

On Fox News, Clackamas County's Tootie Smith doubles down on defiance of Oregon COVID-19 restrictions

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A Clackamas County commissioner went on Fox News on Monday, announcing on a national stage her intentions to hold a large Thanksgiving, despite the governor's orders limiting social gatherings to try to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Tootie Smith, the chair-elect for the Clackamas County board of commissioners, told conservative talk show host Tucker Carlson that she was angry at Gov. Kate Brown's temporary freeze to stop the spread of COVID-19, which puts a pause on all social gatherings of more than six people, in-person dining and closing of certain business, starting Wednesday.

The governor said unlike earlier in the pandemic, she will now call on police to encourage compliance with her restrictions. That could include fines of up to \$1,250 and jail time if violators don't comply.

Smith, a Republican, told Carlson the Democratic governor's orders are "a travesty," and called the ability to hold protests, while not allowing people to hold large social gatherings, "hypocrisy." Portland has had months of nightly protests, which have largely tapered off the past few weeks.

Smith bemoaned the state requirements to wear masks in public places, as well as social distancing and other state-issued COVID-19 guidelines.

"We are adults, we do not need to be treated like second-rate slaves," Smith said.

KGW News first reported Smith's comments.

Smith posted a message on Facebook on Saturday, saying she planned to hold Thanksgiving celebrations with "as many family and friends" as she could find.

As chair-elect of the commission, Smith will play a significant role in structuring the county's pandemic response. She said she believes coronavirus restrictions are more damaging than they're worth, pointing to increasing rates of child abuse, domestic violence and depression.