

## **The Oregonian**

# **Man fatally shot by police in SE Portland apartments left on ground for hours, residents say**

*By Everton Bailey*

*July 31, 2019*

The body of a man shot and killed by police Tuesday lay inside a Southeast Portland apartment complex for hours with his face and torso covered by the black T-shirt he'd been wearing, witnesses say.

Police fatally shot the man after responding to reports of a person brandishing a weapon. His body fell to the ground on a walkway outside several units in the 120000 block of Southeast Ash Street.

Police officers and paramedics performed chest compressions on the man sometime after the shooting as at least a dozen residents of the Ash Street Courtyard apartments looked on, tenants told The Oregonian/OregonLive on Wednesday.

Several people took photos and recorded videos of the aftermath with their phones. Witnesses said the man's body was removed some time after 8 p.m., at least three hours after the shooting.

His death marks the fourth fatal shooting involving Portland police this year.

"There were kids who had to watch that man lying there because police weren't letting people in or out," resident Sirsineca Legardy said. "It was scary because the bullets could have gone anywhere and there are people all over."

Residents of the 47-unit, two-story apartment complex who spoke with The Oregonian/OregonLive said they didn't recognize the man as a fellow tenant and believed he didn't live in the complex. Most who said they were at home at the time said they heard several gunshots but didn't see the shooting.

On Wednesday morning, three faint spots of blood remained on the ground where the man fell and small pieces of red police caution tape were at the back of the east side of the complex.

Lt. Tina Jones, a Portland police spokeswoman, said investigators must preserve evidence during a homicide investigation and work as fast as they can to clear the scene.

"We do not want to give the impression of not caring," she said. "Quite the opposite is true. We have a duty to professionally and diligently collect information and evidence to get to the truth of what happened."

No one else was injured in the shooting. Portland police said the man's name will be made public after his next of kin have been notified and the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office completes an autopsy.

Officer Gary Doran, who has been with the Police Bureau for 12 years, fatally shot the man, police said. Officer Nicholas Bianchini, a 10-year bureau member, and Acting Sgt. David Kemple, who's been with the bureau for 17 years, both fired non-lethal ammunition.

All three are on paid administrative leave amid an investigation of the shooting. The Police Bureau said members of its enhanced crisis intervention team were also at the scene during the encounter.

According to police, officers responded a little after 4:20 p.m. to investigate the report of a man causing a disturbance with a weapon. A caller told a 911 dispatcher that the man was trying to break into a car in the Safeway parking lot along Northeast 122nd Avenue about a third of a mile north of the apartments. When store security guards confronted him, he displayed a weapon that witnesses described as ax or hatchet, police said.

Officers who responded to the call encountered the man and hit him with non-lethal rounds, police said. They have not said where that first, non-lethal shooting occurred.

Legardy said he and some friends were walking along Southeast 122nd Avenue toward the apartment complex when they heard a commotion at a gas station between the Safeway and the apartments and saw the man holding a hatchet. He said he saw at least one officer shoot the man with beanbags, causing him to drop the hatchet.

The man then turned to run toward Legardy and his friends, who then began to run away because they didn't want to get involved.

Legardy said they went into another friend's first-floor apartment on the east side of the complex to tell him what they just saw and soon after heard yelling coming from outside the apartment.

"We opened the door to see what was happening and police yelled at us to go back inside," he said.

Legardy said he looked out the apartment's front window and saw the same man from the gas station. The man was wearing gloves and didn't appear to have anything in his hands, Legardy said. He heard the man yelling at the officers to "come on." At least one officer told the man to get on the ground.

Legardy said it appeared the man turned to run away when he was shot.

"They left him there for a little while before they tried to help him," Legardy said. "And by then, you could see he was gone."

Tyrone Lee, who also lives at the apartments where the shooting occurred, said the man shot was his friend who was apparently experiencing a mental health crisis.

Lee said the two met while they were in the Multnomah County Inverness Jail and the man told him previously that he'd been diagnosed with mental illnesses.

Lee said he got off a MAX train and was walking to a Department of Human Services office in the area when he ran into the man near the Safeway parking lot. The man appeared agitated and kept saying "they're out to get me," pointing at the store security guard, Lee said.

Lee said he told the guard that his friend had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Lee said he didn't know what happened before he encountered his friend and didn't know if he had a weapon. Lee said he gave his friend a cigarette to try to calm him down, but the man refused it and told Lee to stay with him.

