



Willita Ross pays her respects before the funeral service for Jalon Yoakum, her cousin, at Mannahouse Church in Portland on May 22.



Twauna Hennessee, the mother of Jalon Yoakum and an elder at Mannahouse Church, prays during her son's funeral.

Portland

Continued from A1

Now cities such as Portland, considered among the most ambitious in moving to reshape its police force, have retrenched. So have Oakland, California; Berkeley, California; Los Angeles and several other influential cities on the issue. Through April, the police reported 348 shootings, more than double those recorded over the first four months of last year.

Loss of trust

A city of about 650,000 people, Portland has long experienced the push and pull of its stridently felt politics. By many measures, particularly on social issues such as marijuana legalization, the environment and gay rights, the city has been at the vanguard.

But there has also been a historical strain of violent independence in some of its residents, a trait that has helped small groups of self-described anarchists overwhelm the year-old push for police reform and social justice.

From the assessments of the white mayor, Ted Wheeler, and the Black police chief, Chuck Lovell, this smaller faction comprises mostly white, middle-class students and others, who have made places such as churches, public libraries, small Black-owned businesses and a Boys & Girls Club the confounding targets of their vandalism.

On May 25, police declared a riot when one of two groups that had gathered to mark the anniversary of George Floyd's murder broke windows, set fires and threw objects at police. Five people were arrested; all were white.

"We're a city of two populations. Even though we're not in the 1950s anymore, many of the people leading us seem to think so," said Teresa Raiford, director of Don't Shoot Portland, one of the largest long-standing civil rights groups in the city.

Raiford's nephew, Andre Payton, was fatally shot in 2010, at 19 years old. In his memory, she founded Don't Shoot as a "nonviolent, direct action" movement to bring community members and police together against gun violence.

But Raiford, 50, said there is so little trust right now between the social-justice movement and the police that it is nearly impossible to make progress. She believes that some of the vandalism is caused by police informants — plants paid to discredit the wider movement.

Portland's once-vibrant downtown, the heart of a world-class food scene, is still marred by boarded-up windows and closed businesses, the aftermath of a year of pandemic and fear of random assault and vandalism often committed under the name of the police reform movement.

"You have more and more African American leaders coming out to say that this is not helpful," said Kris R. Henning, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Portland State University. "But when you look over the longer history of what's been going on in Portland — there's something else happening. It's not just the protests. It is not just COVID-19. There is something else going on in Portland."

Henning and others say crime was rising in the city before the pandemic shut it down and before Floyd died in Minneapolis with a white police officer's knee on his neck. From 2019 to 2020, the number of homicides nearly doubled,



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— **Kris R. Henning, professor of criminology and criminal justice at Portland State University.**
Pictured above, a demonstrator is arrested during a September protest outside the Justice Center in downtown Portland.

Joshua Lott/Washington Post file

something Henning called "unheard of" in Portland. This followed years with some of the nation's lowest crime rates for a city its size.

"So these perpetrators, my guess, were coming of age, were in elementary and middle school right around the Great Recession," said Brian Renauer, director of the Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute at Portland State. "Now they're in their early to mid-20s. So what we're seeing is the outgrowth of a breakdown in the family, in the economy, in those neighborhoods they came out of, if this is very much a home-grown phenomenon."

Police and prosecution

The Portland Police Bureau is authorized to have 1,001 sworn officers. At the moment it has about 900, a shortage that city officials blame on a lack of urgency in hiring and police leaders attribute to a lack of support and funding.

Lovell, the police chief, who took office in the hot early days of the demonstrations in June 2020, said more than 120 sworn officers have left the department in the past nine months.

The city council last year cut about \$27 million from the roughly \$200 million police budget — about \$11 million because of a pandemic-caused budget crisis, and \$15 million as part of the "defund" effort to shift some police resources to other agencies that may be able to handle nonviolent calls more effectively.

But the police bureau also disbanded a unit in July that focused specifically on gun violence, a high-profile initiative that had been designed to make the agency less reactive and more attuned in advance to rising gang- and gun-related crime as the protests began slowly fading.

"What I know is that being chief, and being a Black chief in particular, this movement to really exclude police from some facets of enforcement or community interaction, it really bears the brunt on the African American community," Lovell said. "These shootings have an outsized impact on people of color."

The chief's goal to reestablish a larger uniformed presence on Portland's streets and in its most dangerous neighborhoods appears to be supported by many residents, who just a year ago were very much opposed to the city's police practices.

Some of those practices have changed — in particular, mass arrests during demonstrations have eased — but the confrontations have persisted.

A recent poll conducted by The Oregonian found that three-quarters of Portland-area residents did not want police officer levels to decline more than they have. Just more than half said they favored an increase in the number of officers.

The data that landed on Mike Schmidt's desk in early August 2020, when he took over as Multnomah County district attorney, was a carry-over from the early demonstrations and broad arrests. His predecessor had resigned some six months before Schmidt was scheduled to take office, so Schmidt stepped in before he planned.

