

College Faculty Denounce Police Tactics

Joins in solidarity with demonstrators

Faculty at over a dozen Portland area colleges and universities - including Portland State University, Reed College, University of Portland, Pacific University, and Lewis & Clark College - have circulated a statement denouncing heavy-handed tactics used by Portland Police and by federal agents that have inflamed tensions in the streets surrounding federal buildings in downtown Portland and elsewhere in the city.

It took just a few days for the number of faculty who have signed the statement to approach 400, backers reported last week. The statement reads as follows:

"We are faculty and educational professionals in the greater Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. We stand in solidarity with the public demonstrations that have been occurring in our city for nearly two months.

Those of us who have been present at these demonstrations can attest that violence against mostly peaceful demonstra-



Zoe, 6, and her mother Lacey, no last names given, prepare to march during a Black Lives Matter protest last week in Portland. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

escalated the illegal assaults on citizens exercising their First Amendment rights. For example:

On July 12, federal officers shot Donovan LaBella, 26, in the head with an impact munition.

On July 15, federal officers in green military fatigues and generic "police" patches emerged from an unmarked minivan and seized and searched Mark Pettibone, 29 and detained him in a holding cell at the federal courthouse and then released him without giving any reason for his detention.

On July 20, federal officers in camouflage beat, pepper sprayed and broke the hand of Christopher David, a 53-year old Navy veteran.

On July 21, federal officers shot Maureen Healy, chair of the Department of History at Lewis and Clark College in the head with a "less than lethal" munition.

Participation in and support for these demonstrations and similar ones around the country is an expression of democratic responsibility and the hope that ordinary people have the capacity to change our society for the better.

We denounce the indiscriminate use of violence directed towards participants in these demonstrations by both the Portland police and the federal agencies that are illegally operating in our city. We encourage the efforts of our respective institutions to foreground and address issues of racial and social justice. We stand with our many colleagues who have been participating in nonviolent protests throughout our city and who have been counted among those injured by federal agents."



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tors has primarily been instigated by the Portland police, who have assaulted scores of journalists, legal observers and peaceful protesters with tear gas, pepper spray and flash bang grenades. This violence is only a small sampling of the kind of abuse and mistreatment that Black Portlanders have experienced at the hands of our local police for many years.

Earlier this month, several armed federal agencies invaded Portland. They have

The Week in Review

68th Day of Portland Protests

Protests against police brutality and systemic racism took place in Portland for the 68th consecutive day Monday since the Memorial Day death of George Floyd, a black man who died at the hands of police in Minneapolis. Two people were arrested during a nighttime demonstration near the sheriff's office on East Burnside and a 15-year-old boy suspected of pointing a gun at people was detained downtown.

Homicides Match 80s Violence

Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell addressed a crisis in community violence Friday following a 150-round shooting at an apartment building on the east side and 15 homicides during the month of July, the highest number of deadly shootings or stabbings in a single month since the 1980s.

Coronavirus Threat Grows

Coronavirus is more widespread in the US than ever before, prompting White House coronavirus response coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx to say over the weekend the country has entered a "new phase" of the pandemic. The virus is now hitting urban, suburban and rural areas and has even spread to Americans living on distant islands.

Church Bells Ring for John Lewis

Augustana Lutheran Church, a multicultural congregation in northeast Portland, joined other churches across America

Thursday by ringing a peace bell 80 times to honor Congressman John Lewis on the day of his funeral in Atlanta. The civil rights hero died July 17. He was 80.

Black Filmmaker Stabbed

A black videographer from California was stabbed last week near the scene of a Black Lives Matter protest outside Portland's federal courthouse. Andrew Duncomb, 25, films demonstrations and other political events under the moniker "Black Rebel."



ACLU Sues Portland Police Bureau

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon last week sued the Portland Police Bureau to stop police livestreaming of protests. The ACLU says the practice violates Oregon law prohibiting police from collecting information about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of people who are not suspected of criminal activity.

Herman Cain Dies of COVID-19

Herman Cain, former Republican presidential candidate and former CEO of a major pizza chain, died Thursday of complications from the coronavirus. He was 74. Cain had been ill with the virus after attending Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla. in June. Cain had been co-chair of Black Voices for Trump.