Lee said he had to make it to the state office before it closed, so he left. He said he saw the store security guard after he left the office, asked what happened to the man and was told that police shot him.

Lee said he believed police should have recognized the man's mental state and taken him to a hospital. He referenced an incident in March when police say a nude 40-year-old man stabbed an officer in the hand outside a Southeast Portland middle school and was arrested, not shot.

“Cops have the training and everything doesn’t have to end with someone getting shot,” Lee said. “I don’t know what my friend was going through, but he was paranoid when I saw him and having an episode. It doesn’t mean you have to die.”

## **Rebutting critics, Chloe Eudaly says ‘nothing is changing’ for Portland neighborhood groups**

*By Gordon Friedman  
July 31, 2019*

Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly on Wednesday rebutted criticism of her efforts to alter city laws that regulate neighborhood associations, saying “nothing is changing” for the groups.

Eudaly made her comments during a meeting of the Portland City Council after Mary Ann Schwab, a resident and longtime neighborhood activist, testified that she disliked the proposal and wanted the committee that oversaw its development to start over.

“I am respectfully suggesting that more work is needed on the code language before it is viewed as completed by the city’s auditor, mayor and commissioners,” Schwab said.

In her testimony, given during a portion of the weekly Council meeting in which residents may address the mayor and commissioners for three minutes on any topic, Schwab also stated, incorrectly, that the code change would defund neighborhood groups.

Eudaly responded that she needed to correct Schwab and launched into a defense of the code rewrite.

“You are spreading misinformation along with media outlets and other community members that I can’t let stand,” Eudaly said. “We are absolutely not dismantling the neighborhood associations. Nothing is changing for them. They will continue to exist.”

Currently, city code gives special recognition to Portland’s 95 neighborhood associations, seven district coalitions and its many business district associations. The code also outlines requirements to keep that recognition, such as making meetings open to all and retaining copies of records.

In return, the code states city agencies must tell recognized associations and coalitions of zoning changes and any other actions “which affect neighborhood livability.” The groups may also appeal zoning decisions free of charge.

After a 2016 audit showed neighborhoods had been given unequal resources by the city, the City Council empaneled a 25-member committee to come up with improved code. The effort was run by the Office of Community & Civic Life, of which Eudaly is commissioner-in-charge.

The committee’s recommended code would repeal the existing laws and replace them with new language stating the city’s desire to lift up the voices of all people and groups, including neighborhoods.

Some residents who testified to the committee applauded the city’s push to adopt a more inclusive outlook. Many also voiced concerns that effort was a pretext to defund neighborhoods, which detractors have cast as white- and homeowner-dominated forces against development.

Neighborhood activists have said their groups should have special powers in Portland’s unique system of government, in which the mayor and commissioners serve city-wide rather than represent particular parts of town.

Officials have worked to allay those concerns by saying neighborhoods will retain all their powers under the new scheme, though that has done little to calm the skepticism and even rancor expressed by some neighborhood leaders.

On Wednesday, Eudaly added her voice to the moderating chorus.

“It does not eliminate any opportunities for neighborhood associations to participate,” she said of the code change. “We are simply adding chairs to what has been a very exclusive table.”

Starting over is a no-go, Eudaly told Schwab, and the notion is “very disrespectful to the people that volunteered their time to this process.”

“I’m just very disappointed to hear what you had to say,” Eudaly said. “Let’s have a debate about what’s really happening, not spread misinformation about it.”

Schwab began to respond but Eudaly interjected.

“It’s not a dialogue,” the commissioner said. “We’re done.”

Schwab gathered her papers. As she turned away from the dais she said, “We can agree to disagree.”

The commissioner responded: “I am absolutely not going to do that.”

## **More pedestrians 65 or older are dying on Portland streets, city analysis says**

*By Andrew Theen  
July 31, 2019*

More than one-quarter of the pedestrians killed on Portland streets during the past five years was 65 years or older, according to city figures, a dramatic increase from levels seen in recent years.

People 65 years or older comprise roughly 12% of Portland’s population but those adults are accounting for a greater share of the city’s traffic fatalities, records show. When all fatalities are considered dating to 2010, seniors account for 16% of the city’s traffic deaths. If just pedestrian fatalities are considered, those adults account for 26% of deaths from 2015 through this month.

