



A demonstrator is pepper sprayed shortly before being arrested during a Black Lives Matter protest at the U. S. Courthouse, downtown, on July 30. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit Aug. 26 challenging the legality of the actions taken by U.S. agents sent by President Donald Trump to subdue protests in Portland. (AP photo)

ALCU Sues Trump over Portland Response

Claims gathering met by violent federal agents

(AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit last week alleging agents sent by President Donald Trump to protect a federal courthouse targeted by Black Lives Matter protesters used excessive force and illegal detentions to rob protesters of their freedom of speech and assembly.

The lawsuit also alleges that the acting director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, did not have the authority to send more than 100 agents to Portland because he was improperly appointed. The federal agents exceeded the limits of their authority, making illegal arrests and using tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper spray and other tactics to squelch the protests, the lawsuit alleges.

“Our clients are individuals

and organizations that gathered peacefully in downtown Portland to support Black Lives Matter after the killing of George Floyd and so many others at the hands of the police,” said Jeremy Sacks, an attorney working with the ACLU. “But they were met by violence from the federal police forces intent on squelching the protesters message and their Constitutional rights — all in aid of the president’s political agenda.”

Plaintiffs include three military veterans, a college professor, several Black Lives Matter activists and a man who alleges he was snatched off a street blocks from the federal courthouse by unidentified agents for no reason.

“I still haven’t fully come to terms with what it means that I was kidnapped by my government,” Mark Pettibone said in a statement. “People need to know what happened to me and the government needs to be held accountable so that what happened to me doesn’t happen to someone else.”

Almost all the plaintiffs allege physical injuries from getting hit by metal tear gas canisters, rubber bullets, pepper spray and other chemical irritants. Some were treated at hospitals, where they got multiple stitches and received CAT scans to check for more serious internal injuries, the lawsuit says.

A video of plaintiff and Navy veteran Christopher David’s encounter with U.S. agents outside the Portland courthouse circulated widely on social media. It showed one agent hitting David with a baton and another dousing him in the face with pepper spray. David suffered two broken bones in his hand.

The U.S. Department of Justice has said it is conducting an internal review of the incident.

Also among the plaintiffs are two groups that have organized protesters: the Black Millennial Movement and Rose City Justice.

“Federal officers had no place and no right to further exacerbate our environment in our community with force and violence and brutality and there is real attention that needs to be focused on the brutality from law enforcement,” said Shanice Clarke, of the Black Millennial Movement.

The lawsuit is the third filed by ACLU in Portland since nightly protests began after the May 25 death of George Floyd, the Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned him by the neck.

Two previous lawsuits targeted the federal agents’ actions against members of the press and legal observers and against street medics who treat protesters hurt by tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets.

Teen Arrested in Harris Death

Kceon Colbert, 19, was arrested last week in Vancouver in connection with the shooting death of Shai’India Harris, an 18-year-old Portland woman who died on July 10 outside a home in the Lents neighborhood of southeast Portland.

He was being held in the Clark County jail pending charges.

Police have not provided any information about the circumstances of the shooting, or the relationship between Harris and Colbert. But a Facebook page entitled “Justice for Shai’India,” op-



Kceon Colbert

erated by family and friends, says Harris and Colbert were previously in a relationship.

The Week in Review



Hall of Famer Coach Dies

John Thompson, the Hall of Famer basketball coach who turned Georgetown into a powerhouse and became the first Black coach to lead a team to the NCAA men’s basketball championship in 1984, has died at the age of 78. “Our father was an inspiration to many and devoted his life to developing young people not simply on but, most importantly, off the basketball court,” said a statement from his family.

Riot Outside Mayor’s Home

Police declared a riot after protesters turned violent outside the northwest Portland home of Mayor Ted Wheeler Monday evening. Wearing party hats to mark the mayor’s birthday, members of the group launched fireworks and marched with a large sign that read “resign.” Police said the protesters broke windows, burglarized a business, and lit a fire in an occupied apartment building.

Sheriffs Won’t Help Portland

A plan by the Gov. Kate Brown to use sheriff’s deputies from surrounding counties to help patrol Portland following the deadly shooting of a right-wing protesters, was sharply criticized by law enforcement officials who said it wouldn’t end the “cycle of violence” in the city that’s approaching 100 consecutive nights of often-violent Black Lives Matter protests.

Governor Recall Fails Again

For the second time in two years,

the Oregon Republican Party has failed to gather enough signatures to recall Gov. Kate Brown. Republicans backing the latest attempt accused Brown of abusing her power in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Free School Meals Extended

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture announced Tuesday that school meals will be distributed free while students are learning from home at least through the end of the year. In Oregon, 100 schools and concerned community organizations had signed a letter to USDA demanding an extension of pandemic waivers to distribute food in parks and other off-school sites to prevent wide-spread child hunger.

Former Chief Investigated

Oregon’s police certification agency was ordered Thursday to investigate whether retired West Linn Police Chief Terry Timeus should retain his police certification after directing a wrongful arrest in 2017 of a Black man in Portland at the request of his fishing buddy. The agency will be asked to determine if Timeus violated the moral fitness standard to be a police officer in Oregon.



TriMet Completes Track Work

After 28 days of round-the-clock work, amounting to 672 hours of demolition, construction and testing, TriMet has reopened the top deck of the Steel Bridge. It marks the end of the biggest light rail revitalization effort in 34 years to keep MAX service reliable.

DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS OREGON

DOUBLE YOUR SNAP DOLLARS
Through October 2020 at a Farmers Market Near You

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 GO** Go to your farmers market information tent
- 2 SWIPE** Swipe your EBT card for tokens to buy SNAP eligible foods
- 3 MATCH** We match up to \$10 a day with Double Up Food Bucks for fruits and vegetables
- 4 SHOP** Shop for fresh fruits and vegetables at the market!

Find a market near you www.DoubleUpOregon.org