

Federal officers will leave Portland

By **MAXINE BERNSTEIN**
The Oregonian

Federal officers will start pulling out of Portland on Thursday in a phased approach and state troopers will arrive instead to back up officers from the Federal Protective Service to safeguard the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse, Gov. Kate Brown announced.

Brown called the federal officers “an occupying force” that has “refused accountability and brought strife to our community,” in a statement Wednesday. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, in a separate announcement, said he had been in talks with the governor in the last day and agreed to a “joint plan to end the violent activity in Portland directed at federal properties and law enforcement.”

Yet he tempered that statement by saying that federal law enforcement would remain in Portland “until the violent activity



Dave Killen/The Oregonian

The Wall of Vets at the downtown Portland protest on Tuesday.

toward our facility ends. We are not removing any law enforcement while our facilities and law enforcement remain under attack.”

Wolf said Brown reached out to him after she had

been in conversation with Vice President Mike Pence about the coronavirus pandemic and the protests.

The development comes as the city marks the 62nd day of consecutive demon-

strations since the May 25 killing of George Floyd, a Black man who died after a Minneapolis officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes.

On Tuesday, Attor-

ney General William Barr defended the aggressive federal law enforcement in Portland before the House Judiciary Committee.

Barr said “violent rioters and anarchists have hijacked legitimate protests” and argued the violence taking place in Portland and other cities is disconnected from Floyd’s killing, which he called a “horrible” event that prompted a necessary national reckoning on the relationship between the Black community and law enforcement. But he also said there was no systemic racism in law enforcement.

“Largely absent from these scenes of destruction are even superficial attempts by the rioters to connect their actions to George Floyd’s death or any legitimate call for reform,” Barr said of the Portland protests.

The attorney general acknowledged that Floyd’s death struck a chord in the Black community because it reinforced concerns Black people are treated differ-

ently by police. But he condemned Americans who he says have responded inappropriately to Floyd’s death.

“As elected officials of the federal government, every member of this committee — regardless of your political views or your feelings about the Trump administration — should condemn violence against federal officers and destruction of federal property,” Barr said.

Thousands of people have taken to the streets to demand police reforms and decry police brutality and systemic racism. Much of the demonstrations had focused on the Multnomah County Justice Center until early July when protesters turned their attention to the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse, where President Donald Trump had sent up to 114 federal officers from the U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to bolster Federal Protective Service workers.

Giuliani: Details often stick out

Continued from Page A1

about before. And the education of the citizenry then turned it into a completely different job,” she said.

She said expectations have gone up, which is a double-edged sword, because more people believe their elderly mother who died from natural causes might have been murdered.

A lack of funding also creates staffing challenges and places limits on autopsies.

The role of medical examiners now varies in counties throughout the state. Some have medicolegal death investigators doing the job, but few counties have physicians dedicated to the position.

Clatsop County has very few homicides. When a death is not natural, it is usually the result of a car crash or suicide.

When police called her about a suspected homicide, Giuliani said anxiety and attention to detail was heightened. But she did not work solo. She listened to the police officers and detectives on the Clatsop County Major Crimes Team, which she said work seamlessly together.

“When all of the people that you’re working with, you trust, it totally changes the anxiety because you’re doing it as a team. You’re covering each other and making sure each other doesn’t make mistakes,” she said. “That’s wonderful. And that is how it works here. It isn’t that way everywhere.”

“If there’s a death and there’s a police officer there I will always ask, ‘Are you comfortable that this is a natural death?’ Or, ‘Are you comfortable that this is a suicide?’ Because I think that everybody’s opinion has to mesh. And there have been times where someone has disagreed and I take that very seriously. And so then we have to go another step.”

A blue vest

Giuliani worked closely with officers when a body was recovered from the Columbia River near the Astoria Bridge in 2018. The death was rare because they could not identify the man and ultimately sought the public’s help.

Based on the condition of the body and where it was found in the river, they knew the man entered the river from the Washington state side.

The man’s body was decomposing, but his cloth-

ing was intact and he still had glasses in his pocket.