The city’s analysis comes as Portland recently matched the traffic death toll from all of 2018 – 34 people – in a little less than seven months. Portland is in the midst of a years-long push, called Vision Zero, to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2025.

“Every traffic death is a tragedy, but it’s especially alarming to see so many older adults dying in crashes,” Chris Warner, Portland’s transportation director, said in a statement. “This is another reminder that we need to keep designing and managing our streets with the most vulnerable people at the top of our minds and creating a safe street system, and that we all need to look out for each other when traveling.”

The city’s analysis examined all crashes dating to 2010. The majority of fatal crashes involving pedestrians occur when those people are legally walking in the street and they are hit by a driver.

“Our streets need to serve everyone, including people who are older and can no longer drive safely,” Bandana Shrestha, community engagement director for the AARP’s Oregon branch said in a statement. “Aging in place can be a wonderful option, but it becomes much harder where people must navigate wide, fast streets that lack convenient and safe crosswalks.”

Older people are more likely to die than younger folks when struck by a car, according to a 2016 ProPublica report. A 30-year-old pedestrian struck by a motorist driving 40 miles per hour has a 36% chance of dying, while a 70-year-old has a 70% chance of death in that scenario.

Portland officials also believe the abundance of larger sports utility vehicles is contributing to the nation's and Portland's rising pedestrian death toll, arguing pedestrians are twice as likely to die when struck by an SUV. According to a 2018 report from the Governors Highway Safety Association, pedestrian deaths increased by 35% during a decade-long period ending in 2017 while other traffic deaths dropped by 6%.

The city has reduced the speed limit on all residential streets to 20 miles per hour as well as 121 miles of other streets. Portland unsuccessfully lobbied the Legislature in 2019 to give the city broader authority to slow down traffic on larger streets citywide.

Since 2010, more people aged 65 or older died walking (28) than while driving or in a motor vehicle (23), according to city figures.

For people younger than 65, the story is different: 167 people died in motor vehicles while 101 were killed walking. Pedestrian deaths also remain high east of 82nd Avenue. More than two-thirds of pedestrians killed in traffic crashes last year died east of that busy thoroughfare.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **In Search of Equal Representation, Portland Looks Beyond Neighborhood Associations**

*By Alex Zielinski  
August 1, 2019*

After moving from Somalia to Portland 30 years ago, Musse Olol made a commitment to help the city's burgeoning Somali community feel well-represented by their local government.

Olol began by attending neighborhood association meetings, one of the best ways Portlanders can get the ear of city council.

"But every time I tried to participate, it felt like all of the chairs were taken," he says. "The system existed only to serve the groups of people it was initially designed for—and those people didn't look like us."

Decades later, little has changed.

"We still don't feel welcome in those spaces," says Olol, who helped found the Somali American Council of Oregon in 2010. He now serves as the director.

"I know we're not the only ones who feel this way," he says. "If people feel uncomfortable, they're not going to show up."

The city is aware of this concern as well, which is why, in 2018, Olol was asked to join a volunteer committee tasked with rewriting the 40-year-old guiding principles for the Office of Community and Civic Life (OCCL), Portland's bureau that oversees civic engagement. The committee's goal was to update city code—a document defining the function of each bureau—to reflect the needs of all Portlanders, not just those in upscale neighborhood associations. In mid-July, the 25-person committee finalized these updates, and revealed a set of OCCL guidelines that barely resembled its predecessor.

Most notably, the committee erased any mention of the longstanding special privileges the city grants neighborhood associations and neighborhood-based business districts.

For many Portlanders who have felt ignored by the city's outsized focus on neighborhood groups—organizations whose memberships are often dominated by white, home-owning, middle-class residents—this is good news. But for those who believe neighborhood associations are the backbone of civic engagement, the sweeping changes feel like government censorship.

It's too soon to know how Portland City Council will vote on the proposed code update, which will be considered during an October council meeting. But their upcoming decision has forced Portlanders to reconsider how civic engagement is measured in a rapidly diversifying city.

"Portland is changing," says Kristen Gallagher, a local small business owner who sat on the committee to rewrite the code. "This code language expands the privilege to all Portlanders to have a say in how the city changes."

The decision to rewrite OCCL's code was the result of a shakeup that began after a 2016 city audit concluded the office was relying on outdated and inequitable rules.

