

Legislative committee to take up expulsion of Nearman

By DIRK VANDERHART
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — House Speaker Tina Kotek has introduced a resolution to expel state Rep. Mike Nearman, following new evidence that Nearman plotted with supporters before allowing an incursion of the state Capitol in December.

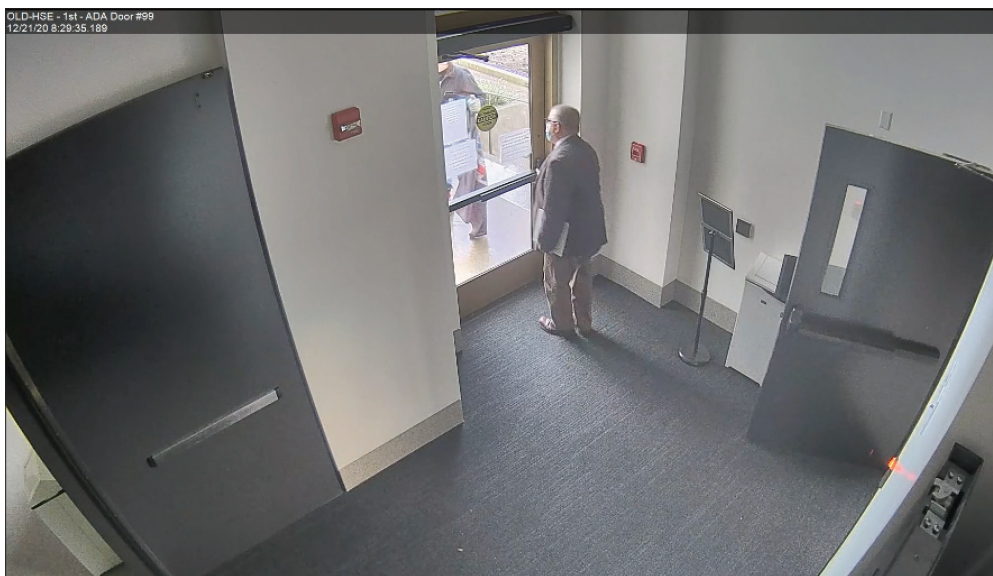
But in an atypical move, Kotek is electing not to run that resolution through the House committee that normally takes up workplace complaints. Rather, Kotek is convening a “Special Committee on Dec. 21, 2020,” that her office says will meet later this week to consider expelling Nearman.

“The severity of Representative Nearman’s actions and last week’s revelation that they were premeditated require a special committee to immediately consider expelling him from the House of Representatives,” Kotek, D-Portland, said in a statement. “He knowingly put the physical safety of everyone in the Capitol — lawmakers, staff and law enforcement — in jeopardy.”

The special committee Kotek is forming will be evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, meaning the two parties will need to find common ground for anything to pass. Democrats on the committee are Rep. Paul Holvey, who serves as House Speaker Pro Tem, House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner, and Rep. Andrea Salinas. Republican members are House Minority Leader Christine Draza and Reps. Daniel Bonham and Duane Stark.

A vote to expel Nearman from the Legislature would ultimately require a minimum of 40 votes in the full House, a two-thirds supermajority that would require at least three Republican to vote in favor of expulsion.

If that came to pass, Near-



Oregon Capitol Legislative Administration/Contributed Photo, File
This image from Oregon State Capitol surveillance footage show Oregon Rep. Mike Nearman, R-Independence, opening a door for a group of Trump supporters on Dec. 21, 2020, where his fellow state lawmakers were gathered for a special legislative session.

man would be the first Oregon lawmaker to be expelled from the body. Kotek and Smith Warner both tweeted Friday, June 4, that Nearman should resign or be ejected from the House.

Republicans have been largely silent about the case against Nearman. Draza did not respond to a request on June 4 or June 7. She has said in the past that Nearman should be “held responsible” if his actions were deemed criminal, but has not indicated whether she’d support expulsion.

Nearman did not respond June 7 to a request for comment about the possibility of his expulsion.

The resolution the committee will be charged with considering lays out the facts of Nearman’s involvement in the Capitol breach that occurred as lawmakers met in special session on Dec. 21.

On that date, surveillance footage showed Nearman exiting the Capitol via a vestibule on the west side of the building, as right-wing demonstrators demanding entrance were gathered directly outside. Nearman did not break stride as he passed two men who held the door open behind him.

The lawmaker immediately walked around the Capitol and re-entered from the other side.

Once inside the Capitol, demonstrators scuffled with police, with one man allegedly spraying bear mace at officers. Even after they were coaxed out of the building, some members in the crowd vandalized glass doors and assaulted journalists on the scene.

Nearman has not directly commented on his motives for leaving the building that morning, but footage that emerged last week suggests it was a premeditated act designed to allow people into the Capitol.

In a video that appears to have been shot on Dec. 16, five days before the breach, Nearman can be heard explaining to supporters an idea for “Operation Hall Pass.” In the video Nearman repeatedly tells an audience his number — which he coyly suggests is not his number.

“And if you say, ‘I’m at the west entrance’ during the session and text that number there ... somebody might exit that door while you’re standing there,” Nearman says in the video.

