

The Oregonian

Grand jury decides Portland police officer was justified in June 9 shooting

August 17, 2019

By Jayati Ramakrishnan

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17: Clarification appended:

A Portland police officer was justified in fatally shooting a man in June, according to a grand jury's Friday decision.

The grand jury returned a not true bill regarding Officer Nathan Kirby-Glatkowski, who shot and killed David Wayne Downs. The panel determined that the shooting was "a lawful act of self-defense and/or defense of a third person."

Kirby-Glatkowski and another police officer, Jackson Oldham, arrived at the Lovejoy building at 1331 NW Lovejoy St. on June 9 and encountered Downs. According to authorities, Downs had been holding a woman at knifepoint in the stairwell of the building. Police said the woman was injured before officers arrived and was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

In addition to the knife, police said, Downs threatened to have an explosive device.

Kirby-Glatkowski shot Downs, and Oldham fired non-lethal ammunition, police said.

The Lovejoy building, where the incident took place, houses several offices and stores, including the Pearl District Safeway store. Safeway employees and customers were told to evacuate the store because of a bomb threat. Investigators did not find a bomb at the scene.

Previous reports from The Oregonian/OregonLive show the woman, described by witnesses as in her 40s or 50s, was seen running out the front door of the building and yelling that she didn't want to get treated. Reports say she ran west on Lovejoy, police chased and stopped her, and she was treated by paramedics and taken to the hospital. Witnesses said she had blood smeared on her face.

Police have not identified the woman, nor said what her relationship was with Downs.

Downs' shooting was the third of four fatal officer-involved shootings by Portland Police Bureau this year.

Story updated to clarify jury's decision.

Portland protests: 13 arrested as police declare civil disturbance

August 18, 2019

By The Oregonian/OregonLive

Updated 9:30 p.m.

Right-wing activists and those protesting their presence converged Saturday on Portland's downtown waterfront in a much-anticipated confrontation that captivated a nation inflamed by rising division and resentment, with even President Donald Trump entering the fray.

Police mostly succeeded in separating demonstrators on opposite ends of the ideological spectrum as members of the Proud Boys and counterprotesters both arrived at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

The Proud Boys gathered to condemn self-described anti-fascist activists, or antifa, who publicly confront those they believe espouse racist or bigoted views and who have a large presence in Portland. The groups traded shouts of "USA" and "Go home, Nazis" during the sometimes tense face-off.

After taunts and chants, the showdown devolved into a roving game of cat-and-mouse as packs of political rivals crisscrossed bridges above the Willamette River and police scrambled to keep them apart.

Skirmishes, pepper spray and arrests on the city's east and west sides followed over the course of hours as crowds of mostly counterprotesters roamed the streets.

Demonstrators dressed in black and masking their faces hurled mayonnaise and smashed windows of at least one shuttle bus carrying right-wing activists.

Police, at one point, declared a civil disturbance.

Yet the powder keg that elected leaders and law enforcement feared could engulf the city largely fizzled. Various factions jockeyed to declare victory.

"We wanted national attention and we got it," said Joe Biggs, a Florida resident and former InfoWars staffer who organized the right-wing event. "Mission success."

The Proud Boys describe themselves as "patriots" and "Western chauvinists." A number of their members are supportive of misogynistic, racist or xenophobic sentiments. Others are prone to violence.

Biggs had called on like-minded people from around the country to decry a recent attack in the city against conservative writer Andy Ngo by black-clad demonstrators, video of which racked up millions of views online and generated days of national headlines.

Participants also backed a U.S. Senate resolution to label antifa as "domestic terrorists" sponsored by Texas Republican Ted Cruz.

Some, including Biggs, had talked openly online about the Portland event and the desire to “exterminate” antifa. Other event supporters posted images on social media depicting graphic beat downs, knives slicing the throats of enemies and corpses in body bags.

Rose City Antifa, Portland’s homegrown, amorphous band of anti-fascist activists, called on supporters to turn out in opposition to the demonstration.

Despite some of the violent rhetoric surrounding the rally, Trump on Saturday morning appeared to amplify those clamoring to crack down on anti-fascists.

“Major consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an ‘ORGANIZATION OF TERROR,’” the president tweeted. “Portland is being watched very closely. Hopefully the Mayor will be able to properly do his job!”

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler later fired back at Trump in a CNN interview.