The audit was particularly critical of the bureau's code, which currently includes details on the ways neighborhood associations and business districts can influence city decisions—whether that's through appealing the construction of a new building, making recommendations for the city budget, opposing a transportation decision, or giving feedback on proposed parks and public facilities. The city also gives annual budgets to neighborhood associations to fund events, outreach, or special projects.

The 2016 audit noted that the OCCL code doesn't promise this kind of influence to any other community group, "creating the risk that some organizations or residents do not have the same access to city decision-making."

It's that risk that the OCCL committee worked to eliminate. In their final draft, committee members axed any mention of neighborhood associations and business districts, and instead expanded the bureau's mandate to serve "all forms of groups, including, but not limited to identity-, affinity-, business-, community-, issue-, and neighbor-based groups."

Suk Rhee, director of the OCCL, says the rewrite simply allows other groups the same privileges that neighborhood associations currently hold. While these groups aren't explicitly listed in the proposed code, Rhee gave examples of community organizations like Anti-Displacement PDX, Living Cully, Portland United Against Hate, or Albina Vision that could fit into the new model.

"This is not a referendum on neighborhood associations. It's asking, 'What other groups haven't been invested in by our city?'" says Rhee. "When communities have not been named in policy and others have, that has had devastating impacts on their ability to be represented in this country. We have a moral obligation to remedy this."

Along with the ability to influence city decisions, Portland neighborhood associations are allowed access to grant funding, technical support, help with filing grievances against the city, and notifications about pending policy decisions that affect neighborhood "livability."

That means that, traditionally, neighborhood associations have almost single-handedly decided how "livability" is defined. But in a rapidly changing city, the decisions of some neighborhood associations don't necessarily represent the realities of all its residents.

"Crime prevention and safety looks different if you're talking to a Black community instead of a white community," says Winta Yohannes, policy advisor for Chloe Eudaly, the city

commissioner who oversees the OCCL. “The same goes for a group of houseless people, renters, or the disabled community. All communities deserve livability.”

Yohannes points to a contentious debate that took place earlier this year over where to place a bike route in Northeast Portland. After the Portland Bureau of Transportation opened up the conversation to bike advocates and the Black community—along with local neighborhood and business associations—the city was able to draft a plan that catered to the entire community’s needs.

Many Portlanders, however, insist that neighborhood associations already represent their communities fairly.

In July, during a public comment portion of a committee meeting about the proposed code change, John Laursen, a board member of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association, put it bluntly.

“Neighbors might not know they are being represented by us,” he said, “but they’re being represented by us.” Laursen, an older white man, was one of many neighborhood association members in attendance who expressed indignation over associations being erased from OCCL’s code.

Stanley Penkin, the president of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, also believes his board accurately represents his neighborhood.

“We are a neighborhood of owners and low-income renters,” says Penkin, who has sat on the board for nine years. “There are very few people of color in the neighborhood, so that’s reflected on our board.”

He says the 17-member all-white Pearl District board includes at least five renters. But while Penkin believes his board reflects his neighborhood, he agrees that any policy that’s been around 40 years should be subject to review.

“But they could have come to us and asked our opinion,” says Penkin. “Instead, they’ve created a contentious environment where it’s us versus them.”

OCCL held a series of listening sessions and workshops over the past year to gather the public’s input on a new code. They invited all neighborhood associations to participate. Penkin said he wasn’t aware of these meetings.

Timothy Crawley, president of the Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association, thinks the code update will actually worsen the city’s equity issues. Crawley says his neighborhood’s board accurately reflects the East Portland community’s diverse population, which includes people of color and low-income renters.

If the city financially divests from neighborhood associations, spreading funds among a wider number of groups, Crawley fears his current neighborhood association won’t be able to function.

“Those who don’t have discretionary time or money won’t be able to help,” he says. “It will become less inclusive if you have groups competing against each other for money. And those with bigger incomes will rise to the top.”

Portland’s neighborhood associations are currently funded through “neighborhood coalitions,” seven city-funded organizations that oversee regions of the city. Neighborhood associations can request funding or apply for specific grants through their coalition and can use these dollars to bankroll numerous projects—anything from organizing an annual street fair to printing a monthly newsletter.

The OCCL's Rhee has stressed that the neighborhood coalitions' current annual budget won't be impacted by the code change. But she's unsure if conversations inspired by the code change will impact the next budget cycle. Rhee wants to guarantee that any changes won't impact the city's financial support of the changing bureau.

