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PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volunteer medics apply milk to the eyes of a demonstrator to reduce his burning sensation after Portland Police used pepper spray to control crowds at a demonstration and march Friday evening that followed the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump.

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Police Chief Mike Marshman over the tactics police used, and threatened to shut down the city with more demonstrations if Marshman wasn't let go by Wednesday.

Lydia Tate, a 26-year-old Portland resident, said that she joined the Inauguration Day protests to show that she is dissatisfied with the newly elected president and felt the need to show solidarity on behalf of basic human rights for everyone.

“We’re here, standing against him,” she said as she marched up Southwest Taylor Street.

Speaking as the crowd gathered itself once again into Pioneer Courthouse Square, Louise

Haughen, a 51-year-old Seattle resident, explained that this was the first demonstration she had ever attended. She said she wanted to help sow national discontent with the new president and his administration.

“I think he’s racist... And he is going to bring us to war,” she said.

Haughen was in Portland visiting family, and said that by participating in a mass rally against the incoming Trump Administration,

“We can all protest peacefully, and exercise our rights.”

Organizers of Friday’s protest also recruited volunteer medics to help with first aid, along with several observers from the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, to ensure that free speech rights were not being violated.

One such legal observer, who asked to remain anonymous due to the possibility of professional repercussions, said people with an appropriate legal background were as needed as a check against unlawful police actions.

“People need protection in exercising their First Amendment rights,” he said.

Then, just as he was describing his own motivation for volunteering, police set off a percussion charge as a crowd control tactic. Police warnings of pepper spray and rubber bullets followed and the crowd retreated southward on Fifth Avenue.

McKelvey expressed his frustration that police later deployed the explosions and used pepper spray as a disabling weapon.

He said organizers complied with an agreement to stay off of bridges and freeways, claim-

ing police “acted needlessly and heavy handed.” He referred to Portland’s police response as, “A disgusting abuse of power.”

Saturday’s Women’s March, however, was met with a large degree of police cooperation and participation. An estimated 100,000 marchers descended upon the Tom McCall

Waterfront on Trump’s first full day in office. The action was in coordination with sister marches in Washington, D.C. and other locales across the nation and globe. It was estimated that more than one million marchers participated in 600 events around the world in opposition to Donald Trump’s presidency.

Prior to the Women’s March in Portland, labor groups also gathered in Shemanski Park, downtown, to showcase union solidarity with immigrant communities and communities of color. It was a powerful counterweight to Trump’s call for restrictive immigration measures and his caustic campaign rhetoric about women and minorities.

In total, more than 59 organizations from the Portland area participated in local protest actions in opposition to the new Trump Administration. Backed by labor unions, community centers, and faith-based groups, it was a united front against the perceived threat to civil rights.

The Law Offices of
Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

Patrick John Sweeney

Attorney at Law

1549 SE Ladd, Portland, Oregon

Portland: (503) 244-2080

Hillsboro: (503) 244-2081

Facsimile: (503) 244-2084

Email: Sweeney@PDXLawyer.com



Joyce Washington

Born: 1937 - 1996

*Joyce Washington Believed in this Community
and all those that made this Community Great.*

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