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AP PHOTO/NOAH BERGER

Portland police officers hold ground against a group of left wing protesters who gathered downtown Saturday to confront opposing groups of right-wing protesters who picked Portland as a city to demonstrate nationally. Although some arrests were made and some skirmishes erupted in the following hours, dueling protests remained largely peaceful.

Tensions Ease after Protests

Police keep dueling groups apart

The tension felt across the city by many expecting violence Saturday in Portland at the long-hyped national right wing rally and the counter demonstrations in response was met with relief when it was over due to it not being as violent as feared, even as one East Coast-based far-right organizer has vowed to return to Portland monthly.

At its peak, the dueling protests drew in more than 1,200 people, with both far-right protestors and antifascist counter-demonstrators, arriving at about 8:30 a.m. downtown, police said.

Almost immediately, officers started seizing weapons including bear spray, metal and wooden poles,

knives, shields and a stun gun. But by using barriers and bridge closures — and allowing a large contingent of right-wingers to leave when they asked to — authorities were able to mostly keep the two sides apart. Six minor injuries were reported as well as several bursts of skirmishes throughout the day.

Police ended up arresting and releasing 13 people on “civil disturbance” charges.

“I’m grateful this was largely a peaceful event,” said Mayor Ted Wheeler. “We were preparing for and planning for a worst-case scenario.”

Police reported at least six instances where officers used force, including one deployment of pepper balls and additional “take-downs or control against resistance.”

Joe Biggs, the Florida organizer

of the right-wing gathering, which include the Proud Boys, Patriot Prayer and other far-right groups, said they accomplished their goal of drawing negative attention to Portland’s black-clad antifascist protesters — known as antifa — who showed up to confront them.

President Donald Trump tweeted early Saturday that major consideration was being given to naming antifa “an organization of terror” but made no reference to the violence and deaths attributed to groups associated with racism and right wing violence.

Biggs said he and his group would keep coming back to Portland so long as antifa was around. But Eric K. Ward, executive director of the Portland-based Western

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Altered Mug Shot before Judge

Police accused of trying to ‘rig the outcome’

A federal court is weighing whether eye witness accounts to a bank heist case should be thrown out due to the manipulation of a photo from a lineup of suspects in which police used Photoshop to remove facial tattoos on a black suspect, a move the defense attorney said was an attempt to “rig the outcome” of a prosecution.

Tyrone Lamont Allen has unmistakable tattoos on his forehead

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Tyrone Lamont Allen’s actual mugshot showing his face tattoos(left) and the altered photo with the markings removed to match a description of a man in a bank robbery. A judge will decide if the photo manipulation was an attempt to ‘rig the outcome’ of a prosecution.