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Complaints against O'Hara pile up

Allegations have doubled since September as Frey weighs a new term for MPD's chief.

By LIZ SAWYER and DEENA WINTER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The number of misconduct complaints filed against Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara has doubled since September, bringing to 30 the total num-

ber filed during his three-year tenure.

That's more than the total filed against the previous four chiefs combined. Not one of the prior chiefs — Amelia Huffman, Medaria Arradondo, Janeé Har-teau and Tim Dolan — had more than four complaints in their

roughly 30-year careers at the Minneapolis Police Department.

So far, eight of the complaints — which can come from within the department or from members of the public — have been closed without discipline by the Office of Community Safety, while 22 remain open.

None of the details of the complaints has been made public, as so far none has resulted in formal reprimand.

But the new batch of complaints comes at a precarious time for O'Hara: His three-year term as chief ended in December, and Mayor Jacob Frey has not yet formally nominated him for another term, even though he has put forward three of his cabinet members.

The mayor's office says the city charter gives him until August to nominate a chief.

O'Hara said he's not notified

when complaints are filed and doesn't have details about their contents, but he said there's a process to review all complaints and that he fully supports it.

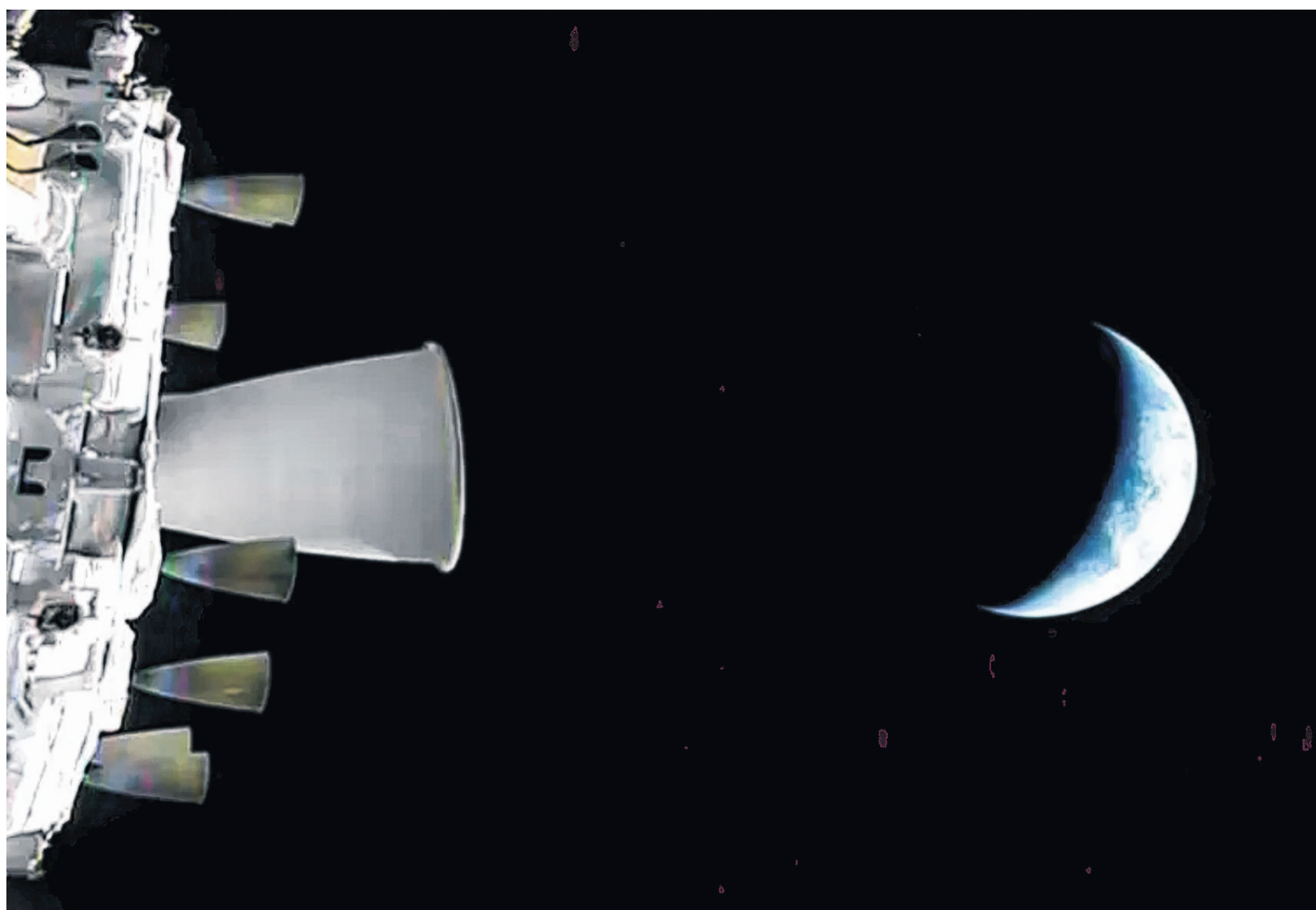
"I take my role as chief very seriously and remain focused on providing the leadership and stability needed to rebuild the department and meeting community expectations," he said in a statement to the Minnesota Star Tribune.

In September, O'Hara was the subject of seven open and seven closed complaints, according to data on the city's officer complaint history dashboard.