“This is a potentially dangerous and volatile situation,” Wheeler said. “Adding to that noise doesn’t do anything to support or help the efforts that are going on here in Portland.”

At the start of the demonstrations, concrete slabs and a line of police officers formed a barricade beneath the Morrison Bridge to separate the rival groups, with the Proud Boys and their supporters to the south and counterprotesters to the north.

The right-wing activists, some wearing body armor and helmets, burst into chants of “USA,” sang the national anthem and tried to plant an American flag into the ground.

Counterdemonstrators near the Battleship Oregon Memorial Marine Park varied from local Jewish and Buddhist faith leaders, to a marching band sporting bright yellow banana costumes, to protesters wearing all black.

Some members of the rival groups exchanged heated words and goaded one another, though officers kept them mostly at a distance.

Portland police said officers seized multiple weapons from groups, including bear spray, shields and metal poles.

Yet most participants were peaceful.

“We have to show them that we don’t agree with what they stand for,” said Deanna Flores, 62, who came to oppose the Proud Boys. “Portland is for everybody.”

Joey Gibson, a local provocateur leader of the right-wing group Patriot Prayer, later arrived in the morning holding an American flag and wearing a red Make America Great Again baseball cap.

“I’m just here for the ride,” said Gibson, who was booked Friday into the Multnomah County jail on a felony rioting charge stemming from a May 1 fight outside a Northeast Portland cidery. He was released hours later on bail.

After about 90 minutes the showdown dissipated and people went on the move. The Proud Boys and their supporters began to march over the Hawthorne Bridge, which had been closed earlier in the day.

Police escorted the group across the bridge and prevented counterprotesters from following.

"It wasn't planned. It wasn't orchestrated," said Sgt. Brandon White, a spokesman for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. "We had a request that they would like to leave the area and so we facilitated."

Later, counterdemonstrators crossed over the Steel Bridge in search of their adversaries. By then, many of the Proud Boys and their supporters had taken off. Some later decamped to Bagley Community Park in Vancouver for a gathering and barbecue.

As the afternoon wore on, police made at least 13 arrests around town as people posted video showing multiple confrontations. Demonstrators often wandered into the street, sometimes blocking traffic, chanting and beating drums. Many held cellphones aloft taking it all in.

In one flare-up, a large group of left-wing protesters encircled right-wing activist John Turano — known as "Based Spartan" — and his adult daughter, threatening and chasing them. The pair wore American-flag garb and Turano had on a vest that on the back read: "I hate the left n racism."

Police, who estimated more than 1,200 demonstrators altogether, said they were clambering to continue to try to keep the opposing groups apart. They also reported six injuries, all minor, including a person officers found hurt and sent to a hospital in what turned out to be an unrelated traffic incident.

More than 700 law enforcement officers from 15 agencies worked on crowd control, police said.

By late afternoon, with the clashes abating, a group of left-wing protesters gathered at Pioneer Courthouse Square and streets near it.

At an early evening press conference, the mayor thanked police for what he described as a mostly nonviolent event.

Wheeler also took aim at Biggs, claiming his efforts are costing the city millions of dollars and that, in a national culture of fear caused by hate crimes and mass shootings, Biggs is feeding that sense of unease.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said the bureau achieved its two goals for the day: keeping people safe and allowing the public to exercise its free-speech rights.

Outlaw said officers were involved in six "force events," one involving pepper balls and the others involving takedowns of people resisting officers.

Those arrested face allegations of disorderly conduct, interfering with police, resisting arrest and weapons, she said.

The Proud Boys, meanwhile, issued a press release saying they plan to return to Portland in a month unless the city does more to crack down on anti-fascists.

Effie Baum, an organizer with Popular Mobilization, or PopMob, which helped plan the counterprotests, said they'd be ready.

"We built a very diverse coalition of people who turned out to say that hate is not welcome here," Baum said. "When the Proud Boys come back, there will be even more of us."

'John Doe,' 2 teens, 10 others arrested in Portland protests

August 18, 2019

By Jim Ryan and Shane Dixon Kavanaugh

An unidentified "John Doe," two teens and adults ranging from 21 to 51 years old comprise the crowd arrested in Portland on Saturday during a day of much-anticipated protests.

Two demonstrators were jailed, and nine were cited and released, according to Portland police. The two teens, 15 and 17, were referred to the juvenile authorities, police said.

