

**Statement for the Record of Rep. W. Gregory Steube**  
**House Committee on the Judiciary**  
**Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security**  
**March 8, 2022**

**Leftist Violence in the Western District of Washington**

For weeks during the summer of 2020, blocks of downtown Seattle were forcibly taken over by radical elements of BLM, Antifa and other left wing terrorist organizations. The Capitol Hill Occupied Protest, known as CHOP, was an insurrection. It was an attempt to overthrow the legitimate governing authority of Seattle, Washington. During the course of CHOP's existence there were murders, rapes, arsons and assaults. Residents and businesses were driven from their property.

Despite this lawlessness, DOJ's response has been minimal. DOJ's inaction is especially egregious when compared to the heavy-handed overreaction to the January 6 protests. Only a handful of defendants have been charged in connection with the CHOP, compared to over 700 charged in connection with January 6. In fact, prominent and well identified ringleaders of the CHOP have not been charged.

Furthermore, it has been widely reported that DOJ has attempted to identify nearly every protestor who entered the Capitol on January 6. And yet DOJ has not attempted to identify those who committed crimes in the illegal CHOP zone in Seattle.

Additionally, nearly every press release issued by DOJ about cases relating to summer 2020 protests contains language distinguishing the suspect charged from the rest of the "peaceful protestors." Yet DOJ uses no such qualifying language when talking about January 6 cases. There is no explanation for this discrepancy.

It is abundantly clear that DOJ's reaction to political protests and violence depends entirely upon whether DOJ agrees with the message. Leftist violence is given a free pass and swept under the rug. This is shameful and a dereliction of the duties assigned to DOJ.

**Crime in Liberal-Run Cities**

The testimony we heard today from Madeline Brame highlights the fact that residents of big, liberal-run, crime-ridden cities have much more to fear from violent criminals than from the police. Daily life has changed as the result of the on-going crime surge. Cities like New York City will not be a place that parents can raise children if soft-on-crime policies stay in place.

As discussed by Charles Fain Lehman, crime rates are on the rise across the country. From murder to shop lifting, there has been a dramatic increase, primarily in big, liberal-run cities. Yet local leaders in these cities often act like it is not happening at all and continue to advocate for defunding the police. One type of crime that has become increasingly common in urban areas

involves smash-and-grab shoplifting gangs that overwhelm stores. And it is clear that unarmed municipal workers cannot stop this sort of crime the way armed law enforcement officers can.

These same leaders also advocate for bail reform. A particularly awful example of crime in the wake of bail reform occurred in New York just last week. A man smeared feces across the face of a woman waiting on the subway. The suspect in this case had reportedly been previously arrested over 20 times and was awaiting trial on other charges. Yet after being arrested for this new crime, he was again released without having to put up bail. This is the end result of liberal bail reform programs.