

## MORE DEFENDANTS NAMED IN CIDER RIOT LAWSUIT AGAINST PATRIOT PRAYER

**Additional individuals involved in Mayday violence and harassment have been identified.**

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PORTLAND, Ore. – More defendants have been named in a lawsuit against far-right protestors Patriot Prayer brought by Portland cidery and pub Cider Riot. The suit names Patriot Prayer founder Joseph “Joey” Gibson as well as Ian Kramer, Christopher Ponte, David Willis, Mackenzie Lewis, and Matthew Cooper, and seeks one million dollars in damages for the business and its owner, Abram Goldman-Armstrong.

Goldman-Armstrong is suing Patriot Prayer and named individuals for negligence, trespass, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and now intentional interference with economic relations. The lawsuit follows an incident on May 1<sup>st</sup> when Patriot Prayer gathered in the street outside Cider Riot in northeast Portland. Joey Gibson used social media to encourage his followers to intimidate, harass, make false accusations, and threaten Cider Riot, its owners and its landlord. Patriot Prayer members harassed patrons of the pub. Christopher Ponte pepper-sprayed the crowd. David Willis also directed people to show up at Cider Riot to cause violence. Ian Kramer hit a patron over the head with a baton, knocking her unconscious. Mackenzie Lewis and Matthew Cooper battered individuals. This is only one instance of Patriot Prayer harassment, intimidation, and violence against Cider Riot:

Abram Goldman-Armstrong, owner of Cider Riot, said:

“When Cider Riot opened our tasting room, we were committed to being a safe space for everyone in the community to gather. I want people to feel safe and comfortable visiting our cidery, but after years of threats and the latest attack, I’ve heard from people who are scared to visit because of the constant harassment from Patriot Prayer and Joey Gibson. We’ve had to suspend our social media accounts due to the constant threats to our staff and customers, and we are unable to get word out about our internationally acclaimed ciders.”

Goldman-Armstrong has had to increase security at Cider Riot and give staff additional safety training in an effort to protect them and their customers.

Juan Chavez of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, the attorney representing Cider Riot, said:

“Our community has endured a lot from Patriot Prayer and Joey Gibson over the last couple of years. It is necessary and important that we push back against the violence and fear that they are bringing to Portland. I’m proud of my client for being willing to stand up to hate by bringing this suit.”

Amy Herzfeld-Copple, Deputy Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Western States Center, said understanding groups such as Patriot Prayer in context is vital:

“Patriot Prayer is just one manifestation of the serious threat that white nationalism and white supremacy pose to our community here in Portland. This lawsuit is a way in which Portlanders can stand against hate.”

Zakir Khan, Board Chair, CAIR-Oregon, said communities across Oregon are enduring the impact of white nationalist and white supremacist violence:

“This violence is creating both direct trauma to survivors and vicarious trauma to the communities that survivors live in. This is a time where survivors need all support that we can offer them which is why this litigation is so important.”

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