

Portland City Council Agenda Written Testimony
Document Number 2025-028

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	Anonymous	Oppose	Portland Police has not been transparent over the last few reports surrounding its interactions and work with the FBI JTTF. Specifically Oregon State Police has a Trooper assigned to the Portland FBI JTTF and Portland Police do not disclose to City Council the Bureaus collaboration with that Trooper who is a part of the JTTF.	No	02/14/25 3:50 PM
2	Anonymous	Oppose	This city trusts the police to fully disclose their relationship and interactions lol	No	02/17/25 11:51 PM
3	League of Women Voters of Portland			Yes	02/18/25 5:37 PM
4	Ethan Krow, ACLU of Oregon			Yes	02/19/25 3:56 PM
5	Portland Green Party and Pacific Green Party	Support with changes		Yes	02/19/25 7:16 PM



League of Women Voters of Portland

PO Box 3491, Portland, Oregon 97208-3491

503-228-1675 • info@lwvpdx.org • www.lwvpdx.org

Date: February 18, 2025

To: Members of the Portland City Council
Elana Pirtle-Guiney, president

From: League of Women Voters of Portland
Carolyn Buppert, president
Debbie Aiona, Action Committee chair

Re: **2025 Joint Terrorism Task Force Annual Report**

The League of Women Voters of Portland first commented on the city's involvement in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in 2001 and we have shared our views with City Council throughout the years. We appreciate the annual reports and the opportunity to provide oral testimony before the full council.

As an organization that "promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive... and that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution," the League continues to support the city's 2019 decision to work with the JTTF only on a case-by-case basis. Further, the League "promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation in government," and believes that First Amendment rights should be vigorously defended. We believe democracy is strengthened when members of the public vote, express their views before a decision making body, or join in a demonstration.

In Oregon, we are fortunate that state law (ORS 181A.250) protects participation in First Amendment activities, unless there are reasonable grounds to suspect criminal conduct. On the other hand, FBI actions in Oregon and around the country raise concerns that those protections may be ignored when Portland police work with federal agents. Those concerns can and do have a chilling effect on public involvement, activism, and lawful dissent.

In the last few years, news reports covering FBI interactions with members of the public underscore the importance of maintaining vigilance over our police bureau's work with them.

Examples include:

- A 2019 Guardian story revealed that the FBI, along with local law enforcement, tracked environmental and Indigenous activists opposing the Jordan Cove Liquid Natural Gas terminal. Last fall, The Intercept published a report on the continued surveillance by local police and federal agents of the southern Oregon activists, in spite of the fact that the proposed pipeline project had been cancelled.

League of Women Voters of Portland:

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.

- A 2024 article points to FBI exploitation of people who may be susceptible to their influence. The last member of the Newburgh, NY Four was recently ordered released from prison. The judge wrote that the FBI invented a conspiracy and sought out the men as their targets. She characterized the last man to be released as incapable of the conspiracy given his “well-documented buffoonery and ineptitude”.
- In January 2024, an 18-year-old man with autism was arrested at the Denver airport on the way to Dubai to join ISIS. For two years, FBI agents posing as ISIS members encouraged him to support the organization and once he turned 18, they arrested him.

In conclusion, we recommend that the annual reports include more detail in the descriptions of the closed cases. It would be helpful to know, for example, why the cases were considered hate crimes or acts of terrorism. Finally, the League encourages the city to exercise caution when working with the FBI. In Oregon, we value our right to engage in political speech without fear of surveillance.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Revealed: FBI and police monitoring Oregon anti-pipeline activists

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/aug/08/fbi-oregon-anti-pipeline-jordan-cove-activists>

Oregon Police Obsessively Spied on Activists for Years, Even After Pipeline Fight Ended

<https://theintercept.com/2023/11/08/oregon-police-surveillance-protests-activists/>

Newburgh Four: judge orders release of man convicted in US terror sting

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/jan/20/newburgh-four-james-cromitie-ordered-released>

Undercover FBI Agents Helped Autistic Teen Plan Trip to Join ISIS

<https://theintercept.com/2024/01/10/fbi-sting-isis-autistic-teen/>



February 19, 2025

City Council Members, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Testimony Regarding the Joint Terrorism Task Force 2025 Annual Report

Council President Pirtle-Guiney, Council Vice President Koyama Lane, and City Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). My name is Ethan Krow, and I am the Associate Director of Policy Organizing.

