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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF OREGON

PORTLAND DIVISION

JOSEF HABER, an individual; **PATRICK GARRISON**, an individual; **JENNIFER NICKOLAUS**, an individual; **CHRIS WHALEY**, an individual; **JADE STURMS**, an individual; on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF PORTLAND, a municipal corporation; **MAYOR TED WHEELER**, in his individual capacity; **PORTLAND POLICE OFFICER DAN DiMATTEO**, in his individual capacity; **PORTLAND POLICE OFFICER CHRIS LINDSEY**, in his individual capacity; **PORTLAND OFFICER JASON CHRISTENSEN**, in his individual capacity; **PORTLAND POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL POOL**, in his individual capacity; **PORTLAND POLICE OFFICER JUSTIN RAPHAEL**, in his individual capacity; **PORTLAND POLICE OFFICER KERRI OTTOMAN**, in her individual capacity; **PORTLAND POLICE OFFICERS JOHN DOES 1-50**, in their individual capacities,

Defendants.

Civil No. 3:17-cv-1827

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a class action, pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution, for Defendants' unlawful actions against Plaintiffs and Plaintiff Class in Portland, Oregon, on June 4, 2017.

2. On June 4, 2017, Portland Police Bureau Officer Defendants Dan DiMatteo, Chris Lindsey, Jason Christensen, Michael Pool, Justin Raphael, Kerri Ottoman, and John Does 1-50 (collectively "Defendant PPB Officers"), under the supervision and direction, or the

approval, of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler (“Wheeler”), detained and/or arrested approximately 200-250 peaceful protesters and other bystanders or observers (“Plaintiff Class”) on Southwest Fourth Avenue in between Southwest Morrison Street and Southwest Alder Street. After ordering protesters to leave Chapman Square and head north on Southwest Fourth Avenue, Defendant PPB Officers corralled the protesters—and anyone else who happened to be in the area—in the street, and did not allow them to leave. This police tactic is known as “kettling.” For almost an hour, people were seized by Defendant PPB Officers, with no access to food or bathrooms. The members of the Plaintiff Class, including the individual named Plaintiffs, were allowed to leave only after Defendant PPB Officers photographed each individual and recorded their identifying information. Wheeler and Defendant PPB Officers’ actions violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution, for arresting the members of the Plaintiff Class without individualized probable cause, or, alternatively, detaining the members of the Plaintiff Class without individualized reasonable suspicion.

3. Defendant City of Portland (the “City”) has a policy and/or a custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion. The City’s policy and/or the City’s custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without probable cause and/or individualized suspicion violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution.

4. Plaintiffs seek declaratory relief and/or a jury finding of liability that Wheeler’s and Defendant PPB Officers’ actions on June 4, 2017, in seizing the members of the Plaintiff Class for over an hour and then requiring identification and photographing individuals before they were allowed to leave violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution.

5. Plaintiffs also seek declaratory relief finding that the City’s policy, and/or its custom and practice that amounts to a policy, of kettling protesters without individualized

probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution.

6. Plaintiffs seek an award of compensatory or, at least, nominal damages for violation of their constitutional rights on June 4, 2017, and reasonable attorney fees.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(a)(3) because Plaintiffs' claims arise under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

8. This court has supplemental jurisdiction over the Oregon Constitution claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because the claims are so related to the claims in the action within the original jurisdiction of this Court that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.

9. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants are residents of this District and the events or omissions giving rise to this lawsuit occurred here.

THE PARTIES

10. Plaintiffs Josef Haber, Patrick Garrison, Jennifer Nickolaus, Chris Whaley, and Jade Sturms ("Plaintiffs") attended various protests on June 4, 2017, and were seized by Defendant PPB Officers on Southwest Fourth Avenue and Southwest Morrison Street. Plaintiffs desire and plan to participate in future protests and demonstrations in Portland, Oregon.

11. The City is a municipal corporation located in Multnomah County, Oregon. The Portland Police Bureau ("PPB") is an agency of the City and under the City's direction and control.

