

GUILTY VERDICT: KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

Verdict

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Hummel considered the case as clear cut as possible. Hummel said he would have charged an officer, or any citizen, in Deschutes County for the same actions Chauvin committed.

"Justice was done," Hummel said. "Our country needed that verdict."

Since the murder of Floyd last year, high school students in Bend have been leading protests against police brutality. Some joined existing local activist groups, while others formed their own group, Bend 4 BLM.

One of those students is Maxwell Friedman, a junior at Bend High School and member of Central Oregon Black Leaders Assembly. Friedman was relieved when his mother texted him about Chauvin's conviction. But he also knows this isn't the end of fighting against police brutality.

"It's good to see progress and justice rightfully served, but George Floyd is still dead," said Friedman, 17. "A lot of people were killed, and their murderers ... returned to the (police) force — business as usual."

Friedman, who is Black and Jewish, also noted that it's

PHOTO: More than a thousand people stand outside the Deschutes County Courthouse in Bend on June 6, 2020, to demonstrate against racial discrimination and social injustice. The gathering, dubbed the Bend Walk for Justice, was the third local rally in a week and joined rallies nationwide that day. Participants in Bend marched from Riverbend Park to the courthouse and back. Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file photo

traumatizing to constantly see police killings of young Black men in the news. He pointed out that during the Chauvin trial, police in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, shot and killed 20-year-old Black man Daunte Wright.

"I'm still going to keep fighting, because I don't know the day that my name might be a headline," Friedman said. "Being a minority in this country ... we see people like us get killed every day. It's crippling."

Bend 4 BLM co-founder — Bend High School senior Jade Jager — said she heard of the Chauvin verdict from her history teacher Tuesday afternoon. She was happy with the news but, like Friedman, acknowledged the fight against police brutality isn't over yet.

"Chauvin was convicted, but there are still so many police out there that hurt people and justice was not served," said Jager, 17.

Even though Chauvin has been convicted, Jager believes

anti-racist activism will continue in Bend. Although Bend 4 BLM didn't have events planned after the trial ended Tuesday, she hoped to organize something in the near future.

"As a whole, our generation is definitely paying attention to these events," Jager said.

Jace Bracelin, a junior at Summit High School and Bend 4 BLM member, said he felt convicted about Chauvin's conviction.

On one hand, he was happy that Floyd's killer was going to prison. But Bracelin also believes that Chauvin was convicted not necessarily to serve justice, but more to avoid riots and public pushback.

"If it wasn't as publicized as it was, he would've 100% gotten away with it," said Bracelin, 17. "It's certainly a victory, but all considered, it feels conciliatory."

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Chauvin

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Defense attorney Eric Nelson followed Chauvin out of the courtroom without comment.

The verdict was read in a courthouse ringed with concrete barriers and razor wire and patrolled by National Guard troops, in a city on edge against another round of unrest — not just because of the Chauvin case but because of the deadly police shooting of a young Black man, Daunte Wright, in a Minneapolis suburb April 11.

The jurors' identities were kept secret and will not be released until the judge decides it is safe to do so.

It is unusual for police officers to be prosecuted for killing someone on the job. And convictions are extraordinarily rare.

Out of the thousands of deadly police shootings in the U.S. since 2005, fewer than 140 officers have been charged with murder or manslaughter, according to data maintained by Phil Stinson, a criminologist at Bowling Green State University. Before Tuesday, only seven were convicted of murder.

Juries often give police officers the benefit of the doubt when they claim they had to make split-second, life-or-death decisions. But that was not an argument Chauvin could easily make.

Floyd, 46, died May 25 after being arrested on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill for a pack of cigarettes at a corner market. He panicked, pleaded that he was claustrophobic and struggled with police when they tried to put him in a squad car. They put him on the ground instead.

The centerpiece of the case was the excruciating bystander video of Floyd gasping repeatedly, "I can't breathe" and onlookers yelling at Chauvin to stop as the officer pressed his knee on or close to Floyd's neck for what authorities say was 9.5 minutes including several minutes after Floyd's breathing had stopped and he had no pulse.

Harassment

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Breese Iverson is a member of the committee, and the formal conduct complaint filed against Witt says the incident occurred during a meeting on April 12. Details of what happened have not been fully divulged, but Breese Iverson said Tuesday that Witt had sent her inappropriate texts.

One text included a reference to a "quid pro quo," a Latin term still used in business and politics that loosely means "a favor requiring the return of a favor."

"The fact Representative Witt chose to sexually harass me leaves us no room for any future ability to have real discussions regarding committee business or other House Floor business," Breese Iverson wrote in her letter to House Speaker Tina Kotek. "The quid pro-quo he texted me is an inexcusable abuse of his power. Experiencing this sexual harassment is something I should not have to be exposed to or accept as a course of business, especially in today's Capitol culture."