The arrests came as hundreds of demonstrators descended on Portland to attend or oppose a right-wing "End Domestic Terrorism" rally.

Police mostly succeeded in separating opposing protesters, but after taunts and chants, the showdown between right-wing activists and those protesting their presence devolved into a roving game of cat-and-mouse.

Packs of political rivals crisscrossed bridges that span the Willamette River, and police scrambled to keep them apart.

Skirmishes, pepper spray and arrests on the city's east and west sides followed over the course of hours as crowds of mostly counterprotesters roamed the streets.

Those arrested include:

- Alexander G. Dial, 37, who was booked into jail on suspicion of attempted assault and unlawful use of a weapon. He has since been released on his own recognizance.
- A man whom police have not identified by name or age and who is suspected of second-degree disorderly conduct. He was booked into jail and has since been released on his own recognizance.
- Michael A. Mitchell, 44, who's suspected of second-degree disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, interfering with police and possession of weapons in a park. Mitchell was cited and released.
- Teagan Winkler, 21, who's suspected of second-degree disorderly conduct and interfering with police. Winkler was cited and released.

- Ryan Georgioff, 30, who's suspected of giving false information to a peace officer. Georgioff was cited and released.
- Brandon Howard, 33, who's suspected of fourth-degree assault and second-degree disorderly conduct. Howard was cited and released.
- Jamal O. Williams, 43; Hezekiah Bulnes, 23; Richard J. Klimek, 51; Alonna Mitsch, 26; and Zachary Lange, 21, who were cited on suspicion of second-degree disorderly conduct and released.
- The teens, who are suspected of second-degree disorderly conduct. The Oregonian/OregonLive generally doesn't identify juveniles accused of crimes unless they're tried as an adult or face Measure 11 charges.

Police, who estimated more than 1,200 demonstrators turned out Saturday, didn't specify where or when each of the arrests occurred.

They reported six injuries, all minor, including a person officers found hurt and sent to a hospital.

More than 700 law enforcement officers from 15 agencies worked on crowd control, police said.

Officer Daryl Turner, who's previously criticized Mayor Ted Wheeler over police's protest tactics, praised the response, calling it "a blueprint for future protests."

"The strategic plan put together by Chief (Danielle) Outlaw and all the parties involved was executed with precision, diligence, and professionalism by the rank and file who braved adversity while dealing with volatile opposing factions," Turner, president of the Portland Police Association, said in a statement Saturday.

"Putting aside the unnecessary political hype leading up to today's protest, the end result would not have been successful without the cooperation and self-sacrifice of the men and women who wear the badge with integrity, dedication, and compassion."

A day after the roving demonstrations, a much smaller group gathered outside Wheeler's southwest hills home.

The crowd was a 50-50 mix of local right-wing activists and video streamers from across the country. About a dozen attendees showed up, which is approximately half as many as Portland's Liberation leader Haley Adams rallied in late July.

On Sunday, Adams echoed the same message that she and her followers brought to the southwest hills nearly a month ago: That Portland's mayor should condemn masked anti-fascist activist demonstrators.

The Proud Boys, meanwhile, issued a press release Saturday saying they plan to return to Portland in a month unless the city does more to crack down on anti-fascists.

Willamette Week

Portland Mayor Responds to Right-Wing Organizer's Threat of Monthly Protests: "We Do Not Want Him Here in My City, Period"

Ted Wheeler chastised Joe Biggs and other right-wing marchers for frightening Portlanders with the prospect of violence in the streets.

*By Aaron Mesh
August 17, 2019*

A defiant Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said tonight that if Proud Boys organizer Joe Biggs follows through on a threat to return to Portland each month, he will deploy police officers "as often as I need to."

In the hours after law enforcement largely defused the tensions surrounding waterfront protests, Wheeler chastised Biggs and other right-wing marchers for frightening Portlanders with the prospect of violence in the streets.

"In this national environment, where we've had some mass shootings just a little over a week ago, there is an environment of fear," Wheeler said at a press conference this afternoon. "There is rhetoric that is aimed predominantly at women and people of color and immigrants. It creates a sense of uncertainty and a sense of fear. And so, Mr. Biggs and others saying that they're going to come here, that feeds into that sense of fear.

"So I want to be very clear: We do not want him here in my city, period."

