

Hello,

I am a suburban housewife, youth recreational soccer coach, & PTO president, that came to Portland on July 22 to see what was really going on. When Ted Wheeler was in the crowd. I thought they were going to kill him there was so much anger.

The BLM people told him he was at the wrong protest, and go over to the Feds fence.

The crowd, that hungered for Wheeler's blood, let him go. Let him go. We are non-violent. That doesn't mean we are peaceful.

There is no reason to gas the entire city block because we are shaking a fence. There is no building worth what was done to people like me on July 24 and 25th. I was sitting in the park and talking to a new friend and we were assaulted with tear gas. Why? If there were some kind of riot going on that justified that action at that time, how could I possibly have been getting ready to exchange phone numbers with someone, while sitting in a chair, in a park, in Portland?

We were just feet away from the street itself, and I felt I had to run for my life. Why? Because I've seen them come out when we are just standing there, and ruin the health of everyone there.

I don't see why, but I can tell you, there are Moms out there with wounds that won't heal from rubber bullets striking flesh. We all have PTSD from these nights.

I talked to two women with "Press" on their shirts last night as they were coming home. They were exhausted. It was after 3am. They were talking about how much trauma they have to try to process now, while still being women, reporters, travelers, humans.

The PPB (and DHS) are terrorizing us with these "less than lethal" crowd-control measures.

Please, please help us de-escalate the situation by removing the possibility of us being shot at any time. Please let us just organize in the public park.

We WANT people to come and listen. We DON'T want people to be afraid to come. We are organizing because we are people who believe All Lives Matter. It's convenient to start with Black Lives Matter, but that's just the opening this group is offering us.

However you come to conclude that "All Lives Matter", (down to the birds and squirrels who have left the city), doesn't matter. Maybe it's because God tells us so.

I was asked to leave my house by my husband on July 27 because I wanted to keep helping protect the homeless and most vulnerable and it doesn't work to be coming and going. So, I found myself 'on the street' suddenly. Where did I go? Portland. Where I'm understood, and I knew there was food, and people who will die to protect me.

This is just the beginning of people coming here to live on the street. Evictions are going to go up and up until we get COVID under control or drastically change how we house people.

We need to be talking about housing 1,000 homeless people, including mostly women and children in the next three months. (and connecting unhired teachers with students needing personal instruction. Small groups of 4 or 5 kids, the whole year.)

Either we prepare and absorb the economic disruptions that are coming this fall/winter, or we pretend someone else is going to save us, and that hasn't been working out so far. And if we end up with even 200 homeless people here in three weeks, even that many will tip the balance into chaos.

Please support all of these bills. For my kids, your kids, and all the kids coming soon.

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Renee Ramey