Breese Iverson filed a formal conduct complaint the next day with the Legislative Equity Office. In the complaint, she signed a portion that included acknowledging a false complaint would be considered perjury. Sarah Ryan, an attorney with Jackson Lewis, a firm specializing in labor and business law, was hired by the equity office to investigate the allegations. She interviewed Witt and Breese Iverson and found that Witt was in no way a physical danger to Breese Iverson.

Ryan said Breese Iverson told her that going to meetings with Witt in attendance would take an emotional toll on her. She recommended that communication between the two be banned and Witt temporarily removed from the chairmanship.

A panel of the House Conduct Committee met Friday. Unlike other committees where the majority Democrats are the chairs and have more votes than Republicans, the conduct committee is evenly split between the parties, including who presides.

The panel on Friday included Rep. Ron Noble, R-Minnville, and Rep. Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, who are co-chairs of the committee. Other members who attended were Rep. Raquel Moore-Green, R-Salem, and Rep. Tawna Sanchez, D-Portland. Noble presided over the hearing.

Witt appeared and spoke briefly to say that he was "shocked and surprised" by the allegations. Breese Iverson did not take part in the hearing.

The lawmakers were unanimous in approving the ban on communication. But all agreed they did not have the power to remove Witt and were uncon-

fortable asking Kotek to force Witt out as chair because it could violate rules about presumption of guilt.

"This process is not supposed to be punitive," Fahey said.

House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, R-Canby, criticized the committee for not taking a firm stance on safety measures for Breese Iverson.

"Co-chair Fahey's rejection of the independent investigator's recommendation to temporarily remove Chair Witt from his committee shows a shameful disregard for the



Breese Iverson

pressing need for interim safety measures to protect the victim," Drazan said in the statement.

In her letter to Kotek, Breese Iverson said the House had failed to follow its own rules in not acting to issue "interim safety measures" as outlined in the Legislature's Rule 27, which ensures a "safe, respectful and inclusive workplace."

After Witt stepped down, Kotek, "out of an abundance of caution," informed House members she was naming Rep. Zach Hudson, D-Troutdale, as

chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Witt and Breese Iverson remain members of the committee.

Breese Iverson was named to the House District 55 seat in August 2019. She replaced former House Minority Leader Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte, who resigned to take an appointment by Gov. Kate Brown as a judge on the 22nd Circuit Court of Oregon, which covers Crook and Jefferson counties. Breese Iverson was elected to a two-year term in 2020. House District 55, includes all of Crook County and parts of Deschutes, Jackson, Klamath,

and Lake Counties.

Witt was first elected to the House in 2005 and won election in 2006 and every two years since. He represents

House District 31, which includes Columbia County and portions of Multnomah and Washington counties.

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OBITUARY



John Anthony Pagano

July 22, 1952 - April 13, 2021

John was born July 22nd, 1952 in Portland, Oregon to Anthony and Frances Pagano and died on April 13th, 2021. John attended Milwaukie High School and after high school joined the National Guard from 1971-1976 where he found his niche in working with electronics and computers. John married Madeline (Pinky) DiFabio on May 11th, 1974 while living in Portland. 10 years later, John had the opportunity to move his family to Sisters, Oregon where he and Pinky raised their family over the next 30 years. During that time, John started his own business, Computer Cleaning and Helitronics Landing Lights for emergency vehicles.

While in Sisters, John engulfed himself in the service of his family and his community. He was a volunteer EMT 1 for this Sisters Fire Department for over 20 years where during that time you could see him roaming the sidelines of Sisters High School Football games or organizing the Department's Toys for Tots program in his spare time. John had two hobbies that he enjoyed most; working on electronics and using his HAMM Radio. His home office was scattered with tools and electronics where he was constantly "futzing" around making blinking lights or landing kits for Air Life. Always attached to John's hip, was his prized possession, his HAMM Radio. Licensed as N7RGF, John was always on his radio, talking to friends around the state.

Later in life, John was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, which slowly took away his ability to enjoy his hobbies in retirement. However, surrounded by family, he could be seen scooting to soccer, flag football, school plays, bike races, and the occasional road trip to Camp Sherman or Three Creeks Lake. John is survived by an extensive Italian family in the Portland area. John and Pinky are most proud of their children and their extended families, which are spread across the state. Gabe and Heather Pagano, with grandchildren Maya, Max, and Dominic. Megan and Edward (Tank) Duckworth, with Bailey, Amari, and Khi. Finally, James and Krista Hayes, with Jaxon, Maddie, and another one on the way. John is also survived by his two younger brothers and their families; Ken and Marian Pagano and Dan and Tammy Pagano.

John, Dad, Maddog, Uncle Johnny or Pappa...you will always be #1.

A mass will be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Redmond, Oregon on April 24th, 2021. The rosary will begin at 10:30, followed by a service at 11:00. Cookies, coffee, and drinks to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Oregon Chapter for Multiple Sclerosis @ <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/ORC>

Redmond Fire Department - <http://www.redmondfireandrescue.org/>

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