

How long will Democrats pretend the chaos in Portland is normal?

by Kaylee McGhee, Commentary Writer |
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Sunday morning's headlines brought news of yet another death.

During a protest in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, a man was shot and killed as a large group of Black Lives Matter protesters clashed with Trump supporters in the streets, according to police. The victim was wearing a hat bearing the insignia of a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer, according to the *Associated Press*. Authorities aren't sure who shot the man, or whether the shooting was directly related to the fights that broke out, but we know one thing for sure: this man's death is the direct result of the unrest that has plagued Portland for months.

When are Portland's leaders going to wake up and admit that something is desperately wrong in their city? This continued violence is not normal, but city officials have allowed it to become so. Rioters continue to loot Portland's businesses and destroy private property, setting cars on fire, attempting to burn down federal property, and encouraging others to do the same. Dozens of these perpetrators are arrested every week. Yet the city allows protesters to return to the streets every night.

This cannot continue. Multiple people have lost their lives because of these protests; dozens more have had their livelihoods destroyed. And the one time law enforcement was able to contain the unrest, Oregon Democrats demanded that the federal officers assisting Portland police leave.

By refusing to disavow and put down these riots forcefully, Oregon's Democratic officials are enabling and even encouraging them to continue. And the longer this unrest lasts, the more deaths there will be. To say that it is past time the city gets this situation under control would be an understatement. Perhaps control looks like allowing law enforcement officers to use forceful, preventative tactics to disband large crowds. Or maybe the city should begin mass-arresting those who violate a curfew to deter continued demonstrations.

Either way, the city needs to do something. It has needed to do something for months. And until Portland's officials step up and take a stand against the violent agitators who are running their city into the ground, they should consider themselves complicit in this man's death.