Wheeler's remarks came in response to a threat by Biggs, a Florida right-wing talk radio host, that he would return to Portland on a monthly basis unless Wheeler would "declare Antifa an enemy of Portland and restore order."

Biggs and other right-wing groups came to Portland demanding that antifascists be designated a domestic terrorist group. Proud Boy Enrique Tarrío, who also organized the rally, also left town with an ultimatum. "Either he takes charge and removes the scourge of violent domestic terrorists from his city, or we come back month-after-month," Tarrío said.

That threat was belied by what unspooled at Tom McCall Waterfront Park today, when Proud Boys asked police for permission to leave the park via the Hawthorne Bridge nearly as soon as they had arrived. They then spent much of the afternoon anxiously exchanging rumors about antifa chasing them, and decamped for Vancouver, Wash.

Related: [Proud Boys wander lost through downtown Portland as police allow wild goose chase by antifascists.](#)

Wheeler, meanwhile, is looking at the first protester clash in recent memory that could end as an untarnished victory for city officials. Previous protests have either ended in bloody clashes between political foes, or have seen police deploy munitions like flash-bang grenades against leftist protesters. Today, neither happened.

In the days prior to the right-wing rally, Wheeler gathered an array of civic leaders to warn the Proud Boys to stay out of town. Police arrested six right-wing protesters, including organizer Joey Gibson, for their role in assaults outside the bar Cider Riot on May 1. Those arrests seemed to unnerve the visiting right-wingers, and one paramilitary group pulled out of the rally altogether.

The crowds today were smaller than at similarly hyped protests. Police estimated 1,200 people attended, and no more than 300 of them were allies of the Proud Boys.

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said tonight that the Proud Boys and their allies asked police to let them leave the waterfront—and the cops allowed that, in order to keep the two groups of protesters apart.

"Shortly before noon, a group of demonstrators communicated to our liaisons that they wanted to leave the downtown area," Outlaw said. "At that point we determined that it would be in the interest of everyone's safety to allow them to remove themselves from the area. We allowed them to cross the Hawthorne Bridge at that time. We did not show preferential treatment, but rather facilitated a de-escalation of potential conflict."

Wheeler, whose day began with a tweet from President Donald Trump saying he was watching Portland and its mayor closely, offered prepared statements this evening at the Portland Police Bureau's central precinct. But he departed from those remarks after receiving questions from a right-wing livestreamer. He seemed annoyed by the idea of Biggs and his followers returning.

"When we have people like Joe Biggs say that they will come here every single month until we do whatever it is they think we should be doing," he said, "these types of demonstrations and the response cost millions of dollars. They're misusing public taxpayer resources, and I hope they think about that."

Later, the mayor turned more contemplative.

"We are now confronting the reality that in the United States, we have a rising white nationalist movement, based on white supremacy," Wheeler said. "And it is impacting the entire nation. But we're certainly seeing that play out here on the streets of Portland. ...Portland, being a very progressive city, is always going to be at or near Ground Zero when it comes to this battle. That's just the reality."

Proud Boys Wander Lost Through Portland as Police Allow Wild Goose Chase by Antifascists

Police strategy allowed the groups broad leeway to move along streets and sidewalks, so long as they remained far apart from each other.

August 17, 2019

By Aaron Mesh and Nigel Jaquiss

The Proud Boys and antifascists talked of little but each other all day. But they couldn't find each other.

The two groups wandered across downtown Portland this afternoon, but rarely encountered their adversaries, thanks to a police strategy that allowed the groups broad leeway to move along streets and sidewalks, so long as they remained far apart from each other.

So when the Proud Boys and their allies gathered north of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the cops kept antifascists bottled at the west end of the Hawthorne Bridge. When a diminished contingent of the far right marched west across the Tilikum Bridge into the South Waterfront, police allowed antifa to stroll across the Burnside Bridge and wander among the warehouses of the Central Eastside.

The result? A game of cat-and-mouse that felt more like a Tom and Jerry cartoon—and kept the two groups more than a mile apart at all times, even as some said they wanted a confrontation.

Related: [Proud Boys Scamper Across Portland Waterfront, But Police Keep Them Far From Antifascists](#)

Police made 13 arrests, and the few moments of violence arrived mainly as the right-wing groups attempted to leave downtown in two small buses. Antifascists were seen on videos shattering the bus windows, and a right-wing protester appeared to attack the leftists from inside the bus with a hammer. *(Because early videos were misleading, this post has been changed to explain who first wielded the hammer.)*

Later, police clashed with frustrated leftists, arresting several and tackling at least one woman to the ground, drawing an angry crowd for a tense standoff near the Portland Outdoor Store.