After state and federal investigations found Minneapolis police engaged in discriminatory policing for decades, the former Newark, N.J., police officer was touted as a change-maker capable of transforming

SEE O'HARA ON A5 »

View from space is 'absolutely phenomenal'



After a successful launch, astronauts on NASA's Artemis II mission were on their way Thursday to the far side of the moon, farther than any humans have traveled from Earth, seen above as a crescent. The mission aims to clear a path for more exploration, a new lunar landing, a sustained human presence on the moon, and journeys farther out into the solar system. **Story, A3**

NASA via the Associated Press

Property values fall a 5th year downtown

But the total value of Minneapolis' tax base up after 2-year decline.

By DEENA WINTER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Downtown Minneapolis property values fell for the fifth straight year in 2025, although the total value of the city's tax base increased slightly after two years of decline.

The shifts, revealed in the city's 2026 Assessment Report released this week, spell bad news for homeowners: They will continue to bear a greater share of the property tax burden as commercial values drop.

Steve Brandt, president of the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation, said downtown is still "the big anchor weighing things down for everyone." But he said he was surprised to see commercial values drop in neighborhoods because those numbers had been relatively steady.

"It's obviously bad news that the city hasn't really recovered in its tax base," Brandt said. "It's particularly bad news for people who own homes because the burden is continuing to shift to us."

Minneapolis City Council Member Linea Palmisano said during a recent council meeting that the trends, combined with the rising property tax

SEE PROPERTY ON A5 »

4.6%

Increase in median single-family residential sale price

13.7%

Decrease in downtown commercial property values

56%

Homeowners' share of Minneapolis tax capacity

Bounty hunters charged with felonies in protester clashes

Men accused of drawing weapons, firing pepper balls in Minneapolis.

By ELLIOT HUGHES
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Two bounty hunters seen in viral social media videos pointing weapons at protesters and firing less-lethal munitions are now facing felony charges in

Hennepin County.

Garrett C. Willis, 28, and James R. Willis, 54, both of Ardmore, Okla., were charged Tuesday with two felony counts each of threats of violence. If convicted on both counts, they face up to six years in prison and \$13,000 in fines.

The charges stem from two incidents on March 3 in Minneapolis, as the two bounty hunters made an arrest in the

Phillips West neighborhood and later dropped the person off at the Hennepin County jail downtown. Nonviolent protesters disrupted the hunters on both occasions, leading to tense confrontations.

Bounty hunters, or fugitive recovery agents, are contractors who apprehend fugitives who have posted bail through a bond agency but fail to appear in court. There are no licenses

needed to operate as a bounty hunter in Minnesota, although they are bound by state laws that apply to all citizens.

In a phone interview with investigators, James Willis admitted that he and everyone on his team carried pepper ball pistols made to look like real firearms; that he fired a pepper ball gun at the feet of protesters; and that he and Garrett Willis pointed weapons at protesters.

At the time, the federal government's Operation Metro Surge was winding down, and concern had emerged that bounty hunters — who sometimes dress similarly to ICE agents — were helping enforce the crackdown on immigration.

"There's a lot of rules when it comes to bounty hunting in the state of Minnesota. Pulling guns on people is one of them. That's

SEE BOUNTY ON A5 »

First formal speech since starting Iran war falls flat

President Trump insists, "The hard part is done."

By KEVIN RECTOR
The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's meandering speech on the Iran war late Wednesday — in which he paired promises of a swift exit with new threats of escalated bombing and denied responsibility for the Strait of Hormuz — did little to assuage U.S. allies and world markets concerned about the

conflict's ongoing disruptions to the global oil supply.

Stocks dropped after markets opened Thursday and oil prices soared, with the price of U.S. crude oil jumping more than 10%, to above \$110.

In the wake of the speech, diplomats from more than 40 nations — not including the U.S. — met to strategize on how to lift Iran's continued stranglehold on the strait, the vital oil corridor that the U.S.-Israeli war drove Iran to restrict but which Trump on Wednesday

SEE TRUMP ON A8 »



ALEX BRANDON - Via Getty Images

Speaking at the White House on Wednesday evening, President Donald Trump told allies to "build up some delayed courage."

Trump fires Bondi as AG, taps Blanche temporarily

She was criticized for targeting Trump's foes.

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHELLE L. PRICE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that Pam Bondi is out as his attorney general, ending the contentious tenure of a loyalist who upended the Justice Department's culture of independence from the White

House, oversaw large-scale firings of career employees and moved aggressively to investigate the Republican president's perceived enemies.

The departure followed months of scrutiny over the Justice Department's handling of files related to the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation and failed efforts to meet Trump's unwavering demands for criminal cases against his adversaries. As Trump's own frustrations mounted, he began privately discussing firing

SEE BONDI ON A8 »

TOP NEWS

Ex-Homeland Security leader Kristi Noem's top aide is under scrutiny in contracts inquiry. **A5**

NATION & WORLD

A Danish warship sunk in 1801 by Britain's Adm. Horatio Nelson has been discovered. **A2**

STATE & REGION

Nearly two years after flooding shut down the Soudan Mine, tours are set to begin again. **A4**

SPORTS

It's not easy, but Jim Souhan tries to heal the rift between Twins fans and ownership. **C1**

BUSINESS

At 4.4%, Minnesota's January unemployment rate is the highest it's been in five years. **D1**

VARIETY

The Boss saluted American ideals and Minnesotans at his Target Center concert. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Hershey's will return to classic recipes to make its Reese's products after Peanut Butter Cup inventor's grandson complained. **D1**

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