"We have to ask, 'Is what we've built capable of doing more and different things?'" Rhee says. "We're asking coalitions those questions right now."

Some neighborhood coalitions are already expanding their budgets and financing more groups than just neighborhood associations. Since 2013, Southeast Uplift has offered grants to non-neighborhood groups like the Portland Street Art Alliance, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and the Laurelhurst Queer Students Alliance.

These are the types of groups that could see equal representation under the OCCL code change.

Not all Portlanders who've sat on neighborhood association boards believe the current model is without flaws.

Sam Stuckey, a member of the Mill Park Neighborhood Association, says that including other groups in OCCL's code won't only improve inequality issues, but will also help strengthen neighborhood associations like his.

Stuckey points to his board's recent attempt to get the city to improve Mill Park's crumbling sidewalks. He says it would have helped to have other community groups, like pedestrian advocacy group Oregon Walks, to join the neighborhood association in advocating for safer sidewalks.

Stuckey, a white man who owns a home in the Northeast Portland neighborhood, says it's "silly" to think a neighborhood association could fairly represent an entire geographic swath of the city.

"It worries me," he says, "to see seven people that all look like me sitting around a table and making decisions for 10,000 people living in Mill Park."

The fact that neighborhood associations have been the most vocal opponent to the code change is unsettling, Stuckey says.

"I think when the city provides evidence that there's inequity in neighborhood associations and suggests bringing more voices to the table," he says, "and the response from neighborhood boards is 'You're killing us!' that should be enough for the mayor to understand something's wrong with the current setup."

Chrystal Brim joined the Richmond Neighborhood Association board in 2018. She was intent on helping the Southeast Portland neighborhood embrace the city's newcomers, many of whom are young families who lack the financial means to own a house. She quickly realized, however, that this ideal wasn't shared with longtime board members.

Brim says she watched those board members use the neighborhood association's appeal process to delay the construction of apartments and condos—which are often more affordable options than renting or buying a single-family home—and file petty grievances against board members who supported plans that prioritized bike and bus lanes.

"It was almost like they were a homeowner association," says Brim. "They were so focused on delaying projects for their own benefit that we couldn't get anything substantial accomplished. That kind of power struggle didn't serve our neighbors."

Earlier this year, Brim and ten other members of the Richmond board resigned in protest of their fellow board members' tactics.

“I realized I couldn’t waste my time trying to change the neighborhood association,” says Brim. “We need to be able to share, not shut people out. That’s why I strongly support the code changes—so other groups can have a voice.”

Katy Wolf has no interest in leaving her position on the Boise Neighborhood Association board but is discouraged by the city’s lack of engagement with her dwindling group.

“My neighborhood association is in an area that’s been gentrified, so I think it’s important to have discussions that bring people together,” says Wolf. “We try to have events that empower people to communicate with each other. But it’s been hard to find people who have the time to arrange those events.”

Wolf wants to see more support from the OCCL when it comes to connecting with other neighbors. But, unlike Brim, Wolf doesn’t think upending the OCCL code is the right answer. Instead, she asks: Why not just update the current neighborhood-based structure instead of dismantling it?

“I don’t understand why we need to strike neighborhood associations from code,” she says. “Couldn’t we combine the great new language with the existing language?”

Penkin, with the Pearl Neighborhood Association, agrees. OCCL, he says, “should be connecting us with identity groups, not making us separate entities. Why can’t they give us the tools to be more inclusive instead of pitting us against each other?”

According to OCCL’s Rhee, the city has repeatedly tried to do that—and failed. The systemic barriers that keep minority populations from feeling welcome or heard at neighborhood association meetings are difficult to remove.

“We have to acknowledge that we’ve been trying to fix these programs for 10 to 20 years,” says Rhee. “As leaders, we have a responsibility to acknowledge inherited problems and make real commitments to change them. We can’t just keep tinkering around the edges.”

Unlike neighborhood associations, many of Portland’s business districts—which are also being removed from code language—have expressed indifference to the change.

Todd Struble works for the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), where he manages the Jade District program, a business alliance that advocates for shops near the intersection of Southeast 82nd and Southeast Division. Struble believes the code change will have little impact on the Jade District’s ability to be represented at the city level.

Struble’s more excited about how the change could allow more community groups like APANO to have the kind of decision-making power that’s already allotted to neighborhood associations.

