Thousands Demonstrate Peacfully, 4 Arrested Monday at Capitol

Local News

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OLYMPIA, Wash. - Troopers stood by as about 3000 people demonstrated peacefully during day one of the current special legislative session. Demonstrators arrived and left over the course of the day, with the peak number present at any one time about 2000.

Out of the 3000 total demonstrators, it was necessary to arrest only 4. Another 30 received trespass warnings for refusing to leave the Capitol building after closing hours. They will not be allowed to be on any Capitol Campus property for the next 30 days.

"We saw a large number of people come to the Capitol and demonstrate peacefully," said Lt. Mark Arras, the WSP incident commander. "We're disappointed that it was necessary to arrest a small group that arrived fully intending to cause a disturbance."

The first arrest was made as a small sub-group disrupted a hearing by the Ways and Means Committee in the Cherberg building. 32-year old Jesse D. Hagopian of Seattle was arrested for disorderly conduct and booked into the Thurston County Jail.

As the Capitol building was being closed for the day, a group of troopers was rushed by demonstrators. Troopers who could not retreat used a TASER on three individuals to move them back. No arrests were made in that incident. The trooper removed the cartridge containing barbs from his TASER and momentarily touched the unit's contacts to three people. This provides a short duration shock, not the full five seconds associated with a normal TASER deployment.

In a similar incident a few minutes later at another location, a State Patrol Sergeant received a bite wound to his arm, and an employee of the Department of Enterprise Services received a rib injury. Both were treated by medics from the Olympia Fire Department and returned to duty.

Arrested in that incident were:

- A male whose identity has not yet been verified for obstructing officers, resisting arrest, felony assault.
- 26-year old old Kellen Linnell of Lynnwood for felony assault, failure to disperse, obstructing officers and resisting arrest.
- 24-year old Zachary Payment of Graham for both misdemeanor and felony assault, failure to disperse, obstructing officers and resisting arrest.

All three were arrested for investigation of felony assault on troopers and failure to disperse.

Later, 30 people were issued trespass warnings after refusing a lawful order to disperse. The Capitol building routinely closes at 5:30 p.m. Three orders to disperse were provided before troopers carried them out.