12. Defendant Wheeler is the mayor of Portland, Oregon. As mayor, Wheeler is the chief executive of the City and oversees all City agencies, including the PPB. Wheeler is also the City Commissioner assigned to oversee the PPB and, therefore, has oversight of and is responsible for the PPB.

13. Defendant PPB Officers Dan DiMatteo, Chris Lindsey, Jason Christensen, Michael Pool, Justin Raphael, Kerri Ottoman, and Portland Police Officers John Does 1-50 are PPB Officers that were personally involved in effecting the kettle on June 4, 2017, or directed and/or supervised the implementation of the kettle on June 4, 2017.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

14. The City has a long history of an engaged citizenry and is a hub for First Amendment activity, with numerous public marches and large public gatherings each year. Public assemblies enrich the fabric of Portland by providing a means of expression when people feel unheard through other methods, a beacon of solidarity and connection for people impacted by the issues subject to protest, a vehicle to spark conversations and debate about important issues, and an opportunity to form community and connections, leading to constructive engagement, organizing, and action.

15. Portland also has a history of its law enforcement agency—PPB—clashing, often violently, with protesters. The PPB has become increasingly militarized in its tactics, deploying droves of officers wearing tactical dress, including helmets, carrying batons, and full-body riot shields (“riot gear”), and using chemical agents as crowd-control weapons. These crowd-control weapons include tear gas, pepper-spray bullets, and flash-bangs (which create a loud explosion and a very bright flash of light). On multiple occasions, PPB officers have, without warning, deployed chemical agents against protesters, as well as non-protesting bystanders, members of the press, and patrons of nearby businesses.

16. The PPB, at the direction of the City, has a policy and/or a custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion. For example, in November 2014, PPB officers kettled demonstrators who were protesting a grand jury decision not to indict Ferguson, Missouri, Officer Darren Wilson in the August 2014 shooting death of an unarmed black man, Michael Brown. And on January 20,

2017, PPB Officers kettled demonstrators who were protesting the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

17. Since the presidential election in November 2016, Portland has seen an increasing number of protests, coupled with an increasing number of violent clashes between the PPB and protesters. And the interaction between police and protesters has escalated at each event, culminating in the events that are at issue in this lawsuit.

JUNE FOURTH RALLY

18. On June 4, 2017, a pro-President Trump rally was held in Terry Shrunken Plaza in downtown Portland, Oregon (“Trump Rally”). The Trump Rally was organized by Joey Gibson, founder of an organization called Patriot Prayer. Patriot Prayer events typically attract a coalition of white supremacists, anti-government militia groups, and online agitators known as the “alt-right” or Neo-Nazis. Patriot Prayer received a permit from the federal government to hold the rally at Terry Shrunken Plaza.

19. In response to the Trump Rally, three counter-protests were organized: labor unions organized in front of the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, a group called Rose City Antifa organized a protest in Chapman Square, and a coalition called Portland Stands United Against Hate organized a protest at City Hall (collectively “Counter Protests”). Unaffiliated individuals also joined to counter protest the Trump Rally and filled in with the various Counter Protests. Tensions between the Trump Rally and the Counter Protests were particularly high because the Trump Rally came only days after a self-proclaimed white-supremacist stabbed three men, killing two, on a MAX train after the men stood up to him when he was insulting a group of Muslim women.

20. Plaintiff Patrick Garrison attended the protests as a legal observer for the ACLU of Oregon. As a legal observer, Garrison attended the protests as a neutral observer, and videotaped protester and police interactions. Throughout his attendance at the protest, Garrison

was wearing a bright-blue ACLU Legal Observer vest that clearly identified him as a legal observer.

21. Plaintiffs Jenny Nickolaus and Chris Whaley are wife and husband and own a restaurant in Southeast Portland. They attended the Counter Protests to support the various counter-protest groups and stand against hate and white supremacy.

22. Plaintiff Josef Haber owns a martial arts and acupuncture studio in Northeast Portland. As the descendent of German Jews, he wanted to stand against hate, oppression, and racism. Since the November 2016 presidential election, Haber was motivated to be more involved in politics and political demonstrations, but was unable to do so because he contracted shingles in his eye. By June 4th, although Haber was still not completely recovered, he was well enough to attend the Counter Protests. Because of the shingles virus and damage to his eye, at the time of the June 4th protests, Haber had to take medication at specified times.

