

My name is Janell B and I live in the downtown area of Portland. I am emailing you in regard of the police brutality I've witnessed in the last two months since June. My daughter wanted to stand up for BLM after the tragic death of George Floyd so I began to attend protests with her to ensure her safety. Soon I grew to see myself as an observer and witness, reporting back to those I know and through social media what I was seeing that it become clear was not being shared through the press.

I've witnessed nonviolent gatherings being declared an unlawful gathering on countless occasions, resulting in tear gas and impact munitions being deployed indiscriminately on citizens. One particular instance stands out.

It was the evening of June 18th and my daughter and I arrived around 8:30 pm at the Justice Center to hold up our signs in support of BLM. There was a very small group of approximately twenty present. We stood opposite the building at the curb, I standing and my daughter sitting on the curb, with several others doing the same down the length of the block. After some time a commotion from the south corner of the building caught our attention. At this time a fence was installed around the building along the edge of the sidewalk. A young woman had begun yelling at the building in anger over the killing of George Floyd, throwing her fists in the air and then jumping up at the fence kicking it. Immediately from the shadows several officers in riot gear appeared, and the girl began running along the length of the fence, moving north towards us. As she crossed in front of the spot we were located, with the width of the street between us, she began to scream out horribly and at the same instance my daughters chest and my legs were hit by the shrapnel of whatever she was shot with, in the middle of her back on bare skin, it being a warm night, her wearing a top that did not come down to her waist. As she screamed out in pain and shocked surprise, everyone rushed to her side along with a medic. She had been shot as she ran away by what must have been a paint ball (I collected several pieces of casings that had hit my daughter and I) that left a yellow mark in the middle of her lower back, along with another mark that would grow to become a large severe wound within minutes. This wound was similar in appearance to what I would later see posted as the wounds caused by impact munitions. We believed that to be the case at the time it happened, but seeing the later images confirmed it for me.

This young girl must have been between the ages of 16-18, Black, 100 pounds at most barely reaching 5 feet tall. She was in no way a risk, she was shot after she yelled and kicked at fence. She was shot in the back on bare skin. The officers were protected behind the fence, coming out of the shadows at ground level were she had kicked the fence, but officers also appeared from up higher, on the steps. It must have been a police officer from that vantage point that shot her, being able to shoot at her retreating back from above the height of the fence.

I have pictures that I took of her kicking the fence, the remnants of the casings of what was shot at her, and a final shot when another younger woman who present at the time went up towards the fence to demand why they had shot the other girl. This photo shows this other young woman standing in the street and an officer in the shadows above, standing at the Justice Center entrance - this prior to the elevated area of the Justice Center being boarded up so that the entrance was visible.

This has forever changed what I believe police are capable of. Prior to this I had adhered to the "few bad apples" theory of problems within police departments. But no longer. Nothing this young girl did warranted their response and she posed zero threat to them. What I would go on to see, police officers calling a gathering unlawful, justifying unlawful aggressions on protestors, medics and legal observers, and then read the department's texts or statements in the press about an event afterwards, seeing no correlation between their report and the truth observed with my eyes. From this point on when I hear

the "facts" from a police report I will know these words can not be trusted. The police have not adhered to the restrictions not to use tear gas, followed by violating the restraining orders to not attack press or legal observers. Clearly, the department must be defunded because the police have demonstrated over and over again these last two months that their agenda is not to serve and protect but rather to intimidate, harass and injure.

Thank you for hearing my testimony. Defund the police and redirect those funds into needed community services. And please, no more crazy talk of using hoses with water instead of tear gas on protestors. How about taking a stand that no aggression on nonviolent protestors, exercising their first amendment right, is warranted. Let's not move the clock back 60 years, let's move it forward to a new way of doing business that actually improves our communities rather than injures them.

Janell B