

Dear Senator Franklin,

I had the privilege of meeting you the other night, at a peaceful protest. I came with Senator Heard, and greatly appreciated the history you shared with us.

I have a unique perspective on this, due to my experiences. I have spent about 10 nights at the protests, observing and photographing. I have faced the threat of multiple assaults and even had one guy try to stab me. I also had a group surround me and openly threaten me, with one man shouting "We're going to beat you, then I'm going to Fuck you." I should add that I have not instigated any of these responses. It was nearly due to me documenting the things going on.

I will also add that I have been investigated by the Police too, because they were also curious why I was taking pictures of them and they were curious of my intent.

On the night that we spoke at the protest, I would agree that it was mostly peaceful, although there was a group burning a stack of Bibles and American flags, in order to get a response from the Feds. On other nights, I have seen multiple acts of violence towards the police, where the cops have exercised much restraint.

I should add that I am a US Marine combat veteran. I served in Iraq and had to at times do crowd control. We used many methods including CS gas, flash bangs, dogs, sound weapons,, brute force, rubber bullets and OC spray(mace). Most of these "less lethal" alternatives, had some serious consequences, to innocent people. We also had cases where "the enemy" would videotape, and publicize these clashes, out of context; similar to some of what is happening in Portland.

Considering what I have seen in Portland and my previous experience as a highly trained, elite member of our military, I recommend against the use of CS gas, but highly recommend the use of Olestrien Capsium (OC/mace) spray. This seems to be the "safest" method of controlling a "mob" of people. OC spray has no permanent affects, yet it is a powerful deterrent. Recently, I watched some "Antifa" guys taunting a "back the Blue" guy. He had a concealed gun which the Antifa guys exposed, by pulling up the other guys shirt. They were intimidating the Concealed Handgun License guy, trying to get him to use it. I was concerned someone was about to get shot, so I brandished a large bottle of OC spray and told them to break it up. I never had to spray them, but the threat was enough to de-escalate the situation. It is also something that only has a limited range, preventing the "wind drift" associated with CS gas. I believe that OC spray is the most peaceful and effective deterrent at our disposal.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

James Hieb