



PORTLANDJACL

SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

November 8, 2017

Contact: Marleen Wallingford, President

The Portland JACL urges the Portland Police to pull out of the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The Portland JACL is a civil rights organization that was formed in 1928. We want to remind the mayor and city council of what our city and government did 75 years ago. Our lives were changed forever when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on a Sunday morning on December 7, 1941. By 2:30 in the afternoon in Portland, the FBI swarmed over the Japanese neighborhood and began arresting our community leaders: businessmen, doctors, newspapermen, Buddhist priests, and Japanese language teachers. A total of 110 individuals were taken by the FBI from the Portland area. They were placed in places the Multnomah County and Rocky Butte Jails. None of these people were charged with a crime and for several days their wives and families had no idea what had happened to their husbands and fathers. Some families were not reunited for two years. Obviously the FBI had been investigating the Japanese community and had come up with lists of “suspicious” people before Pearl Harbor happened. The government identified these Japanese as a national security threat solely because of their ancestry despite the fact that surveillance had found no sabotage or subversive activity. General DeWitt, the commander in charge of the defense of the west coast proclaimed, “The very fact that no sabotage occurred to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken.” Wartime hysteria fanned the flames of fear and hatred after the attack at Pearl Harbor. False rumors sensationalized by the media or vote-seeking politicians overwhelmed and contradicted the government’s own research, a fact kept secret until the 1970’s. When America felt threatened, we strayed from our democratic ideals under the guise of military necessity.

On 9/11 America had another catastrophic attack. Thousands of New Yorkers lost their lives because of by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda. Suddenly we are facing a new enemy. We cannot let prejudice and fear guide our government policies. Crime data shows that far-right extremists are behind far more plots and attacks than Islamist extremists. Our local police department should be protecting our citizens and not conducting investigations that conflict with our local sanctuary laws. We should not be using our scarce resources to enforce federal laws. We are urging that the Portland Police does not participate in the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Our history is valuable lesson for all American. We should not repeat the mistakes of the past as we confront challenges of Islamophobia, hate violence, the rise of the white supremacist movement and the pervasiveness of institutional racism that criminalizes communities of color.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Marleenwong <marleenwong@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Testimony to city council

Dear Karla, The topic should be cooperation between federal and local law enforcement on Nov. 8. Is that ok to change title?
Marleen Wallingford

Sent from my iPhone

Request of Marleen Wallingford to address Council regarding cooperation between federal and local law enforcement (Communication)

NOV 08 2017

PLACED ON FILE

Filed OCT 31 2017

MARY HULL CABALLERO Auditor of the City of Portland

By [Signature] Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		