After a recitation of

the facts, the resolution concludes Nearman has “engaged in disorderly behavior,” the basis in the state Constitution for expelling a lawmaker.

The use of a special committee to handle the matter raises questions about a hearing of the House Conduct Committee scheduled for June 9.

The committee takes up workplace complaints in the Legislature, and had been scheduled to consider Nearman’s case after an investigation determined the lawmaker likely broke personnel rules.

But while the Conduct Committee meeting is still scheduled, it’s not clear what will be at stake when the larger question of Nearman’s expulsion is being pursued by another committee.

Nearman has already faced some consequences for his actions. He has been charged with two misdemeanors stemming from the incident, and has been stripped of all of his legislative committee assignments. In addition, he has forfeited his badge granting Capitol access and must give 24 hours notice before coming to the building.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Police: 4 people fatally shot in home in Portland

PORTLAND — Police in Portland said four people were fatally shot over the weekend at a home in the city.

Officers responded to reports of a shooting at the home at about 10:25 p.m. Sunday, June 6, in the southeastern part of the city and found the four people dead from apparent gunshot wounds, police said in a statement.

The investigation is continuing and autopsies will be performed, according to police.

Deputy fatally shoots suspect after chase

HAPPY VALLEY — Authorities say a Clackamas County sheriff’s deputy shot and killed a person after a vehicle pursuit and short foot chase.

KOIN reported the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office says a suspect led a deputy on a vehicle pursuit shortly after 2 a.m. Monday, June 7. The chase ended and the suspect exited the car.

After getting out, the suspect tried to run but a short distance away the deputy fired his gun and struck the suspect. Authorities did not clarify if the suspect fired any shots.

Deputies reportedly recovered a handgun near the suspect. They also say the suspect had been driving a stolen car.

An investigation is continuing.

Alaska students gain law education options

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The University of Alaska Anchorage has announced a new partnership with a university in Oregon to expand oppor-

tunities for current and future students interested in law degrees.

Qualified students in Alaska who meet certain academic requirements will be guaranteed admission to Willamette University’s College of Law’s juris doctorate program under the partnership, Alaska’s News Source reported Sunday, June 6.

“Our goal is to get our students where they want to go, and because Alaska doesn’t have a law school, it’s been a bit of a challenge,” said Denise Runge, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Students admitted into the program also will receive \$10,000 renewable scholarships for every year they are enrolled and remain in good academic standing at Willamette’s College of Law, university officials said.

The program also is offered at the University of Alaska Southeast, officials said.

Magnitude 3.9 earthquake hits near Mount Hood

GOVERNMENT CAMP — People in communities near Mount Hood reported feeling a moderate earthquake Saturday night, June 6, the Oregonian/Oregonlive.com reported.

The magnitude 3.9 earthquake hit just after 8:50 p.m., less than 4 miles northeast of Government Camp.

Andy Diaz was working at the Charlie’s Mountain View restaurant when he felt the shaking. A co-worker, Valerie Tergerson, was taking orders when she heard the wood in the building creak.

Soon after, another co-worker called Diaz on the phone to say the same.

— The Associated Press

EASTERN OREGON marketplace

Place classified ads online at www.eastoregonmarketplace.com or call 1-800-962-2819 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, leave a voicemail and we’ll confirm your ad the next business day. Email us at classifieds@eastoregonian.com or fax: 541-278-2680

Deadline is 3 p.m. the day before publication

We accept:

211 S.E. Byers Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801

333 E. Main St.
Hermiston, OR 97838

See www.eastoregonmarketplace.com for classified ads from all over Eastern Oregon

EAST OREGONIAN • HERMISTON HERALD • BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE • WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

MEDICAL DIRECTORY

ASSISTED LIVING

STUDIO AND ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Call for Availability!

Knowing how hard it is to make a lifestyle change, let us help you through the decision making process.

Sun Terrace Hermiston
A Retirement and Assisted Living Community
A REGENCY PACIFIC COMMUNITY
Bringing independence to living and quality to life.

Call Pam: 541-564-2595 for assistance!

Check out our virtual tour on YouTube: [search Sun Terrace Hermiston](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

“LET US BE THE ONE TO HELP”

- Adult, child & family therapy
- Psychiatric evaluation & treatment
- Mental health & crisis services
- Confidential and professional care

CRISIS PHONE:
866-343-4473

331 SE 2nd St., Pendleton 541-276-6207
595 NW 11th St., Hermiston 541-567-2536

WWW.LIFEWAYS.ORG

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Jerry Crum M.D.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Now Seeing Patients at

Hermiston Family Medicine

236 E. Newport, Hermiston

Worker's Compensation Accepted

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT 541-567-1137

PEDIATRIC DENTIST

Find us on Facebook

hermistonkidsdentist.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

Patient Payment Plans

FAMILY MEDICINE/URGENT CARE

HERMISTON FAMILY MEDICINE and URGENT CARE

No Appointment Necessary

Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm • Friday 8am-3pm
Medicare and Oregon Health Plan Accepted

236 E. Newport
Hermiston
(across from US Bank)
541-567-1137

CONTACT YOUR SALES REP TODAY!

Hermiston & surrounding areas
Kelly : 541-564-4531

Pendleton & surrounding areas
541-966-0827