielinski
July 4, 2019*

During a recent Portland protest, a police officer confused vegan milkshakes with quick-drying cement and caused a national frenzy when the police bureau tweeted about it. No, this isn’t the punchline of a Portlandia sketch—it’s just the latest way Portland’s reckless police work has twisted the perception of our city.

Saturday, June 29 marked 2019’s inaugural scuffle between left-wing and alt-right groups in downtown Portland. Like past clashes, the dueling protests ended in a cloud of pepper spray, several arrests, and a few bloodied faces. But something far more benign set off alarm bells for the Portland Police Bureau (PPB): 800 homemade coconut milkshakes served from 10-gallon buckets. The shakes were mostly consumed by those attending the afternoon’s left-wing rally, although later, some were used to drench the alt-right opposition.

According to the city, an unnamed PPB lieutenant said the shakes contained “a powdery substance that appeared to cause some irritation” to skin. That lieutenant, who supposedly had experience working with concrete, told their superiors the milkshake had the consistency and smell of wet concrete.

The lieutenant’s assumption was harmless enough—it’s certainly expected for officers to be on high alert for unusual weapons during these recurring battles. But instead of investigating the

officer's hunch, PPB fired off an alarming tweet: "Police have received information that some of the milkshakes thrown today during the demonstration contained quick-drying cement."

Somehow, offhand suspicion had morphed into fact.

Within hours, the alert was regurgitated by Sen. Ted Cruz, CNN's Jake Tapper, NBC, ABC, and pundits for Fox News, who characterized the milkshakes as the latest weapon from left-wing extremists. One thing, however, went unreported: There was no proof the milkshakes contained concrete.

PPB's news-making threw Portland into the national spotlight, triggering threats of violence and legal action against protesters, Mayor Ted Wheeler, and the local media.

What might be worse, though, is that the city has stood by PPB's false claim.

Robert King, who serves as Mayor Ted Wheeler's police liaison, says PPB's decision to share the unverified statement was an "operational necessity."

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

By that logic, you'd think PPB would have also tweeted about Saturday's confirmed violence, whether it was people engaging in fist fights or spraying others with bear mace. If PPB was truly committed to sharing "as much information as possible," it wouldn't have waited two months before telling the public that, during a 2018 protest, officers discovered a rooftop cache of rifles belonging to alt-right protesters.

Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw frequently bemoan Portland's reputation as a lawless city with little control over violent protests. Outlaw and Daryl Turner, the head of the PPB's union, have blamed the "anti-police" perception of Portland as the reason for the bureau's struggles to hire and retain officers.

More often than not, these leaders accuse the media of misrepresenting the city. But in this case, a major piece of misinformation came directly from the city's supposedly authoritative police force. As of the Mercury's deadline, the PPB had yet to correct the falsehood, or even admit their mistake. We'll wait.

The Skanner

Peninsula Pool Reopens for Summer

July 5, 2019

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R)'s Peninsula Pool will reopen Monday, July 8, 2019 for the Summer 2019 season. The Parks Replacement Bond and Parks System Development Charges* funded major renovations at the popular outdoor pool, located at 700 N. Rosa Parks Way in Portland.

The renovations at Peninsula Pool have increased the pool's capacity from 188 to a maximum of 296 swimmers.

"Peninsula Pool is a neighborhood treasure," says Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish. "The upgrades will allow more users to enjoy the pool this summer."

Peninsula Pool and all other PP&R outdoor pools are open through August 25, 2019.

The project added a wall between the pool's deep and newly expanded shallow water areas. The larger shallow water portion increases the pool's capacity for swim lessons and for free play by younger and less experienced swimmers. The project also added a lift to the adjacent Peninsula Community Center, providing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to the lower-level classroom and dance studio spaces.

Other project improvements included new pool and deck lights, new drainage and water circulation systems, new pumps, a high-efficiency filtration system, and gutters.

"Peninsula Pool has a rich history of serving a multicultural community," says Portland Parks & Recreation Director Adena Long. "And now the expanded pool is a place where even more neighbors, families, and friends can gather and make lasting summer memories. Thanks to all our project team members, partners, and to our staff for making this vision a reality."

Portland Parks & Recreation invites everyone to join for the grand reopening celebration:

What: Peninsula Pool Party/grand reopening When: Thursday, July 18, 2019, 12pm -3pm
Where: Peninsula Pool, 700 N. Rosa Parks Way, Portland.

Enjoy free swimming, cake, Water Safety Day activities, a synchronized swimming performance by the Rose City Raindrops troupe, and more!

Peninsula Park Community Center and Peninsula Park remained open during construction, which began in September 2018.

*Parks System Development Charges (SDCs) are one-time fees assessed on new development to cover a portion of the cost of providing specific types of public infrastructure required as a result of this development. Park SDCs help ensure that Portland's quality of life keeps pace with our growing and changing city by providing additional parks and recreation facilities needed to accommodate growth.

The Portland Observer

Public Safety Support Hires

July 3, 2019

The Portland Police Bureau has hired a new group of nine Public Safety Support Specialists and five new Police Officers. The new hires will undergo orientation and training before being assigned to the city's police precincts.

