

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

PORTLAND

Protesters light fires, smash windows; police declare riot

BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Oregonian

A group of protesters in downtown Portland lit fires, smashed the windows of businesses, a church and the Oregon Historical Society, and caused other various damage during a destructive demonstration Friday night and early Saturday.

Someone also fired several gunshots from a car traveling a block away from the protest crowd early Saturday. No one was hurt.

Police declared the demonstration a riot late Friday, marking the third time in five days the bureau had made such an announcement. Officers arrested at least four people amid the melee that had drawn several hundred people, the Portland Police Bureau said in a statement.

"Our community has made it clear that it will not tolerate wanton violence and destruction," Acting Chief Chris Davis in the statement. "None of this destruction tonight has anything to do with the important work of racial justice and reconciliation our community and our nation need at this critical time in our history."

The downtown damage also came on the heels of a fatal police shooting earlier Friday in Southeast Portland but was carried out as part of a previously scheduled "autonomous demonstration" in the name of people killed in recent police shootings nationwide, including Adam Toledo, a 13-year-old killed last month by Chicago Police.

The left-wing protesters began by marching from Director Park through downtown, smashing glass storefronts at locations including the Nike store near Pioneer Courthouse Square, the Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chao, a Verizon business and a bank.

Some of the demonstrators broke windows at the Oregon Historical Society, whose entrance was previously shattered by protesters who had declared an "Indigenous Day of Rage" in October. Police also said protesters damaged the nearby First Christian Church, which serves meals to the homeless and has long welcomed those who identify as LGBTQ.

"We love our neighbors: Immigrant, LGBTQ, of color, with disabilities, of all faiths," read a sign in the window of the church next to several cracked window panes.

Police announced a riot about 9:50 p.m., telling the



Dave Killen/The Oregonian

Protesters light a portable bathroom on fire in downtown Portland late Friday. The overnight demonstration was declared a riot by police shortly after windows were smashed earlier.

crowd to disperse, and protesters arrived at the Multnomah County Justice Center and adjacent federal courthouse soon thereafter.

A standoff ensued between at least 100 protesters and at least 30 police officers.

Some protesters dismantled pedestrian traffic signals at SW Fourth Avenue and Salmon Street shortly before 11 p.m. and threw them into the intersection. A bonfire was lit at the intersection, and a dumpster fire was set nearby.

During this time, Portland Police said there were 79 outstanding calls for service across the city, including reports of shots fired, burglaries and a hit and run.

"Police resources were stretched across the City to manage the calls for emergency calls for service and the riot," the bureau said in its statement.

Shortly before midnight, protesters overturned plastic barriers filled with water outside the Apple store. The water doused the street around the dumpster fire.

Some in the group appeared to try to break into Pioneer Place. And some protesters lit portable toilets ablaze near the Apple store. Flames traveled to a building, causing significant damage, and firefighters extinguished the blaze.

The sound of gunfire erupted about 12:15 a.m. Saturday, before and as a car traveled through the intersection of Third Avenue and Yamhill Street.

A separate group of more than 150 demonstrators also gathered Friday night at Salmon Street Springs on the downtown waterfront. The

group listened to several Black and Indigenous speakers before marching to the Hawthorne Bridge and turning back toward the waterfront.

Demetria Hester, an activist who has been a frequent presence at Portland protests, called on white protesters in the crowd to dismantle white supremacy with their own actions — standing up for Black people and other people of color instead of being complacent and trying to go back to "normal."

More than 100 protesters also gathered earlier in the day at Lents Park in Southeast

Portland after Portland Police shot and killed a man about 9:30 a.m.

The downtown riot declaration marked Portland's third such announcement in five days, as police also declared riots amid events that brought raucous crowds to the Penumbra Kelly Building on E. Burnside Street and Portland Police Association building in North Portland earlier in the week.

Both of those protests were held over the fatal police shooting of Daunte Wright, a Black man in Minnesota.

TODAY

It's Sunday, April 18, the 108th day of 2021. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1831, the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was officially opened.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1910, suffragists showed up at the U.S. Capitol with half a million signatures demanding that women be given the right to vote.

In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power as he became prime minister of Egypt.

In 1955, physicist Albert Einstein died in Princeton, New Jersey, at 76.

In 1966, Bill Russell was named player-coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA's first Black coach.

In 1995, quarterback Joe Montana retired from professional football. The Houston Post closed after more than a century.

In 2015, a ship believed to be carrying more than 800 migrants from Africa sank in the Mediterranean off Libya; only about 30 people were rescued.

In 2019, the final report from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia

investigation was made public; it outlined Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election but did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government. (Mueller offered no conclusion on the question of whether the president obstructed justice.)

Ten years ago: Kenya's Geoffrey Mutai won the Boston Marathon in 2:03:02, the fastest anyone had ever run the 26.2-mile distance; fellow Kenyan Caroline Killel won the women's race in 2:22:36.

Five years ago: "Hamilton," Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-hop stage biography of America's first treasury secretary, won the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

One year ago: The daily toll of coronavirus deaths in New York state hit its lowest point in more than two weeks.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 91. Actor Robert Hooks is 84. Actor Hayley Mills is 75. Actor James Woods is 74. Actor-director Dorothy Lyman is 74. Actor Cindy Pickett is 74. Actor Rick Moranis is 68. Actor Melody Thomas Scott is 65. Actor Eric Roberts is 65. Actor Jane Leeves is 60. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 59. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 58. Actor Eric McCormack is 58. Actor Maria Bello is 54. Actor Mary Birdsong is 53. Actor David Tennant is 50. Actor Melissa Joan Hart is 45. Actor Sean Maguire is 45. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian is 42. Detroit Tigers first baseman and DH Miguel Cabrera is 38. Actor America Ferrera is 37. Actor Alia Shawkat is 32. Actor Moises Arias is 27.

—Associated Press



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