

37424

Establish parameters of cooperation between Portland Police Bureau and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force

If you wish to speak to Council, please print your name, address and email

Name (PRINT)	Address and Zip Code (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ BRANDON MAYFIELD		
✓ DAN HANDELMAN	PORTLAND COPWATCH	
✓ SEEMAB HUSSAINI	UNITE OREGON/CAIR OR	
✓ JEP KING	PORTLAND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES OF AMERICA	
✓ CAROL LANDSMAN	JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE	
✓ EMORY MORT	PORTLAND'S RESISTANCE	
✓ HARVEY THURSTAD	VETERANS FOR PEACE CHAPTER 72	
✓ JOE WALKER		
✓ Lightning Super AI Humanity		
Tiffany Hammer	1867 SW 14th Ave	

~~State Budget~~
 Date 5-8-19 ~~Meeting~~

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Terrorism Task Force**

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	Name (PRINT)	Address and Zip Code (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ 11	Charles Bridge	orange	
✓ 12	Maggie		
✓ 13	Jim Kennedy	Portland JTCL	
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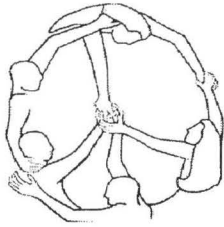
My name is Jep King, co-chair of the Racial Justice Working Group of the Portland Democratic Socialists of America. Our organization has about twelve hundred Portlanders including immigrants, people of color and LGBTQ+ community members.

We would like to thank Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly for their votes to withdraw from the Joint Terrorism Task Force. But we are concerned that the resolution being considered today does not live up to that commitment. The resolution still allows the Police Chief to assign officers to the JTTF and expands the scope of investigations to include "threats to life". Portland DSA calls on commissioners to restrict participation in the JTTF by, at least, amending the proposed resolution to change from "terrorism **and/or** threats to life" to "terrorism **and** threats to life", so that "threats to life" alone are not enough to call in the JTTF.

"Threats to life" is a broad phrase that could be misused for cooperation to target protesters. The ACLU has argued against the similar phrase "acts dangerous to human life" in the Patriot Act since it could be used to classify acts of civil disobedience as domestic terrorism. Also, we should restrict the City's cooperation with the JTTF because of the racist biases in JTTF agencies. The FBI invented the category of Black Identity Extremists to target black protesters, and it shows bias against Muslim immigrants.

This city has a painful history of racism. In 1942, the Portland City Council passed a resolution urging the federal government to proceed with the mass internment of Japanese Americans. Today, ICE and DHS are building new internment camps. As of last October, there were over 12,000 children from Latin America caged up in Federal detention. Our own city houses an ICE facility and two detention facilities for immigrant children that we know of. So when the City gives resources to the JTTF, it continues its history of supporting racist imprisonment.

City of Portland did the right thing by voting to withdraw from JTTF. But by supporting this resolution that broadens the scope of our participation in the task force, the Portland City Council risks repeating its contribution to racist crimes against human rights.



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37424

**PEACE AND JUSTICE WORKS/PORTLAND COPWATCH TESTIMONY ON THE
JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE May 8, 2019**

Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Hardesty and other members of Council

I have been a member of Peace and Justice Works and Portland Copwatch for 27 years since its founding. Our groups' combined mailing lists reach roughly 2000 people. We coordinated the campaign demanding the two part time officers pull out of the Joint Terrorism Task Force with support from 48 other organizations and Brandon Mayfield, a victim of FBI misconduct.

We thank the Council for incorporating most of the concepts from the campaign's April 17 letter, which was signed by 20 groups and Mr. Mayfield. The Resolution requires annual reports and a Bureau Directive that has to comport with the terms of the Resolution.

However, the document you are considering today does not sufficiently "limit the ways in which the PPB can get involved with FBI terrorism investigations, as defined by federal law and the JTTF's mission statement," as we asked.

In meeting with Nicole Grant from the Mayor's office, we raised the concern that the current language allowing investigations for terrorism "and/or threats to life including hate crimes" is too broad. Ms. Grant said the JTTF now investigates hate crimes and school shootings, neither of which are necessarily terrorist acts. This represents mission creep by the Terrorism Task Force. If such a policy change occurred, we are not sure the City's previous cooperation was consistent with the 2015 resolution allowing officers to work with the JTTF.

We also pointed out that there are many threats to life and hate crimes committed in Portland each year, and thus the officers, who previously worked on a handful of cases, could be working on dozens or hundreds of cases. Ms. Grant stated that was all right since each one has to be approved by the Chief. However, the people who wrote to you and came into these chambers demanding withdrawal from the JTTF did not expect the PPB's involvement to increase after the act of withdrawing. That is an absurd end-run around the original Resolution.

We also raised the concern that there is no elected representative approving officers' engagement in these investigations, which is one reason the City pulled out of the JTTF in 2005 and this year: lack of oversight by the Police Commissioner.

Perhaps the greatest question is why it would be necessary to leverage the resources of the FBI, ICE and other federal agencies as well as the State Police and other local jurisdictions to investigate "threats to life including hate crimes." Ms. Grant did not have a meaningful answer to that question.

Finally, I started out by talking about our group's history and breadth of support because Ms. Grant, with no objections by other staff members at our meeting, stated that people who come to City Council do not represent "the community." I find this to be disrespectful and insulting. Is this true of the Japanese American Citizens League, Unite Oregon and the ACLU, who were also at the meeting, not to mention the League of Women Voters and dozens of other groups who represent thousands of people in the Portland metro area who support withdrawal? Many of these groups come from and/or work with the people who are going to be directly affected by the FBI's ham-fisted ways of conducting investigations based in part on people's religious, ethnic and political affiliations and dragging the Portland Police into the mud with them. Our voices matter. People who show up at City Council don't necessarily do it because "they have the time to do so," as was insinuated, sometimes they have to rearrange their work schedules to be here. We expect better from Council staff, we expect more from this Resolution, and we do not want to have to be back here after malfeasance has occurred saying we told you so. Please amend this Resolution before passing it.