Portland Police Bureau members are working diligently to hire a diverse team of sworn officers as it faces a shortage mostly due to retirements. The public has been asked to help in recruitment and the police bureau has revamped its hiring process, and lowered some educational standards, to gain more applicants.

"We are very excited to bring these high caliber individuals on board in the Public Safety Support Specialist and Police Officer roles," said Chief Danielle Outlaw. "We invite anyone considering a career in public service to apply to join our team as we continue to provide the highest quality public service in Portland."

For the latest information on how to become a Portland Police Officer, including salary and benefit information or to apply, visit joinportlandpolice.com. The bureau will also hold another

hiring workshop on Saturday, July 20 for information on the PPB application process and physical ability test required.

City to Pay Flood Damages

July 3, 2019

The Portland City Council voted last week to help neighbors with legitimate claims related to a major water main break that occurred at Northeast 23rd and Skidmore Street last March sending a wall of water into adjacent streets.

The deadline to file a claim for those potentially affected by the break is July 15. Residents who previously submitted a claim do not need to re-apply, officials said.

The cause of the pipe failure remains unknown. It was built in 1915 with a useful life of 200 years, officials said.

“This was a very rare and isolated incident,” said Water Bureau Director Mike Stuhr.

City Commercial Amanda Fritz said while the city found there was no negligence by the Water Bureau and the city was not responsible for damages, she and Mayor Ted Wheeler agreed that the city had a moral responsibility to compensate.

OPB

Portland Police Chief Responds To National Criticism Over Protest

By Rob Manning

July 3, 2019

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw held a 20-minute press conference to defend her officers and call for policy changes, following raucous protests on Saturday that have drawn criticism from national media and public figures.

Her appearance Wednesday follows a deluge of complaining phone calls fielded by city staff as well as a bomb hoax that forced the evacuation of City Hall.

Many of the complaints came in response to a viral video of activist and writer Andy Ngo being punched and kicked by multiple demonstrators. The melee on Saturday was the latest round in a repeated event in downtown Portland, pitting antifascist activists against groups like the Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer, which often attract white supremacists to their gatherings.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, criticized Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, with a tweet Sunday that said, “To federal law enforcement: investigate & bring legal action against a Mayor who has, for political reasons, ordered his police officers to let citizens be attacked by domestic terrorists.”

Wheeler fired back to Cruz: “get your facts straight.”

Cruz isn't the only national figure to lambaste Portland this week. Donald Trump Jr. alleged mainstream media outlets were biased against Ngo and favored antifa protesters.

“No responsible journalist would support a domestic terrorist organization that assaults the members of the press, yet here we are again with another clear example of the liberal media’s complicity in Antifa violence,” Trump Jr. wrote in an opinion article for Daily Caller.

It’s against that national tumult leading up to the July Fourth holiday that Outlaw tried to defend her officers and her boss, Wheeler. She started her remarks by rejecting the suggestion that Wheeler or anyone told her to keep officers away from the violent clashes.

“The officers have been called ‘cowards’ or there’s a perception that they ‘ran away’ from confrontation, and that couldn’t be the furthest from the truth,” Outlaw said.

But Outlaw said the “rules of engagement” dictate that any intervention should be done carefully, to protect the safety of demonstrators as well as officers. Throughout her remarks she called for more “resources,” including officers and support from partner law enforcement agencies.

At the same time, Outlaw called for policy changes in the future to better plan for and respond to demonstrations that turn violent, and to align their approaches to what the public expects.

For instance, Outlaw said her officers are often criticized for having video recordings of one set of protesters, but not of the other. She said that’s because the state of Oregon has tight limits on when officers can videotape people.

“We can’t constantly record like the public does,” Outlaw said. “We’re only allowed to actually record when we believe there’s criminal activity that occurs. It’s not like that in other places,” she said.

The Portland chief also favored a change to state law that could make it easier to catch protesters who wear masks and commit crimes such as assault at demonstrations.

“In other states, you’ll see where it’s illegal to wear a mask in the commission of a crime,” Outlaw said. She added that banning masks could keep people from being emboldened to commit crimes.

Outlaw spoke in support of people expressing their constitutionally protected views, but said she opposed “allow[ing] people to use the guise of free speech to commit crime.”

“Meaning: I’m out here saying what it is, what I’m constitutionally allowed to say, but I’m committing an act of violence in the meantime, and I’m going to do it knowing that I can completely cover my identity, by remaining anonymous, making it harder for [police] to identify you as it’s occurring, or even after the fact,” Outlaw said.

And the police chief suggested Portland should take another look at an ordinance Wheeler failed to get through City Council last fall. It would have regulated the “time, place and manner” of protest activity.

Finally, Outlaw called for more community condemnation of the actions of protest groups intent on fighting in Portland streets. Outlaw contended that debate of the police tactics and messaging are a “shiny object” that distract from what she considered the bigger issue of planned violence in the city.

“Entities came here to fight. If they asked me, ‘There was a protest on Saturday, what were they protesting about?’” Outlaw told reporters. “I couldn’t even tell you. I don’t know what they were protesting against. Because they came to fight.”