

Submitter: Sandy Chung
On Behalf Of: Jennifer
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I accompanied my teenaged daughter to a protest that was advertised as a family friendly march to peacefully show support of black and brown citizens who are often targets of police violence, in downtown Portland, in June after George Floyd's murder. Police asked us to depart, but their directions were unclear. There were rumors of white supremacist gangs attacking anyone who was leaving, people were staying to panic. We had pepperballs and tear gas shot indiscriminately into the crowd. As we tried to safely leave, my daughter has a congenital heart defect and I was unsure what damage to her lungs and heart the tear gas would cause, I witnessed police run after people leaving and in one case beating a kid that looked little older than my own with a baton.

The police terrorized a city that was coming out to voice its opposition to violence and discrimination by those who swear to protect and serve our community. We don't call the police anymore. I've put away the police cars my youngest received as gifts.

Very little has actually been done to hold the police accountable. My daughter will never attend another protest. She doesn't believe the police will ever be held accountable. She doesn't think people coming together to stand up for others who are being mistreated will change anything. I urge you to restore her trust in justice. Don't weaken the small gains we were able to realize. Give our children hope that a better and fairer future is possible.