

From: [Andi Smith](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Public comment regarding Feb 1-2 agenda
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 2:48:14 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Andi Smith and I live with my family in a multifamily building in John's Landing. I am writing to express that I think it's irresponsible for the city to approve \$1.5 million for a new plane for PPB and for shotspotter tools for law enforcement. The residents of Portland repeatedly ask for PPB's budget to be lowered and even when council approved it, PPB still somehow got their money. We do not have to approve every line item they request and, in fact, the residents of Portland as well as City Council, have made it clear we're done with writing blank checks to law enforcement. I ask that the mayor and the current council reject these requests and further cut the PPB budget.

These tools will be used to surveil the general public, not to catch criminals. They will not be able to help the general public in any real capacity either. PPB may consider it to be preventative, but there are other ways to prevent crime that don't involve surveilling the general public. These planes will pollute our air and contribute to climate change. We don't need them.

If what we care about is public safety, a massive effort to create more shelter beds and more affordable housing (which includes multi-bedroom units allowing for people with kids and multigenerational housing), redesigning roads (especially intersections and crosswalks) to make them safer for pedestrians and cyclists, a massive effort to make healthcare accessible to all would help more than giving police more ways to surveil us and to pollute our city. We must begin to imagine public safety in a way that looks at our whole system, not at law enforcement alone.

Once again, I ask that City Council and the mayor reject requests from PPB for a new plane and for shotspotter.

Sincerely,
Andi Smith

From: [Aaron VanderMeulen](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda 103 - Authorize Purchase of Patrol Airplane
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 9:25:49 PM

Dear Portland City Mayor and City Council Members,

As a resident of Portland, I do not support the authorization of purchasing a new patrol airplane and I hope that you also follow in that stance.

The city of Portland is facing many difficult challenges that have only increased the past few years. I have seen crime increase and homelessness become rampant. However, I remain hopeful that we can work together to solve these issues.

The purchase of a new police airplane is not on the list of a high priority item that will help the residents of this city. Do I disagree with the purchase forever? No. I do however believe the money needed for this purchase does not align with what is needed now.

To be fiscally responsible, one must decide where funds go and what is necessary. For me and those I talk with, it is to help restore the prosperity of downtown, reduce violent crime from guns and other weapons, and strive to eliminate homelessness.

I cannot fathom how money spent on an aircraft will reduce crime at bus stops and MAX stations. I cannot see how this will help commuters who daily experience the fallout from the non-existent police to enforce basic road rules. How will this reduce traffic fatalities from those just trying to cross the street?

Violent crime and weapons are not reduced by air patrols. Violent crime stems from desperation and social decay. Homelessness drives people towards desperation. Not being able to afford living in the city drives desperation. We as a city and a community need to focus on the root cause.

Once progress is made on the high priority issues, then and only then can we decide what else make financial sense in the long run. To do this, just like every household trying to make it day to day, is the only way. Keep that in mind as you make your decision.

Thank you for taking the time to hear your fellow citizens

Regards
Aaron

(South Portland)

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
103-01	Jake	Dockter
103-02	Marc	Poris