Most pressing were the 550 cases related to the protests that prosecutors hadn't yet engaged during the rapid transition in the DA's office. Nearly all involved first-time offenders charged with interfering with a police officer, which usually carries a public-service penalty but also results in a record.

Schmidt, who interned in the same DA's office years earlier, did not see a public safety benefit in taking the cases to court, a move that he said would "simply throw fuel on the fire" of public sentiment against law enforcement. Only those charged with serious property crimes, among other major offenses, would be prosecuted.

"These were people who are out here in the streets for the right reasons, to have this system changed, to have their voice heard, people who had felt like the criminal justice system had lost their faith," Schmidt said.

But Schmidt, who was elected with 77% of the vote, said the "message I was sending got twisted," and the public began to think that no cases associated with protests would be prosecuted. Vandalism and property crimes spiked — and at a time of rising violence against young men of color, Schmidt was making the rounds to explain that people who broke windows and burned buildings would be prosecuted.

So would police officers, a pledge he ran on. Within months, Schmidt will bring two cases involving shootings by officers to grand juries for possible indictments. He will hire outside counsel to present the cases, a change in policy designed to strengthen the

public's sense of independent accountability for police action.

"The work of this office is really ramping up to handle the surge in gun violence," Schmidt said. "And sometimes, to be frank, it has been frustrating — when I'm at meetings and I'm talking about broken windows and I know that there are bodies in the street, Black and brown bodies disproportionately, and there I am talking about broken windows."

"Not that I can't walk and chew gum. I can," Schmidt continued. "And you know, both things are true and were happening simultaneously, but the violence didn't seem to be getting that same attention."

Wheeler, the mayor, said he believes that the city has begun to recover, at least from the demonstrations that have left downtown largely empty on most days. Over the past year, he said, the city has recorded an 85% decrease in downtown foot traffic. The result has been economic despair and more crime.

Now, the pandemic is easing, as are the intensity and frequency of the demonstrations.

Over the spring, the group of self-described anarchists, usually masked and dressed in black, has shattered windows at the Oregon Historical Society, at a Boys & Girls Club, at a public library and at many small business, including some owned by Black merchants. Wheeler made a public plea for Portlanders to "take the city back."

At City Hall, Wheeler and the rest of the council are debating ways to increase police resources, a shift for a symbol of the defund movement.

The mayor plans to triple the number of unarmed officers in the police bureau, from 11 to 33, to help manage reports related to mental illness and mounting homelessness while freeing up armed police for more serious calls.

"I think other people are just understanding that this is a really challenging time to be a police officer," Wheeler said. "And we are finally putting racial disparity and institutional racism front and center in our society. This is an opportunity for us to be honest about its existence, to call it out for what it is and to change it."

"The legacy of George Floyd is that he gave us this opportunity to address these issues that have been with us for hundreds of years," he added. "What he gave us is the conversation, and we're not going to waste it here."

The Bulletin

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Garage Sales - General

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The Mitchell School District has the following openings for the 2021-2022 school year beginning in August:

- Middle School Teacher
- Social Studies/PE/Health Teacher
- Head Cook
- CDL Certified Bus Drivers
- Substitutes for teachers and other staff

Contact 541-462-3311 for more information or go to our employment page at <http://www.mitchell.k12.or.us/employment>

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Legal Notices & Public Notices

Legal Notice
NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGETS
Supplemental budgets will be discussed and adopted for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 for both the City and the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Redmond, State of Oregon. The virtual meetings will take place on the 8th day of June at 6:00 pm. The meetings can be live streamed on the City's website at: www.redmondoregon.gov/government/city-council/council-meeting-info/meeting-agenda-minutes-and-video. A copy of the supplemental budgets may be inspected or obtained on or after June 1 st, 2021 by contacting the City at www.redmondoregon.gov/how-do-i/contact-us.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
CHISTOPHER BRADLER has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF THOMAS HAROLD RATCLIFFE BRADLER, Deceased, by the Circuit Court, State of Oregon, Deschutes County, under Case Number 21PB01878. All persons having a claim against the estate must present the claim within four months of the first publication date: May 25, 2021 of this notice to Driscoll Law, LLC, at 532 SW 13th St, Suite 100, Bend, Oregon 97702, ATTN: Corey P. Driscoll, or they may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the court records, the Personal Representative or the following-named attorney for the Personal Representative.
Corey P. Driscoll OSB #154933
Driscoll Law, LLC
532 SW 13th St, Ste 100 Bend, OR 97702 541-706-1529

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
GARRY A. FINLEY has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF LINDA KAY FINLEY, Deceased, by the Circuit Court, State of Oregon, Deschutes County, under Case Number 21PB02934. All persons having a claim against the estate must present the claim within four months of the first publication date: May 25, 2021 of this notice to Driscoll Law, LLC, at 532 SW 13th St, Suite 100, Bend, Oregon 97702, ATTN: Corey P. Driscoll, or they may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the court records, the Personal Representative or the following-named attorney for the Personal Representative.
Corey P. Driscoll OSB #154933
Driscoll Law, LLC
532 SW 13th St, Ste 100 Bend, OR 97702 541-706-1529

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