

GEORGE FLOYD MURDER | FALLOUT IN PORTLAND AND BEYOND

Protest turns violent night after verdict

BY FEDOR ZARKHIN
The Oregonian

Portland Police declared an unlawful assembly Tuesday and arrested at least two people amid a demonstration held after jurors convicted former Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd.

Floyd's death in May ignited nearly a year of protests, rioting and political unrest in Portland, and it thrust the issues of police violence and systemic racism into the middle of a tense national conversation.

A crowd initially gathered near the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse and Multnomah County Justice Center on Tuesday evening, and some began spray-painting the latter building about 9 p.m.

A group of roughly 60 began marching about 9:45 p.m., while about 25 other people remained near the courthouse and justice center.

Some demonstrators broke a number of downtown windows, according to police, who declared an unlawful assembly at roughly 10 p.m.

About that time, an officer and protester engaged in a heated confrontation. Another officer arrived on a bicycle, pushing a different nearby protester. That protester then punched the first officer, and police piled on the person who threw the punch in flurry of physical confrontation captured on video by an Oregonian journalist.

A different video of the flurry shows an officer throwing repeated punches.

Police said officers arrested two people during the protest and that they used pepper spray against one of them.

The events came after Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler declared a 24-hour state of emergency earlier Tuesday, allowing him to impose a curfew, close city streets and take other extraordinary measures should widespread political unrest erupt.

The mayor also said the city would have the state police and National Guard on standby, while Portland police received assistance from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies in the metro area.



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

Police officers took to Portland's streets Tuesday, the day Derek Chauvin was found guilty of murder and manslaughter in Minneapolis. The killing of George Floyd sparked almost a year of racial justice protests in Portland and elsewhere. Portland Police declared an unlawful assembly Tuesday and arrested at least two people.

Sweeping federal probe into Minneapolis Police underway

The U.S. Justice Department is opening a sweeping investigation into policing practices in Minneapolis after a former officer was convicted in the murder of George Floyd there, Attorney General Merrick Garland announced Wednesday.

The department was already investigating whether Derek Chauvin and the other officers involved in Floyd's death violated his civil rights.

"Yesterday's verdict in the state criminal trial does not address potentially systemic policing issues in Minneapolis," Garland said.

The new investigation is known as a "pattern or practice" — examining whether there is a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing — and will be a more sweeping review of the entire police department. It could result in major changes.

Minneapolis' police chief said he will cooperate with federal prosecutors.



Garland

—Associated Press

Federal report: Agents sent to summer protests lacked training

BY MAXINE BERNSTEIN
The Oregonian

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security had authority to send federal officers to Portland to protect the federal courthouse, but not all officers had completed required training, had the necessary equipment or used consistent uniforms, munitions or tactics, a final report from the department's inspector general says.

Homeland Security lacked a comprehensive strategy. Not all officers were trained to respond to riots or on crowd control. Some federal agents even questioned their own involvement in the Portland operation due to their lack of training, according to the report made public Wednesday.

Radio communication between federal agents from different agencies was poor, and different federal officers had

inconsistent annual certification training for their use of less-lethal weapons.

"Without the necessary policies, training and equipment, DHS will continue to face challenges securing Federal facilities during periods of civil disturbance that could result in injury, death and liability," the report said.

The findings reflect many of the allegations made in multiple lawsuits filed against the Homeland Security department since former President Donald Trump sent agents from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Secret Service to bolster Federal Protective Service workers at the courthouse in July after some demonstrators on July 3 tried to barricade the front doors of the courthouse and they shattered.

Between June 4 and Aug. 31, 2020,

755 federal officers were sent to Portland at various times from the federal agencies, according to the report.

The inspector general's office examined one day for example, Aug. 7, 2020, and found that of 22 officers deployed to Portland, 36 did not appear on a training roster showing they had received a legal briefing on their authority or the criminal laws they could enforce on federal property.

Fourteen of the 36 officers in this examination who did not receive the training used less-lethal munitions against people in Portland, increasing the department's liability, the report said.

"Deploying officers who are not properly trained increases the risk of officers acting outside of their authority," the report said.

In a review of 63 officers, only seven had received riot or crowd-control training, according to the inspector general's office. In interviews and survey responses, many officers identified a need for more such training.

Under use-of-force policies governing ICE, Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Protective Service, officers are required to complete an initial certification for each less-lethal device used. Federal officers in Portland used compressed air launchers, 40-mm munition launchers and pepper-ball launchers for crowd control, the report said.

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Recommendations

The inspector general's office made two recommendations, urging the Homeland Security secretary to adopt a plan, policy and process to improve federal response to future civil disorder at federal buildings that would

address training, equipment, tactics and policies. It also recommended the Federal Protective Service create plans with state and local law enforcement on how to work together to respond to such civil disturbances at high-risk federal buildings.

Homeland Security agreed with the first recommendation and said it would work on adopting a policy document for designating its federal officer for civil disturbance assignments at federal buildings. It will include verification of required legal training for officers, a public order policing directive, additional training, procurement of equipment.

The Federal Protective Service also agreed to develop a plan for responding to civil disturbances at federal buildings, and estimated it would be completed by March 31, 2022.

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- May 3, 5:30pm: Redmond School District 2J, School Board positions 3, 4
- May 4, 5:30pm: Redmond School District 2J, School Board positions 1, 2
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