Those moments will add to the highlight reel of right-wing groups who seek to portray Portland as a hotbed for leftist violence. But none of the mayhem feared in recent weeks occurred—a major triumph for Mayor Ted Wheeler and the Portland Police Bureau, who have been the subject of intense national scrutiny from the right-wing media.

Yet the visiting Proud Boys declared the day a victory, saying they had achieved their aim of draining Portland's law-enforcement resources. They pledged to return once a month until Wheeler "excises the alt-left groups from his city."

That grand rhetoric contrasts with what their day actually looked like: wandering, lost and

anxious, through unfamiliar streets while warning each other antifa was coming.

After retreating east across the Hawthorne Bridge, many of the Proud Boys and their supporters got in their vehicles and drove away for a barbecue.

About 100 who had parked on the west side, however, were stuck. Police had closed the Hawthorne Bridge so they had to walk south past OMSI and across the Tilikum Bridge.

Passing cyclists and OMSI patrons jeered and flipped off the American flag toting marchers. Word filtered through that antifa was planning to intercept the group as it headed to west side parking garages. Marchers donned helmets and gloves but except for a couple of antifa scouts on bikes, no opposition materialized.

Dozens of police, both on bikes and riding on the outside of trucks and vans, accompanied the Proud Boy group as they proceeded north on Second Avenue. At the Burnside Bridge, a few critics argued briefly with Vancouver, Wash.-based protest organizer Joey Gibson.

When the group crossed into Old Town, Gibson stopped to address the crowd. As he did, a woman on a 750cc Harley Davidson motorcycle pulled up to the curb and drowned Gibson out by revving her engine. Police asked her to stop. She refused and several officers yanked her from her motorcycle and cuffed her.

That ended a remarkably peaceful protest at about 2:30 pm.

Proud Boys Scamper Across Portland Waterfront, But Police Keep Them Far From Antifascists

“Where are the Nazis?” a woman asked while walking amid the leftists. “They’re hiding.”

August 17, 2019

By Aaron Mesh and Nigel Jaquiss

In the early hours of dueling protests, Portland police have kept a visiting group of right-wing muscle far from the antifascist adversaries they came here to target.

A group of Proud Boys, organized by a Florida talk radio host, arrived on the Portland waterfront today to demand antifascists be designated a domestic terror group. Their visit has once again raised fears of a bloody street confrontation.

The Proud Boys and antifascists, or antifa, both entered Tom McCall Waterfront Park. But police forced the Proud Boys and their allies, roughly 200 in total, to mass on the south side of the Morrison Bridge, while antifascists and other leftists gathered on the north side. Between them: concrete barriers and a line of police officers.

At about 11:45, the Proud Boys and their allies crossed the Hawthorne Bridge to the east and gathered adjacent to Portland Fire & Rescue Station 21.

The group circled around Florida radio host Joe Biggs, who wore a "Make Frogs Straight Again" hat and pledged to hold a rally every month until Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler reigns in antifa. The group then took selfies and sang the country standard "Proud to be an American."

A moment of near violence occurred as a young man who appeared not to like the Proud Boys found himself in the middle of an angry scrum. The crowd swarmed but before he was hurt, bicycle police raced to his rescue and ushered him away.

At 12:20, the Proud Boys stood aimlessly, as speculation was that antifa was heading across the bridge.

Among the right-wing crowd: Vancouver, Wash.-based protest organizer Joey Gibson, who turned himself to police Friday on a felony riot charge. He described the criminal charge as an attempt to muzzle him.

"I got arrested for exercising my First Amendment rights, Gibson told the assembled Proud Boys. "Everybody knows I don't fight. I'll never plead guilty."

Meanwhile, antifascists and their allies, numbering perhaps 500 people, were allowed to move south past the barriers, but were stopped by a police line at the Hawthorne Bridge on-ramp. They were not allowed to follow the Proud Boys east, leaving the two groups separated by the Willamette River, for now.

"Where are the Nazis?" a woman asked while walking amid the leftists. "They're hiding."

