

Hello,

I'm writing as a resident of Portland, OR to share my experiences with police and their uses of force over the past couple of months.

I've been in attendance at a few protests over the last couple of months, both protests where there was no police presence as well as events where there were dozens of officers present in riot gear.

I wanted to share one experience I had near the Justice Center downtown - on June 7th I met with other Portlanders/Oregon residents to show up and protest the use of force by the police department. From my view, I didn't witness any individual cross the fence that was set up by police to act as a barricade, nor did I witness any life threatening projectiles thrown in the direction of the officers. PPB announced via loudspeaker that the event had been declared a riot, and we were advised to vacate in a singular cardinal direction. I began exiting the park and walking in the direction as requested. After making it about a block and a half, they got on the loudspeaker again to announce that we should actually be heading in the opposite direction that they had previously announced, and that those not following orders would be subject to use of force. I decided to continue in the initial direction as to not have to cross back through the park, which turned out to be a good choice because I heard from those who had not yet vacated that the use of gas and batons came shortly after making this change in demand.

After hearing the PPB testimony today (with Lovell's glaring absence) I am horrified at the lack of foresight by the PPB. Their explanation of the 'group' that they are in pursuit of is completely misinformed, and seems like a complete waste of time. Perhaps beside the point of this particular topic, but I think their utter ignorance to what is going on in the streets of Portland as demonstrated by their use of the word ANTIFA to describe what is actually a diverse group of unaffiliated protesters is appalling. Putting lethal weapons in the hands of individuals who have no understanding or recognition of what is being demanded of them by the citizens of Portland is irresponsible. They were unable to concretely explain how their team is determining what is or is not a riot. They were unable to justify use of force as a means of protecting Portlanders, but rather as a means of protecting themselves (despite being fully equipt with riot gear, and with the option to step inside the building if their primary/singular concern is safety of fellow officers) Why are they being trusted to use CS gas or LRAD when they cannot concretely explain under which circumstances these weapons would be used? Why are they permitted to meet acts of violence such as water bottles being thrown or firecrackers with the use of rubber bullets (which are lethal) and military grade weapons that cause permanent hearing loss and brain damage?

I urge you to take action to protect the civilians of this city, who are being physically attacked and hunted down by a group of undertrained and fearful people, who have been given deadly weapons and the authority to use them without clear guidelines or plans of action. They have been using these

weapons and crowd control tactics for months now, and when asked to simply explain when and why they are used they were unable to provide a concrete or logical explanation, and I find that to be unacceptable.

Respectfully,

Bria Murry

Portland, OR