23. Plaintiff Jade Sturms works at a design firm in Northeast Portland. She attended the Counter Protests to support the various counter-protest groups and stand against hate and white supremacy.

24. The Trump Rally was scheduled to start at noon and end at 4:00 p.m. From the beginning of the rally, there was a large law enforcement presence. Officers from the PPB, the Multnomah County Sherriff's Office, and the United States Marshals Service were patrolling and present at the protests. A majority of the officers were in full riot gear and created a perimeter, surrounding Terry Shrunken Plaza and the Trump Rally. The officers had their backs to the Trump Rally, facing the Counter Protests. Officers kept the two groups separated from each other, and would not let protesters from either side cross the police line.

25. Just before the Trump Rally was scheduled to end, law enforcement officers ordered the counter-protesters and others, including Plaintiffs, to leave Chapman Park. Because of the large number of people in the park, it took time for the assembled counter-protesters and others to leave. Police continued to order that Chapman Park was closed and that people needed to leave. As the counter-protesters were leaving the park, without any warning, the police began

shooting tear gas and pepper spray bullets into the crowd. The police tactics created a scene of confusion and fear. Plaintiffs and the others assembled there continued to exit the park, and followed police orders to move north on Southwest Fourth Avenue toward Southwest Morrison Street.

26. As Plaintiffs and the others who had assembled in Chapman Park marched, law enforcement ordered them to stay on Southwest Fourth Avenue and ordered that they keep moving north. Plaintiffs and the others followed the orders and marched peacefully, chanted slogans, and did not engage in acts of violence.

27. When Plaintiffs and the other members of the Plaintiff Class reached Southwest Morrison Street, Defendant PPB Officers—Defendants DiMatteo, Lindsey, Christensen, Pool, Raphael, Ottoman, and Does 1-50—clad in full riot gear, surrounded them, blocking all exit points. When Defendant PPB Officers kettled Plaintiffs and the other members of the Plaintiff Class they had no individualized reasonable suspicion or individualized probable cause to detain or arrest them.

28. During the June 4, 2017 protests, Wheeler supervised and monitored the protests from the PPB's command center. On information and belief, Wheeler ordered and directed Defendant PPB Officers to kettle the members of the Plaintiff Class or, alternatively, approved of Defendant PPB Officers' kettling of the members of the Plaintiff Class without individualized probable cause and/or individualized reasonable suspicion.

29. At first, Defendant PPB Officers ordered the members of the Plaintiff Class to disperse, but the members of the Plaintiff Class were surrounded by Defendant PPB Officers and were not permitted to leave. The Plaintiff Class members were confused and scared. When some Plaintiff Class members attempted to leave through the parking garage on Southwest Fourth Avenue, one or more of Defendant PPB Officers shot them with pepper-spray bullets. By that point, if not before, it was clear to Plaintiff Class members that they were not free to leave the kettle.

30. Defendant PPB Officers eventually announced that the Plaintiff Class members were “detained for purposes of investigation of disorderly conduct.” When the announcement was made, Defendant PPB Officers had no individualized probable cause or individualized reasonable suspicion to detain or arrest any of the members of the Plaintiff Class. Defendant PPB Officers kept the Plaintiff Class members in the kettle for almost an hour without access to food or bathrooms and, in most cases, water.

31. Eventually Defendant PPB Officers ordered the members of the Plaintiff Class to line up and present photo or other identifying information. Defendant PPB Officers would not let the members of the Plaintiff Class leave until each individual was photographed by Defendant PPB Officers and had his or her information recorded.

32. On information and belief, Wheeler ordered Defendant PPB Officers to not allow the members of the Plaintiff Class to leave until photographed or, alternatively, approved of Defendant PPB Officers’ actions in doing so. Once the members of the Plaintiff Class complied with Defendant PPB Officers orders, they were ordered to leave the area, and they complied with that order.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

33. Under Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and other similarly situated people that were caught in Defendant PPB Officers’ kettle on June 4, 2017.