The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and advancing democracy, civil liberties, and civil rights. On behalf of our more than 42,000 members and donor supporters statewide, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

I. Since the Portland Police Bureau first joined the Joint Terrorism Taskforce in 2002, we have had significant concerns that this “partnership” is not consistent with our state and city’s values and laws.

All Portlanders want their families and neighbors to be treated fairly by their city, including law enforcement. They also want transparency from their government. Allowing law enforcement to surveil Oregonians without transparency or oversight is fundamentally at odds with our city and state’s values.

Over 30 years ago Oregon’s leaders demonstrated these values through the passage of ORS 181A.250, which prohibits law enforcement from collecting or maintaining information about people’s political, religious, or social views, associations or activities without reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.

Oregon led the nation in putting these protections into state law after reporting from the Portland Tribune showed that for over 20 years Portland Police Bureau (PPB) surveilled thousands of individuals and groups, including the ACLU of Oregon, NAACP, and Planned Parenthood.

A significant concern is that while PPB must comply with state laws like ORS 181A.250 as well as the Oregon Sanctuary Promise Act, the Joint Terrorism Taskforce– FBI Does Not.

II. The Portland City Council twice voted to withdraw from the JTTF because of significant concerns about FBI targeting of people of color or based on their political or activist views.

The City's votes to withdraw from JTTF were due, in part, to the long documented history of the [FBI conducting unfounded and invasive surveillance frequently targeting people of color or people based on their religious or political views](#).

These concerns are now extremely heightened due to the Trump administration:

- The FBI is now being directed by a second Trump Administration, whose 2020 Department of Homeland Security collected and maintained baseball card style dossiers on racial justice protesters in Portland. According to Senator Ron Wyden, these [“Political DHS officials spied on Oregonians for exercising their First Amendment right to protest and justified it with baseless conspiracy theories”](#).
- The Trump Administration is [poised to center its counter-terrorism efforts on supporters of Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and an extreme anti-immigrant agenda](#). In fact, in his first week in office, Trump's [DOJ issued a memorandum directing JTTFs to assist with immigration enforcement activities](#). Joe Kent, a former Portlander who now leads counter-terror efforts for the Trump Administration, stated in 2021, [“We need to treat antifa and BLM like terrorist organizations. We need to use the tools of the federal government, the FBI, the US Marshals—go after them like organized criminals and terrorists.”](#)

III. Concerns about the FBI are exacerbated by concerns about PPB itself.

[The ACLU of Oregon successfully sued the PPB in 2020](#) for violating ORS 181A.250 when PPB live-streamed Black Lives Matter protesters engaged in lawful First Amendment activities, subjecting Portlanders to surveillance for their political activities without a criminal justification and making the people attending the protests vulnerable to identification, federal monitoring, and doxxing.

IV. Another significant concern is that oversight of the JTTF is very limited. Greater transparency around the PPB-JTTF collaboration is imperative.

In 2019, the City of Portland reengaged in a limited cooperation with the JTTF for the purpose of combatting terrorism and hate crimes. As part of that resolution, the PPB committed to providing annual reports back to this Council. However, since only two officers have security clearance allowing full oversight of JTTF cases, outside oversight and review ensuring that PPB officers are not violating the law is challenging.

