

Justice Is Everyone's Business

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Seeking to Restore Integrity and Public Trust in Our Justice System

June 23, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

When you were sworn in as Governor you promised to uphold the U.S. and Oregon constitutions. Both guarantee a person accused of a criminal act a prompt and open trial. Both prohibit the imposition of excessive bail. And both guarantee freedom of speech and press without fear of prosecution. These guarantees are being openly violated in Oregon. I write to you to ask you fulfill you promise to uphold the U.S. and Oregon constitutions, and to take appropriate action to correct the situations.

As has been recently shown, sometimes civilian policemen behave as if they are soldiers in a battlefield, and use inappropriate force against civilians. The deaths of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks and Brionna Taylor are examples. All were put to death without due process of law.

Here is a graphic example of what happened when our own Salem police used inappropriate force and behaved like soldiers on a battlefield. Luckily, this victim survived!

The facts: On January 22, 2019, the Salem SWAT Team used inappropriate force when -- for four hours -- it bombarded a residence at 1050 Summer Street, NE with incendiaries. Ostensibly, the SWAT Team was trying to persuade a single (unarmed) man, Kenneth Ketchem, to exit the house. Police records show that they shot tear gas grenades in the specific area where they suspected Ketchem was sheltering, seeking to escape the melee. By launching half-pound grenades at him at 300 mph, they violated specific manufacturers instructions. The results? This photo shows Ketchem's intestines oozing through the rupture in his abdomen. The doctors who performed life-saving surgery removed the 40 mm projectile from Ketchem's torso.



After the fires abated, a police detective removed spent SWAT incendiary debris from the fire scene. The police asked the Fire Marshal's office to conduct a "criminal" investigation of the fires. That is, before the investigation, the Fire Marshal's office was informed the fires resulted from a *criminal* act -- arson.

The police detective who removed the SWAT Team's incendiary debris from the fire scene escorted a Deputy Fire Marshal (DFM) through the wreckage. The DFM was told where to look and what she was seeing -- and that the SWAT incendiaries had no part in starting the fires. She adopted the detective's statements as her own and wrote her report.

A BIC cigarette lighter was found in the debris under the back deck of the residence. The Fire Marshal's report ignored the four hours of incendiary SWAT bombardment as a cause of the fires and

speculated the fires might have been started by "a lighter." Ignoring the four (4) hour SWAT bombardment, the District Attorney has charged Ketchem with starting the fires.

Ketechn insists he did not start any fires. He wants a jury trial, but the District Attorney's Office has been pressuring him to accept a plea bargain. Ketchem has been held in jail without trial for 17 months on \$1 million bail.

How did the incident start? According to several eye witness statements captured in police reports, Ketchem had earlier been chased through Salem streets by a man who was brandishing a gun. Ketchem said he went to the house at 1050 Summer Street NE seeking shelter, and was admitted by the homeowner. Police records also indicate the gun-toter himself called police and triggered the SWAT Team deployment.

Why didn't Ketchem come out? Apparently he was terrified of his pursuers. But let's give him a trial and find out! But now, in June 2020, 17 months after the incident, Kenneth Ketchem has not been brought to trial.

One of the people responsible for this situation is the District Attorney, Paige Clarkson. She knows the police removed SWAT ordinance from the fire scene before the Fire Marshal inspection and that her case rests on tampered evidence. She ignores compelling evidence that SWAT Team incendiaries caused the fires. Moreover, she has not charged the man who chased Ketchem with a drawn gun on city streets, despite the eyewitness statements captured in police reports.

Judge Thomas Hart, a former prosecutor, was assigned to the case. Please go to our webpage: At a *pre-trial* hearing, you can hear Hart contemptuously addressing Ketchem and pronouncing him guilty.

We published these details in *Everyone's Business*. In another pre-trial hearing, in open court, on the record, Judge Hart threatened *Everyone's Business* with prosecution for "interfering with the prosecution."

I have written fully documented complaints to the Oregon State Bar Association concerning the conduct of Paige Clarkson, and to the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability concerning the conduct of Judge Thomas Hart. I would be pleased to send you copies, if you desire.

Both the Oregon State Bar Association and the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability have said they see no problem with any of this. One must then ask, "who is running the justice system in Oregon?"

I write to ask you to stop the grave injustices which are being carried out right now, in clear violation of the constitutions you promised to uphold.

I enclose a print-out of a seven-part expose of the problem, entitled: "The Siege on Summer Street." Or you may access it on-line at <http://www.everyones-business.org/SummerStreet/index.html>

Thank you for your kind attention. Please let me know what you are doing to correct the situation and I will inform my readers.

Sincerely,

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