

Testimony

Hello! My name is Kelly John Conner and I am a citizen of Portland, Oregon.

Over the last 3 months I have witnessed nightly violence perpetrated by the Portland Police Bureau, Federal Agents and State Law enforcement. Portland police, especially, seem to have it out for the citizens then are meant to protect. I have seen unlawful and unnecessary use of force in the form of physical assaults on protesters in compliance with officers demands, people in wheelchairs and people by themselves who posed no threat to the assaulting officers, who were clad in full riot gear. I have seen, as a regular practice on the part of PPB, non resisting detainees held down by 5 or 6 officers as another one intentionally maces them directly in the eyes. I have seen protesters, local business owners, uninvolved passers by and local residents in the neighborhoods police are storming through assaulted and subject to arrest over simply asking police to not CS gas their neighborhoods. What's more, police seem to take a certain glee in their abuse. I have seen many officers cracking jokes at the expense of their victims before and after assaulting them.

This isn't even mentioning PPB's collaboration with far right extremist groups like the proud boys and patriot prayer. I have witnessed, on several occasions, violence being perpetrated openly by members of these groups within eyeshot of Portland Police officers, only for them to either ignore the perpetrator, intimidate the victim, or some combination of the two.

The conclusion I have come to is that The Portland Police are a violent, armed terrorist organization with a deep sense of entitlement and perhaps a deeper contempt for the communities they are meant to protect. I am not familiar with all the policies being discussed, but I will say that it is an urgent priority for Oregon to defund and dismantle the Portland Police, and hold them accountable for their flagrant abuses of power and the terror they bring to Portland's communities.

Regards,

KJ Conner