

Democratic mayors align with rioters and looters against police

by [James A. Gagliano](#)

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Fifteen Democratic mayors have signed a [letter](#) addressed to Trump administration officials demanding the removal of federal agents from their cities or the cessation of impending deployments. On Monday, the letter was sent to Attorney General William Barr and acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf. The mayors and cities named should come as no surprise: Portland, Seattle, [Washington, D.C.](#), Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Jose, Oakland, Phoenix, Tucson, Sacramento, Denver, Boston, Philadelphia, and Kansas City, Missouri. Some have become the epicenter of protests that have devolved into riots, anarchy, looting, vandalism, and cowardly attacks on law enforcement.

The letter charges, “federal law enforcement is being deployed for political purposes.”

Actually, the White House (and much of the country) is simply exhausted and disgusted by seeing progressive politicians so beholden to their leftist political constituencies that they dare not call out those causing the mayhem. They also dare not express support for their demonized police agencies. But what these mayors do have intestinal fortitude for are worthless gestures calling out the president for attempting to restore law and order in cities under siege.

That’s not reckless hyperbole or demagoguery. It’s actually backed up by facts on the ground.

On June 11, [Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan](#) (a former United States attorney no less) quipped that an “autonomous zone” (known as CHAZ or CHOP and occupied by anarchists) had a “block party atmosphere” and would portend a “summer of love.” She ordered police to vacate and abandon the local precinct, which protesters subsequently destroyed. Durkan even taunted President Trump on [Twitter](#) with: “Seattle is fine. Don’t be so afraid of democracy.”

Seattle is fine. Don’t be so afraid of democracy. <https://t.co/o26PkJnYhA>

— Mayor Jenny Durkan (@MayorJenny) [June 12, 2020](#)

Then, two [murders](#) occurred inside the zone, forcing her to reconsider her capitulation to the mob. She soon ordered the dismantlement of the protest zone. You know, because negotiating with anarchists and accepting mob rule is how you prove you’re not “afraid of democracy.”

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser has also publicly [clashed](#) with the president and gave tacit approval for Black Lives Matter protesters to occupy a [“Black House Autonomous Zone”](#) and proudly had “Black Lives Matter” [painted](#) in huge letters on a public street leading to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who was not a signatory to the letter but is a proud member of the resistance, participated in a similar [street-painting stunt](#), along with noted racial-provocateur Al Sharpton, on July 9. The street art, which stretched along a section of Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, directly across from Trump Tower, required city workers to [close the street](#) to be completed. Apparently, it now requires a [team of NYPD cops](#) to protect it from vandals.

If Nero fiddled while Rome burned, de Blasio worked a paint roller and redirected precious police resources as his city descended into violence and chaos. For a beleaguered department already dealing with [New York state's disastrous new bail reform laws](#), the emptying of jails and prisons due to COVID-19, and virulent anti-cop rhetoric that has metastasized into attacks on police across the country, de Blasio epitomizes the tone-deaf, progressive politician who prefers coddling the arsonists, thugs, and bullies while they take full advantage of the [open season on cops](#). Pandering, sympathetic oratory about “peaceful protesters” being attacked by police, and pretending his city isn’t returning to 1970s levels of crime, blight, and lawlessness are de Blasio’s hallmarks. He is whistling through the graveyard, which encourages more mayhem.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler wins “best in class” among letter signatories for his nonsensical refusal to admit what is occurring in his city right now. He is Kevin Bacon’s preppy “Chip Diller” character in *Animal House* as the Faber College homecoming parade descends into chaos, advising “Remain calm. All is well!” But, as the rest of us witness the televised, nightly horrors in Portland, we know better. The city has long been a safe haven for antifa goons. So it's not surprising that Wheeler would be less than appalled by nearly two months’ worth of violence and anarchy by crowds of nearly 1,000 as they brazenly vandalize and attempt to destroy the Hatfield federal courthouse and attack the federal officers assigned there to defend it.

At least three federal officers assigned to protect the courthouse have been [attacked with lasers](#) aimed at their eyes. They may never recover their vision. Rioters have attempted to remove barricades and storm the building. Some even attempted to [barricade officers inside the courthouse and then set it ablaze](#). But to Wheeler and his progressive colleagues, it is Trump and the federal presence and police usage of [“really abhorrent tactics,”](#) that antagonized the preternaturally “peaceful protesters” into an escalation of violence. Utter nonsense.

Did these tendentious mayors all sleep through the past few months? Have they not been witness, in their very own cities, to the widespread violence, destruction, and chaos that has led to innumerable lives lost and incalculable millions of dollars of destroyed businesses, properties, and monuments? One economics professor calculated that the [financial damage incurred](#) from the Los Angeles riots in 1992 “cost almost \$5 billion in economic activity measured in lost sales over 10 years.” He acknowledged that “if people don’t feel safe where their businesses are, then they don’t feel a need to rebuild.”

And that is what will happen in places such as Seattle, New York, and Portland. Democrat-run cities are typically where the [highest crime](#) and [insolvency](#) are found. And when defiant, progressive mayors allow their cities to be held hostage by criminal miscreants and then spurn federal law enforcement deployed to restore order, irony will drip when they clamor to be at the front of the line, hands outstretched for federal monies to assist in their rebuilds.

If the radical, progressive movements of the 1960s are instructive, we know that violence and disregard for the rule of law are their bedrock tactics. These methods are antithetical to a real democracy. The people in this country want to be safe in their cities. Posturing to score cheap political points among the anti-Trump crowd won't help restore law and order, won't aid police reform efforts, or help bridge the national divide.

Maybe the Seattle mayor and her cohorts just need a gentle reminder: Don't be so afraid of democracy.

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