The Mercury

As Protest Spread Along Waterfront and Across Bridges, Portland Police Mostly Managed to Keep Protesters Apart

August 17, 2019

By Alex Zielinski

The much-anticipated protest in Portland on August 17 that was instigated by the Proud Boys, a national right-wing extremist group, has dissipated with minimal engagement from counter-protesters.

The day's events began around 9:30 am, with a crowd of left-wing counter-protesters congregating at Tom McCall Waterfront Park to make costumes and plan their actions for the day. Some of these anti-fascist (or antifa) protesters arrived dressed in all black. Others dressed in banana costumes or wore unicorn horns.

Shortly after 11 am, a group of Proud Boys and associated right-wing activists marched across the Morrison Bridge from Southeast Portland, arriving in Waterfront Park just north of the bridge. The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) appeared to have anticipated their arrival, having staged lines of armored officers and cement barriers between the Proud Boys and the left-wing groups, who were gathered in the park just south of the Morrison Bridge.

While individual protesters later clashed, the bulk of the two main groups never met. Instead, the PPB allowed the Proud Boys to march east over the Hawthorne Bridge, which until that point had been completely closed to pedestrian and vehicle traffic. By the time antifa protesters—who, unlike the right-wing protesters, were not allowed by the PPB to cross the Hawthorne Bridge—reached the east side of the Willamette River, most of the gathered Proud Boys had boarded several buses and left, heading west over the Morrison Bridge.

When they arrived back on the west side of the river, those buses were briefly stopped on the off-ramp of the Morrison Bridge. A few counter-protesters broke several windows of one bus, and a fight briefly broke out before the bus drove off.

At its peak, there were an estimated 300 right-wing protesters and 1,000 left-wing protesters in downtown Portland. No major injuries have been reported, but according to the PPB, at least 13 protesters were arrested. It's not yet clear what charges they were arrested on.

Joey Gibson, the leader of the Vancouver, WA alt-right group Patriot Prayer, was in attendance at the protest, despite his being arrested yesterday afternoon for his participation in a May 1 riot.

While most of the Proud Boys left the waterfront by 1 pm, a few lingered and engaged in shouting matches and fistfights with left-wing protesters.

No Portland city commissioners were in attendance, but some members of Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's staff joined the morning counter-protest rally. Sarah Iannarone, a Portland activist running for mayor in 2020, showed up to collect feminine hygiene products for her neighborhood's homeless shelter.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, meanwhile, was being interviewed by CNN.

"My job today is to be heads-down and focus on maintaining the public safety," Wheeler said when asked about Donald Trump's tweet regarding the protest. "I'm not concerning myself with tweets coming out of Washington, DC. And, frankly, it's not helpful. This is a potentially dangerous and volatile situation, and adding to that noise doesn't do anything to support or help the efforts here in Portland."

It's not yet clear if today's demonstrations are completely over. We'll update this post if any related incidents take place—and when we learn more about the day's arrests.

Portland Police Detail Action Taken Against Protesters During Waterfront Rallies

August 17, 2019

By Alex Zielinski

The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) arrested 13 protesters during today's dueling demonstrations in downtown Portland.

"We believe these arrests allow us to hold those committing violent acts accountable, while at the same time deterring others from acting," said Police Chief Danielle Outlaw at a 6 pm press conference.

Outlaw didn't have complete details of the arrests, but said the charges included disorderly conduct, interfering with police, resisting arrest, and unlawful use of a weapon. PPB officers confiscated several weapons from protesters, like bear spray, wooden and metal poles, knives, shields, and a stun gun.

Outlaw estimated that a total of 1,200 people showed up to today's protests.

There were six instances where PPB officers used force against protesters today. Only once did an officer use a "less-lethal" weapon—a pepperball gun—against a protester. The other five incidents were what Outlaw called "takedowns" or "control against resistance." PPB is aware of only six minor injuries that took place during the course of the protest.

PPB was criticized for allowing the far-right Proud Boys to leave Tom McCall Waterfront Park and cross the Hawthorne Bridge—which, at the time, was closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Here's how Outlaw explained that decision this evening: "Shortly before noon, a group of demonstrators communicated to our liaisons that they wanted to leave the downtown area. At that point, we determined it would be in the interest of everyone's safety to allow them to remove themselves from the area. We allowed them to cross the Hawthorne Bridge. We did not show preferential treatment, but rather facilitated a de-escalation of potential conflict."