34. The Plaintiff Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. The class consists of approximately 200-250 individuals who were caught in Defendant PPB Officers’ kettle, either because they had attended the Counter Protests or because they were on Southwest Fourth Avenue when Defendant PPB Officers blocked all exit points.

35. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact affecting the class as a whole. The questions of law and fact common to the class predominate over any questions affecting solely individual members of the action, which include whether

Wheeler and Defendant PPB Officers violated Plaintiffs' and Class Plaintiffs' right to be free from unreasonable seizure under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution.

36. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class. Plaintiffs, like all other members of the Plaintiff Class, were detained and/or arrested by Defendant PPB Officers in the kettle on June 4, 2017, without any individualized reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

37. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Plaintiffs have retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation and the representation of individuals in Oregon.

38. This case is appropriate for class certification under Rule 23(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because prosecuting separate actions by individual plaintiffs against some or all of Defendants would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual class members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants.

39. This case is appropriate for class certification under Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because Defendants have acted on grounds that apply generally to the class—specifically, all individuals detained and/or arrested in the kettle on June 4, 2017—so that final declaratory relief and/or a finding of liability on behalf of the Plaintiff Class is appropriate.

40. A class action is the appropriate and superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Prosecuting separate actions would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants. Allowing this lawsuit to proceed as a class action will permit the class of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would entail.

41. To the extent that any member of the class could afford individual litigation, it would be unduly burdensome to the judicial system. Concentrating this litigation in one forum

will promote judicial economy, consistency, and parity among the claims of the individual members of the class.

42. Plaintiffs know of no difficulty that would be encountered in the management of this litigation that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(AGAINST DEFENDANT PPB OFFICERS AND WHEELER)

**Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution
and 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

43. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations above.

44. Wheeler and Defendant PPB Officers are liable in their individual or personal capacities to Plaintiffs and Plaintiff Class for compensatory damages or, alternatively, nominal damages, for the violation of their rights to be free from unreasonable seizure under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments.

45. Plaintiffs and Plaintiff Class are entitled to declaratory relief against Wheeler and Defendant PPB Officers declaring that one or more of them violated Plaintiffs and Plaintiff Class's rights to be free from unreasonable seizure and assault under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(AGAINST DEFENDANT PPB OFFICERS AND WHEELER)

Article I, Section 9, of Oregon Constitution

46. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations above.

47. Plaintiffs and Plaintiff Class are entitled to declaratory relief, declaring that Wheeler and Defendant PPB Officers violated Plaintiffs and Plaintiff Class's right to be free from unreasonable seizure under the Oregon Constitution, Article I, Section 9.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY)

Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution
and 42 U.S.C. § 1983

48. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations above.

49. The City has a policy and/or a custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion. Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory relief declaring that the City's policy and/or custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY)

Article I, Section 9, of Oregon Constitution

50. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations above.

51. The City has a policy and/or a custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion. Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory relief declaring that the City's policy and/or custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion violates Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

52. Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and Plaintiff Class request:

1. An Order certifying this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, certifying the named Plaintiffs as class representatives and designating Steven M. Wilker, Sarah M. Einowski, Alexander M. Tinker, Megan R. Reuther, Mat dos Santos, and Kelly Simon as class counsel;

2. A declaration that Wheeler and Defendant PPB Officers' acts violate the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution;

3. A declaration that the City's policy and/or custom and practice that amounts to a policy of kettling protesters without individualized probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 9, of the Oregon Constitution;

4. An award of compensatory damages, or alternatively an award of nominal damages, for the violation of their rights to be free from unreasonable seizure under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments;

5. An award of reasonable attorney fees, costs, and disbursements (including expert fees and expenses) incurred herein in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and for its state law claims in accordance with *Armatta v. Kitzhaber*, 327 Or. 250 (1998), and *Swett v. Bradbury*, 335 Or. 378 (2003);

6. Such other and further legal and equitable relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED the 15th day of November, 2017.

TONKON TORP LLP

By: /s/ Steven M. Wilker

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