

Deadly Force Review

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ground during a struggle. The PSU officers could be seen trying to stop them from fighting and commanding others to step back.

Washington can be seen trying to stop the fight. The images show a gun holstered on his hip — for which it was reported he had a legal concealed carry permit. He then fell, with the gun underneath him, at which point the person recording the video stepped back and other people blocking the camera's view of what happened next. But one of the officers can be heard saying "drop the gun," and then seen pulling out his own firearm and shooting.

Multiple witnesses say Washington's gun fall out of his holster. When he went to pick it up, he was shot, they said.

The outpouring of grief was immediately palpable downtown and on the web.

"I love you Dad! You didn't deserve this," one message, apparently from Washington's daughter, was scrawled on a pillar near the shooting scene on Monday where many messages of remembrance were written.

Social media was lit up with



Cellphone video shows Jason Washington (with arms extended) trying to break up a fight outside a Portland sports bar Friday. He was carrying a permitted weapon which fell from his holster. When he tried to pick it up, Portland State University Police officers shot and killed him.

mourning as well.

"I need to say that Jason Washington has been a next door neighbor, a fellow dad and one hellava fine family man. That beautiful smile and welcoming persona. It's a tragic loss of a truly good man. Stunning," Dave Marlin wrote on Twitter Saturday.

"Love you so much Uncle #JasonWashington. You didn't deserve this. RIP," Washington's ap-

parent niece, Kyah Lee, tweeted.

Washington's brother, Andre Washington, voiced his "disgust" and mourning at a protest rally on Sunday in which nearly 100 PSU students, friends, family, and activists called for the disarmament of PSU officers.

Opposition to the creation of an armed police force at PSU to replace non-armed security officers has been in the consciousness of

many college students, faculty, and civil rights activists since it was first proposed in 2014.

Tom Hastings, a conflict resolution professor at PSU, was one of the most vocal opponents of having armed officers on campus. Now, he's starting a petition to get the policy reversed. He's also calling for the PSU board members who approved of the policy to step down in light of the shooting tragedy.

Hastings said he sadly was not surprised to learn about the circumstances of the shooting through the cell phone footage and news stories that have come out.

"It was exactly what we predicted would happen when we argued to board of trustees, PSU board of trustees, not to do this," Hastings told the Portland Observer.

Hastings previously testified to the board three times in opposition to arming police. He was joined by student group representatives from organizations like Students United for Nonviolence, the PSU Student Union and the PSU Black Student Union. A chorus of opposition eventually included the majority of PSU faculty and students, he said.

The debate at the time was heightened by the civil protests across the county about other officer-involved shootings, especially in the wake of the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and other instances of police killing unarmed black men.

Hastings said it was "disem-

powering" that the university moved forward with the armed police policy, despite PSU faculty and students "overwhelmingly" opposing it.

"For them to just ignore all of this and just go ahead and do it was very discouraging and now we see, damn it, the exact, horrifying, fatal consequence that we voiced our repeated, strident, concerns about," Hastings said.

A PSU spokesperson even unwittingly, ominously foreshadowed Friday's shooting in a statement he gave to the Portland Observer nearly four years ago.

At the time, Scott Gallagher, director of communications at PSU, presented the fictional scene of a potential fight outside the Cheerful Tortoise as an example of an incident that would benefit from fully accredited campus police officers being able to respond off campus, unlike PSU security which would have to wait for Portland Police before taking action.

After PSU implemented an armed police force in late 2016, it hired three experienced officers of color to help bridge students' concerns that deputized officers would engage in racial profiling. Hastings, who has been working for PSU for nearly 18 years, said in the past, unarmed campus security successfully concluded conflicts without any injuries for the entirety of the university's history, even if suspects had weapons.

"I think this can be undone. I think it can be reversed. But it's going to take a lot of political will on campus, a lot more than it would've taken to stop it before it launched," he said.

An internal assessment and evaluation, as well as a review of PSU's policies and procedures is currently underway, according to a statement released by PSU President Rahmat Shoureshi issued Friday afternoon.

In addition, Portland Police Bureau is conducting its own investigation.

"There are a lot of questions and concerns about the shooting on campus—the first time there's been an officer-involved shooting on this campus" PSU spokesman Chris Broderick told the Portland Observer.



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