The detail that stuck out to Giuliani was the woman’s-sized, small, blue fleece vest the man was wearing. She described the clothing to the media in the hopes that the blue vest would be memorable to someone.

The next morning, she said, the Wahkiakum County sheriff called her. He believed he knew the man’s identity. The sheriff told her about a man who would walk through town every day wearing his wife’s blue fleece vest. She had died several months earlier.

“It was one of those things where I just love living here because this case wouldn’t have been solved in Portland. It wouldn’t have. It’s just one of those kind of cases that took the whole community to find this guy,” Giuliani said. “I’m proud of that because it took a whole bunch of people all working together in different states to put it all together and get this guy home to his family.”

Other cases tested her, like two infant homicides she had to investigate in Seaside and Cannon Beach in 2014.

Her close collaboration with law enforcement, the major crimes team and the district attorney’s office has helped her cope with devastating situations.

“And it’s because in that room, I am allowed to be vulnerable. And I’m allowed to smile and maybe relax a little bit because I can’t discuss what I see or find with anybody — it’s medically protected,” she said.

“It takes its toll gradually. And I think that when I was thinking about retiring, it was probably the right time because I am getting a little anxious about it as I get older,” she said. “But I certainly have changed my ways of looking at mortality. I don’t look at it in such a scary way anymore.”

Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson, who worked closely with Giuliani on the major crimes team, praised her work.

“What she was able to bring as far as education and involvement in death investigation was above and beyond I think what happens in the rest of the state,” he said. “I think the citizens of Clatsop County got a lot of experience in our little county, and better service, frankly, than I think

other county’s get.

“She dealt with families in some of the worst circumstances that they can experience with compassion and care.”

Halverson said officers countywide learned a lot from her through working with her and through classes she put together to train officers on initial response and death investigation.

“We genuinely appreciate her years of dedication and service,” Sheriff Matt Phillips said. “She had a lot of compassion. She spent a lot of time with families — way beyond what I think you would see elsewhere in the state — to help them with the closure.”

Clatsop County District Attorney Ron Brown said Giuliani was a great resource at meetings, on the scene of a death and during criminal trials.

“I’m sure we won’t completely replace her,” he said.

Detectives Ryan Humphrey and Justin Dersham with the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office are medicolegal death investigators and are filling in until Giuliani is replaced. However, it is unclear what the future of the medical examiner position looks like and if the county will find another doctor to fill the role.

Decision tied to pandemic

Giuliani gave her two months notice in part because of the coronavirus.

“The death world would sort of shut down in this county if I was sick and unable to do my job. Because while I was still employed, there was no one to do my job for me,” she said.

“I kind of saw this coming in February and I realized that the part of the job I love the most is the scene work — the work with the officers, the work with the family. I love that part of the job and that’s a part of the job that I had to

give up because the risk was too great, not from the decedent, from the family.”

Since retiring, Giuliani has received a lot of questions from people curious if she preferred delivering babies for 20 years or working with death for 20 years. She said she liked the second half more.

“And not because it’s not fun. I mean, delivering babies is the most fun in the whole world. But, actually, most women could do it by themselves when they don’t really need me. And so you get all this praise for helping them do what they’re going to do anyway,” she said.

“I try to pride myself on dealing with people instead of the best of day of their lives, the worst day of their lives. And that was a challenge for me.”

It was a challenge that was important and meaningful to her and the families because no two situations are the same, she said.

“That’s why I love being a doctor because you never have the same case twice,” Giuliani said. “And death, it’s even more unique because no two lives are the same and no two deaths are usually ever the same. You can always find something that you’ve never seen before and never heard of before.”

Over time, she also became skilled at the biggest challenge of the job — talking to grieving families in a way that helps lessen the pain.

She took extra time to find something unique about the life she was investigating, whether it was art they had made or their beautiful eyes.

“I found that was especially powerful with families,” she said. “If you show that you care, that you noticed something about their loved one that I didn’t have to see or comment on, but I did, it makes them feel better. It makes them feel that their loved one’s life is valued.”

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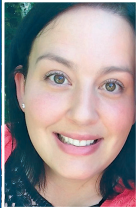
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