



July 23, 2020

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
121 SW Salmon Street, Ste. 1400
Portland, OR 97204

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
United States House of Representatives
911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representative Blumenauer,

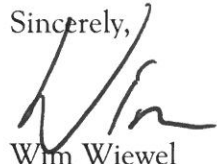
As we are living in chaotic times, I will be brief. I'm writing to thank you for your quick action in calling for a congressional investigation into the use of federal law enforcement officers and their subsequent use of force against largely peaceful protests in downtown Portland. Many in my community are deeply distressed by the actions of these federal officers, as well as by the actions of local law enforcement. But the impetus for this letter is the experience of one member of our community, Associate Professor of History and Department Chair Maureen "Mo" Healy.

Professor Healy, whose area of expertise is twentieth century European history, attended a protest rally to stand in solidarity with those calling for racial justice and civil rights. At that rally, Healy was shot in the head by a "rubber bullet" and had to be taken to the hospital. Thankfully, she is recovering. But the injury should never have happened. So much of the brutality of the response should never have happened.

I'm appending a statement Professor Healy issued on July 22, both as part of the historical record of this moment, and so that you have her experiences in her own words.

We are all navigating precarious times, and I thank you for staying vigilant in the pursuit of answers and accountability by an administration increasingly untethered by norms, laws, or decency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wim Wiewel', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Wim Wiewel

President

Lewis & Clark College

**STATEMENT FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MAUREEN HEALY
DISTRIBUTED JULY 22, 2020**



Since June, I have been attending peaceful protests in Portland neighborhoods in support of Black Lives Matter. I have gone with family and friends.

I am a 52-year-old mother. I am a history professor.

I went downtown yesterday to express my opinion as a citizen of the United States, and as a resident of Portland. Of Oregon. This is my home. I was protesting peacefully. So why did federal troops shoot me in the head Monday night?

I was in a large crowd of ordinary folks. Adults, teens, students. Moms and dads. It looked to me like a cross-section of the City. Black Lives Matter voices led the crowd on a peaceful march from the Justice Center past the murals at the Apple store. The marchers were singing songs. We were chanting. We were saying names of Black people that have been killed by police. We observed a moment of silence in front of the George Floyd mural.

I wanted to, and will continue to, exercise my First Amendment right to speak. Federal troops have been sent to my city to extinguish these peaceful protests. I was not damaging federal property. I was in a crowd with at least a thousand other ordinary people. I was standing in a public space.

In addition to being a Portland resident, I am also a historian. My field is Modern European History, with specialization in the history of Germany and Eastern Europe. I teach my students about the rise of fascism in Europe.

By professional training and long years of teaching, I am knowledgeable about the historical slide by which seemingly vibrant democracies succumbed to authoritarian rule. Militarized federal troops are shooting indiscriminately into crowds of ordinary people in our country. We are on that slide.

It dawned on me when I was in the ER, and had a chance to catch my breath (post tear gas): my government did this to me. **My own government.** I was not shot by a random person in the street. A federal law enforcement officer pulled a trigger that sent an impact munition into my head.

After being hit I was assisted greatly by several volunteer medics. At least one of them was with Rosehip Medic Collective. To take shelter from the teargas I was hustled into a nearby van. Inside they bandaged my head and drove me several blocks away. From there my family took me to the ER. I am grateful for the assistance, skill, and incredibly kind care of these volunteer medics.

We must take this back to Black Lives Matter. Police brutality against Black people is the real subject of these peaceful protests that have been happening in my city and across the country. What happened to me is nothing. It is nothing compared to what happens to Black citizens at the hands of law enforcement, mostly local police, every day. And that is why we have been marching. That is why I will continue to march.