

Federal officers shoot Portland protester

Trump sent officers to quell protests

By JONATHAN LEVINSON

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Federal law enforcement shot and severely injured a protester Saturday night during demonstrations in front of the federal courthouse in downtown Portland.

Donavan LaBella, 26, was shot in the head by what friends and witnesses said was an impact munition.

Videos of the incident posted online brought swift condemnation from some local leaders, including both of Oregon's U.S. senators, who demanded answers from the federal government, and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, who asked that federal troops leave Portland immediately.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, in a statement released just before 9 p.m. Sunday, called on federal law enforcement to abide by the same standards as Portland officers in using less-lethal weapons against protesters.

In one video, LaBella is seen pushing a canister of smoke or tear gas away from his feet across the street from the Mark O. Hatfield federal courthouse. Moments later, LaBella returns to holding a speaker over his head with both hands. Shots of impact munitions can be heard, and LaBella collapses to the ground, dropping the speaker.

In another video posted online, LaBella is seen on the ground unconscious and bleeding from his head before protesters pick him up and move him out of the way. In that video, federal law enforcement officers can be seen standing by across the street looking on.

The violence Saturday night represents a dramatic escalation between police and protesters, who have been demonstrating nightly since



Jonathan Levinson/Oregon Public Broadcasting
Federal law enforcement officers during a protest against systemic racism and police violence in Portland on the Fourth of July.

police killed George Floyd, a Black man, in Minneapolis six weeks ago. While Portland police took aggressive measures early on, the last two weeks have been marked by a significant increase in violence by federal officers assigned to agencies within the Department of Homeland Security as well as the U.S. Marshals that deployed to Portland, Seattle and other cities at the direction of President Donald Trump.

Desiree LaBella, Donovan's mother, said he suffered facial and skull fractures. He came out of surgery early Sunday morning and was responding to doctors. He was moving his arms and legs, Desiree LaBella said.

"He was awake enough to give the OK to talk to me," she said. "He's had some facial reconstruction surgery. They're just watching him right now."

Desiree LaBella said she planned to contact an attorney Monday for a possible lawsuit on behalf of her son. She spoke to her son via computer late Sunday morning and said that while he was awake, doctors were monitoring his neurological condition and continuing work to drain blood from his brain.

Caitlyn Sakelik, one of Donovan LaBella's close friends, said he had been standing in Lownsdale Square Park across the street from the federal courthouse when officers started shooting impact munitions into the crowd. Sakelik's husband, Elton Rosas, said the shooting was completely unprovoked.

"He's been completely nonviolent the entire time he's been down there," Rosas said. "He helps deescalate situations. Out of all people, he's one of the nicest kids you will ever meet."

The U.S. Marshals put out a short statement late Sunday acknowledging a person was injured in downtown Portland.

"We are aware of the incident that happened on July 12 near the Hatfield U.S. Courthouse where an individual was injured while U.S. Marshals were securing the perimeter of the federal courthouse," agency spokesperson Nikki Credic-Barrett said. "The U.S. Marshals Service takes all injuries potentially arising from use-of-force very seriously. The incident is currently being investigated, and more information will be released as soon as possible."

On Monday, U.S. Attorney

Billy J. Williams said the U.S. Marshals internal investigation from this weekend's incident has been referred to the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General.

During a military briefing Friday, Trump indicated he sent federal law enforcement officers to Portland to quell the nightly protests over police violence, and claimed Portland police were incapable of managing the protests themselves.

"It was out of control. The locals couldn't handle it," Trump said, speaking to the acting head of Homeland Security Chad Wolf. "And you people are handling it very nicely."

The stepped-up force in Portland drew a rebuke from a number of elected officials on Sunday.

Gov. Kate Brown called for federal officials to scale back their response to the protests.

"The events of last night at the federal courthouse were the tragic and avoidable result of President Donald Trump, for weeks, continuing to push for force and vio-

lence in response to protests," Brown said in a statement. "The cycle of violence must end. President Trump deploying armed federal officers to Portland only serves to escalate tensions and, as we saw yesterday, will inevitably lead to unnecessary violence and confrontation."

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley both called for answers from the federal government.

"Given President Trump's misuse of force against protesters outside the White House and elsewhere, the deployment of federal agents in Portland raises serious concerns," Merkley said in a statement. "What was their mission? Did they abuse peaceful protestors? Were their uniforms accurately marked? Did they make the situation worse? What weapons did they use? Were they invited by Portland police or local officials?"

**Chief Warrant Officer
Jon Wayne Hudson**

Jon's final resting place will be at
Willamette National Cemetery in Portland Oregon,
with **FULL MILITARY HONORS**
on July 17, 2020 at 11:30 am.

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NANCEE LONG
Director of Communications
Columbia Memorial Hospital

We believe strongly that health should be YOUR priority, and we are dedicated to working as a team to care for you. By collaborating on your care and maintaining a high level of excellence, we want to become Safer Together.

What can YOU do to be safer?

To be Safer Together, you and your family should continue those important health checks. Maintain a routine for healthy activities, and work with your providers to proactively approach problems that could impact your well-being. Here are some things you can do to remain safe in public and while visiting our facilities:

- Clean and disinfect surfaces around your home and

workspace frequently.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after entering and exiting a public place.
- Keep at least six feet between yourself and others if you are in public.
- Wear a cloth face covering over your mouth and nose when around others.
- Stay home if you are sick.

What can CMH do to be safer?

CMH has taken additional measures to keep our patients and caregivers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We are screening everyone who comes through our doors for COVID symptoms. This helps us ensure that guests and staff are safe.
- All our operating room suites and emergency rooms are terminally cleaned each day, even if they were not used. This involves replacing linens and disinfecting all surfaces, including surfaces that may be covered during normal use, such as mattresses and bed frames.
- Clinic rooms are cleaned between patients and deep cleaned every evening.
- High touch points, including lobbies and handrails are thoroughly cleaned two to three times per shift.
- All our staff wear protective PPE when caring for patients

and in areas that are public or don't allow for social distancing.

How can we be Safer Together?

As patients and community members, you can feel safe knowing that as you restart your health initiatives, CMH is prepared.

Did you miss your colonoscopy? Get it scheduled. Did your child skip a well-baby visit? Call your pediatrician. Have you been feeling that something is wrong, but were worried about visiting a clinic? Please, please call us. We want to see you.

Our commitment to you is that we are here for you—to keep all of us safer and healthier. As a community, we can regain control of an uncontrollable situation by collaborating on health.

Whether it is more virtual options for patients, more community outreach and education or simply a follow-up call for a missed appointment, CMH pledges to be your partner in health. We can all be Safer Together.

Nancee Long is the Director of Communication for Columbia Memorial Hospital. With more than 15 years experience in marketing and communications, she found her home in rural healthcare. Nancee and her two daughters moved to the PNW from the Chicago area five years ago. They enjoy the beach and all that the Oregon Coast has to offer.