

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3rd, 2021

Contact: Chris Collins
(503) 218-4172

OREGON CONCRETE SOLUTIONS RESPONDS TO COMMISSIONER HARDESTY AND CITY OF PORTLAND'S THREATS OF RETALIATION

Tualatin, Oregon – Chris Collins, the owner and managing member of Oregon Concrete Solutions, LLC provides the following response to Commissioner Hardesty and the City of Portland's threats to retaliate against Oregon Concrete Solutions for its support of the "Thin Blue Line" Flag, which dates to the early 1900's and demonstrates support to law enforcement for their tireless efforts in keeping the peace across our city:

"For the past 2 years, Oregon Concrete Solutions has had the honor of performing ADA-compliant curb ramp repairs for the City of Portland, in order to bring the City of Portland's curb ramps into compliance with the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Additionally, Oregon Concrete Solutions has performed exemplary work for the City of Portland for nearly 9 years performing City of Portland mandated sidewalk repairs. We have only received positive responses, praise, and accolades for the work we have performed for the City of Portland.

During this same period, and while performing work for the City of Portland, Oregon Concrete Solutions' vehicles have proudly displayed the 'Thin Blue Line' flag, which demonstrates support to law enforcement for their tireless efforts in keeping the peace across our city.

Unfortunately, some residents of Portland mischaracterized the Thin Blue Line flags on Oregon Concrete Solutions' vehicles as white supremacist symbols, and alerted Portland City Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty who, capitalized on the opportunity to further her noble agenda to be seen as the defender of racial injustice rather than taking the opportunity to have a conversation about diversity, inclusion, and repair. It is a travesty that a woman of her stature would use her power in such a reckless, uninformed manner. It is our responsibility as a community to not allow ourselves or others to corrupt ideals or imagery from their original meaning of good intent.

If Commissioner Hardesty or the City of Portland had bothered to take the simple step of contacting me regarding the Thin Blue Line flags, and what they represent, they would have come to realize that I greatly appreciate the position Commissioner Hardesty takes in her mission to end racial injustice. I too would be outraged if my daughter of African American descent was attacked for her race or ethnicity. It has been an incomprehensible year of pain and tragedy. For Portland, political unrest, riots, and racial tensions are out of control. For us, we endured the loss of our gentle, kind, beautiful 24 year old daughter to a terminal illness 9 months ago and we are still mourning that loss. Now we are faced with defending ourselves from someone who is supposed to be for the people. We at Oregon Concrete Solutions are the very people Commissioner Hardesty is supposed to be working for.

Had Commissioner Hardesty bothered to get to know me, rather than let her own unconscious or conscious personal biases get in the way of communication, she would have learned about me, my family, and my history and known that I would never advance the evil agenda of white supremacy. Unfortunately, Commissioner Hardesty chose to take another route – A closed minded, defaming route. A route guided by the very negligence, prejudice, and personal bias that

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she says she fights against. Commissioner Hardesty and the City of Portland decided to make assumptions about me, and my company based on their own emotional biases and preconceptions. Commissioner Hardesty and the City of Portland appears to have decided politicking was more important than communicating or getting a job done right for the city and its residents.

Due to Commissioner Hardesty defaming my name and company, I have been informed by the City of Portland that Oregon Concrete Solutions' contract with the City of Portland will not be renewed when it expires in August. I have been told that the sole reason Oregon Concrete Solutions' contract with the City of Portland will not be renewed is the presence of the Thin Blue Line flags on my company's vehicles without ever having been asked to remove them.

Once again, Commissioner Hardesty and the City of Portland have succumbed to the mob at the expense of the public's safety. This time, people with mobility and sight disabilities who rely on curb ramps and safe sidewalks to be able to access the City of Portland will pay the price.

I want to thank the overwhelming number of people who have reached out to me and my company to show your support. I have received a tremendous number of emails, phone calls, and social media responses expressing support for Oregon Concrete Solutions. We have received support not just locally, but nationally and internationally. I am truly humbled.

If you would like to voice your support for Oregon Concrete Solutions to City of Portland leaders, they can be reached at 503-823-4000 or cityinfo@portlandoregon.gov

Finally, as of Wednesday June 2nd 2021, I have sent 2 emails requesting a meeting with Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty, and PBOT Director Chris Warner to open a line of communication regarding this matter. I am hopeful they will respond in a timely and professional manner as I believe it is not too late to repair our long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship.”

Oregon Concrete Solutions, LLC is a locally owned, locally operated contractor licensed with the Oregon Construction Contractor's Board. Oregon Concrete Solutions, LLC is located in Tualatin, Oregon and has been in business since 2008.