“Business districts aren’t working,” says Gallagher, the local business owner on the OCCL code change committee. Gallagher, who also sits on the board for local business advocacy group Business for a Better Portland, says her past experience as a member of a business district was disappointing.

“Members who had more progressive ideas about working within a community were looked down on,” Gallagher says.

Business district decisions often lean conservative. The Central Eastside Industrial Council, for instance, used city dollars acquired through the OCCL structure to fund private security teams to patrol sidewalks often occupied by homeless Portlanders.

In some parts of Portland, however, the decision to slash a business district from city code feels deeply discriminatory.

Take John Washington, president of the Soul District Business Association, whose work includes helping Black-owned businesses thrive in gentrified North Portland. Washington fears that by giving North Portland's majority-white neighborhood more ways to appeal new construction or make community decisions, his neighborhood's shrinking Black community—currently represented through his business district—will be silenced.

“The city says it wants more inclusion,” says Washington. “But when a small population of people are fighting to preserve a historically significant place they’ve become the minority in, inclusion means the white people will have more control. It’s a green light for gentrification.”

He compares the code change debate to a 2014 controversy when the City of Portland offered supermarket chain Trader Joe’s a steep discount on a piece of property on Northeast Alberta. At the time, Black Portlanders accused the city of attempting to profit from the systemic displacement of African Americans, a suggestion that inspired Trader Joe’s to drop out of the deal.

“As long as our minority communities are fragmented over an issue, the city has control,” says Washington. He’s particularly frustrated that the city is entering this conversation shortly after a plan to revitalize the Black economy along NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. got off the ground.

“It seems like once [Black people] learn the game and start playing it well,” he says, “that’s when then they become concerned.”

The code change is far from final and is still missing crucial details on what the aspirational overhaul will look like in practice. OCCL has yet to propose how, exactly, new groups will gain formal recognition from the city—the kind of recognition that will grant them the same rights as neighborhood associations. Also unknown is how the city will keep hate-based groups from forming and demanding equal recognition.

One idea, proposed by OCCL committee member Gallagher, is to create an advisory council that approves groups who want the city’s recognition.

In Seattle, which gave a similar overhaul to its neighborhood system in 2016, community groups apply to be listed on the city’s website through an online application that’s evaluated by a city employee. Once listed, those groups can apply for city grants and broadcast their events on a city website.

Rhee says these details will be ironed out after the code change proposal goes before City Council. If commissioners approve the updated language, Rhee says, “That’s when we look at all our existing programs to see how they can better reflect the code.”

In the meantime, other city bureaus are preparing to shift their own code language to meet OCCL’s proposed new standards.

“The role [the OCCL’s] code has always played is to signal to the other bureaus—when it comes to civic engagement—whose voices matter,” says Yohannes, with City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly’s office.

“That’s the question at the heart of this discussion: Who is allowed to make decisions about our city’s future?”

# Hall Monitor: Expert Feedback

*By Alex Zielinski  
August 1, 2019*

On a recent Thursday morning, two dozen volunteers armed with clipboards scattered across Portland searching for so-called “unwanted persons.”

“These are the people we need to hear from,” said Street Roots director Kaia Sand, who coordinated the event.

Every 15 minutes, 911 dispatchers in Portland receive a call about a person that building owners don’t want on or adjacent to their property. These people, labeled “unwanted persons” by police, are usually homeless and nonviolent, but are reported after they pitch a tent or take a nap near someone’s house or business.

These low-level calls consume hours of Portland officers’ time. In the past year, nearly a quarter of all Portland 911 calls were about unwanted persons; in that same period, more than half of all arrests in Portland were of people identified as homeless.

This outsized police response to the city’s homeless population inspired Street Roots to propose Portland Street Response (PSR). The idea: Instead of sending cops to respond to 911 calls about unwanted persons or people with a perceived mental illness, the city would dispatch physicians, social workers, or other first responders who seem better equipped to handle the issue. The city’s committed a portion of its annual budget to give the idea a try, putting \$500,000 toward a two-person PSR pilot project.

While city staff hold meetings about how PSR could operate within Portland’s complex 911 system, Street Roots volunteers are hitting the pavement to collect feedback from the top experts on the issue: Portland’s homeless community.

Volunteers spent a few July weekdays asking homeless Portlanders what kind of response they’d appreciate in situations where they were labeled “unwanted” by a 911 caller.