Outlaw was joined by Mayor Ted Wheeler, who condemned the Proud Boys' pledge to continue visiting Portland until the local anti-fascist groups are silenced. He specifically called out Joe Biggs, the Florida-based Proud Boy who organized today's protest.

"Listen, we here in Portland, Oregon support the rights for people to assemble," Wheeler said. "But when we have people like Joe Biggs say that they're going to come here every single month until we do whatever it is they think we should be doing... well, I want to give this some context."

Wheeler went on to explain how Biggs' group is costing the city millions of dollars and adding to the environment of fear in the community.

"So, I want to be very clear," he said. "We do not want him here, in my city, period."

Wheeler noted how Portland's progressive politics and free speech policies have made the city a magnet for far-right protesters.

"We are now confronting the reality that in the United States we have a rising white nationalist movement based on white supremacy in this country," said Wheeler. "It is impacting the entire nation. But we're certainly seeing it play out in the streets of Portland."

The Skanner

At Least 13 Arrested During Far-Right Protests

*By Gillian Flaccus, The Associated Press
August 18, 2019*

Ore. (AP) — Police arrested at least 13 people and seized metal poles, bear spray and other weapons Saturday as hundreds of far-right protesters and anti-fascist counter-demonstrators swarmed downtown Portland, Oregon.

Authorities closed bridges and streets to try to keep the rival groups apart. They were largely successful.

"This was a dynamic event with demonstrators frequently moving from one part of the city to another," Mayor Ted Wheeler said at an evening news conference.

As of early afternoon, most of the right-wing groups had left the area via a downtown bridge. Police used officers on bikes and in riot gear to keep black-clad, helmet- and mask-wearing anti-fascist protesters — known as antifa — from following them.

But hundreds of people remained downtown and on nearby streets, and there were skirmishes throughout the day. Police declared a gathering of mostly left-wing protesters near Pioneer Courthouse Square a "civil disturbance" and told people to leave.

Police spokeswoman Lt. Tina Jones at one point said there were about 1,200 on the streets, but that number fell throughout the day. Six people suffered minor injuries.

The events began late Saturday morning.

Flag-waving members of the Proud Boys, Three Percenters militia group and others gathered downtown, some also wearing body armor and helmets. Police said they had seized the weapons, including shields, from multiple groups as they assembled along the Willamette River, which runs through the city.

More than two dozen local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, were in the city for the right-wing rally. Portland Police said all of the city's 1,000 officers would be on duty for the gathering that was hyped on social media and elsewhere for weeks.

President Donald Trump weighed in early Saturday, writing on Twitter that "Portland is being watched very closely ... Hopefully the Mayor will be able to properly do his job."

He also wrote that "major consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an 'ORGANIZATION of TERROR.'"

But it wasn't immediately clear what he meant by that as there's no mechanism for the United States government to declare a domestic organization a terror group.

Wheeler responded to the president's tweet in an interview with CNN, saying, "frankly, it's not helpful."

At the evening news conference Wheeler tied the demonstrations to "a rising white nationalist movement."

"We're certainly seeing that play out. ... Portland being a very progressive community is always going to be at or near ground zero of this battle," Wheeler said.

The self-described anti-fascists had vowed to confront the right-wing rally, while leaders from the far right urged their followers to turn out in large numbers to protest the arrests of six members of right-wing groups in the run-up to the event.

Patriot Prayer's Joey Gibson, who organized similar rallies in 2017 and 2018 that erupted in clashes, surrendered Friday on an arrest warrant for felony rioting. He was at a confrontation that broke out on May 1 outside a bar where antifa members had gathered after a May Day demonstration.

In a video he livestreamed on Facebook, Gibson accused the police of playing politics by arresting him but not the masked demonstrators who beat up conservative blogger Andy Ngo at a June 29 rally that drew national attention.

A video of that attack went viral and led the Proud Boys, who have been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, to organize Saturday's event.

Police continue to investigate several incidents from clashes on May 1 and June 29 and are politically neutral, Jones said.

Authorities had asked residents not to call 911 unless it's a life-threatening emergency and to stay away from the heart of downtown.

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw said authorities tried to keep everyone safe and allow people to exercise their free speech rights.

"Today was a long and arduous day," Outlaw said at the news conference. "The disruptions were held to a very small area of downtown Portland."