“It would be nice if it wasn’t just someone telling me to move,” said a middle-aged man, rolling up a sleeping mat under the Burnside Bridge. “Someone with empathy.”

A young woman told volunteers that she gets frightened whenever an officer wakes her up.

“We exist in an environment where we can’t help but fear the police,” she said. “It would be better to have an outside party intervene.”

A Street Roots vendor who goes by “Mode” said responders should have a background in mental health and mediation.

“What people are dealing with is the stress of a situation where someone has called the cops on them,” said Mode. “And that needs to be addressed first.”

Others raised concerns with officers not responding when they call 911 to report a theft, an assault, or another crime commonly committed against the houseless. “I don’t think they take our needs seriously,” said a woman who answered questions while applying makeup.

The feedback gathered by Street Roots volunteers reflected a diverse community with different priorities—results that were expected, given that Portland’s homeless population is made up of more than 4,000 individuals. But those surveyed all shared a similar look of surprise when volunteers asked for their opinion.

“[The city] never asks us what we think about the rules,” one man said. “They just expect us to follow them.”

## **OPB**

### **City Council Declares July 'Portland Thorns FC Month'**

*By Amelia Templeton*

*July 31, 2019*

It's been a good week for the Portland Thorns.

Their recent match against the Houston Dash brought out the second largest crowd in the history of the National Women's Soccer League — and they won, 5-0.

On Wednesday, the City Council declared July Portland Thorns FC month.

Nine Thorns players are back in Portland after competing in the Women's World Cup in France. Four Thorns played for the winning U.S. national team.

Goalkeeper Adrianna Franch told the City Council that the highlight of the World Cup was seeing loyal Portland fans and supporters in France.

One of those fans at the final was Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

“It was just brilliant,” Fritz said. “I watched it three times since I got home again.”

Forward Tobin Heath deadpanned when the Council asked her to share a highlight from France.

“Um, I would just say winning the World Cup was the best part,” she said, to laughter.

The City Council also recognized the players for their part in gender discrimination lawsuit against the United States Soccer Federation.

The suit alleges the women's national team is paid less, plays more often on inferior turf fields, and is less well promoted than the men's team, in spite of their winning record.

U.S. Soccer's president, Carlos Cordeiro, addressed the lawsuit in an open letter this week. In it, he says that a direct comparison of pay is difficult, but a financial analysis of the past 10 years shows the federation has paid the women's team more than the men's team in salaries and bonuses.

A spokeswoman for the players responded by accusing the federation of releasing “false” numbers, saying it had inflated the women's pay by including their National Women's Soccer League salaries.

### **Portland Police Fatally Shoot Armed Man After Alleged Attempt To Break Into A Car**

*By Meerah Powell and Amelia Templeton*

*July 31, 2019*

The Portland Police Bureau has released the name of the officer who shot and killed a man in East Portland late Tuesday.

Twelve-year veteran of the Portland Police Bureau Gary Doran does not appear to have been involved in any other recent uses of deadly force.

The Bureau hired Doran in 2007, shortly after he completed a bachelor's degree at Portland State University.

The Portland Police Bureau says two additional officers deployed less lethal force during the incident Tuesday: Acting Sergeant David Kemple, a 17-year veteran, and Officer Nicholas Bianchini, a 10-year veteran.

It is the fifth use of deadly force by Portland police this year and the fourth time it's killed someone. The bureau says it will release the name of the man who died after it has notified his family.

Late Tuesday afternoon, officers from Portland Police Bureau's east precinct responded to reports of a man attempting to break into a car in the parking lot of a closed-down Safeway on Northeast 122nd Avenue and Northeast Glisan Street.

"When confronted by a security officer, the suspect reportedly displayed an edged weapon," according to the Portland Police Bureau.

PPB said witnesses described the man's weapon as "similar to an axe or hatchet."

Officers shot and killed the suspect near the 12000 block of Southeast Ash Street.

An investigation is ongoing, and PPB is hoping to hear from witnesses to the alleged crime and the shooting.

"There were numerous pedestrians and motorists in the area when this incident occurred and there are likely witnesses with whom we have not yet spoke," said PPB Chief Danielle Outlaw in a news release. "We encourage those with information, photographs and video to come forward to share with our investigators."

The involved officers will be on paid administrative leave for the duration of the investigation.