The ACLU of Oregon feels so strongly that additional transparency and oversight are needed that we recently, with Don't Shoot PDX, submitted three public records requests to the City of Portland, the Oregon Department of Justice, and FBI. These requests seek to identify how state and local law enforcement agencies collaborate with federal law enforcement to monitor and surveil Oregonians engaged in racial justice and other forms of lawful advocacy and protest. [The National ACLU has also had to ask a federal court to intervene in order for them to get access to similar public records from the USDOJ and USDHS.](#)

V. We have substantive concerns about the JTTF report.

While JTTF reports of the last few years have included more detail, we still believe they require more transparency to ensure that the City's resources are being used as intended and not in a manner that violates Oregon law or harms civil liberties. For example:

- The report doesn't make clear how some of those cases pertain to threats of terrorism or hate crimes. On page five of the report, the report refers to several past cases: 2023 Case 1, 2, and 3. For all three cases we would appreciate increased detail about how this constituted a terrorist threat or hate crime.
- Additionally, on page six of the report it states that "The Chief of Police regularly communicates with the CIU supervisor to review all information related to information referred to or from the FBI JTTF to ensure continued compliance with the spirit and letter of the resolution." To the extent possible, we would urge the PPB to provide supporting documentation for statements or conclusions in the report. We would also appreciate more detail about what "regularly" means.
- Lastly, on page four, the report states that "Per City Council request, PPB reports that no information shared with or requested by the FBI violates ORS 181A.250 (Specific information not to be collected or maintained)." Given PPB and the FBI's past actions, it is difficult for us to accept this statement without additional transparency and outside oversight. Again, supporting documentation and greater detail is needed.

In summary, Portlanders have well-documented reasons to be distrustful of the FBI under any President, including the current administration.

The ACLU of Oregon requests that, at a bare minimum, the JTTF annual report be furnished with additional details to help increase transparency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ethan Krow (he/him)
ACLU of Oregon



Pacific Green Party of Oregon
PO Box 86704
Portland, OR 97286

February 19, 2025

Testimony regarding the annual report from the JTTF

Dear members of the Portland City Council,

The Pacific Green Party and the Portland area Green Party are leery of collaborative structures like the JTTF, because of the FBI's history of spying on innocent people in politically active communities.

In addition, at a time of limited funding for the city and extremely meager results from the JTTF in the past 5 years, the party feels the JTTF appears to be a poor investment of limited resources.

We urge the City of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau to continue working with the JTTF only on an as-needed basis, for the sole purpose of ensuring public safety for the reasons listed below.

Concerns about the direction of federal policies targeting communities of essential workers

The federal government's intent of using local task forces, or local policing resources, to enforce immigration laws is extremely concerning.

The Green Party and many of its allies are opposed to the use of local and state resources to do the work of federal agents. We pay enough taxes for the Federal government to fund its operations; they do not need to further drain limited local resources to do their job.

Countless studies have shown the futility and damage caused by aggressive and misguided enforcement of immigration laws; laws that are inadequate for today's economic realities. Trying to merge community safety goals with enforcement of administrative laws like immigration, does not change the course of migratory pressures; they simply disrupt local communities causing harm to everyone, regardless of citizenship or US residency status.

Documented problems resulting from local law enforcement agencies (tasked with public safety) being used to enforce immigration policies in an indiscriminate manner include:

1) Making the community less safe, as reporting of criminal activity and engagement with and trust of local police will be further eroded

2) Damage to Oregon's and Portland's agricultural economy

- The agriculture industry contributes more than \$8 billion to our state's economy each year (2022 figures). One in twelve Oregonians are employed in agriculture.
- Two Portland area counties, Clackamas and Washington, are in the top seven agricultural producing counties in the state.
- The metropolitan area of the northern Willamette Valley between Salem and Portland represents one-fifth of the state's gross farm revenue.
- Migrants represent over 50 and up to 65% of the workforce in the agricultural sector

It is common knowledge that stopping people on route to work for spurious reasons, for the purpose of checking immigration papers, or raids, have left fields unattended and crops going to waste, at a severe economic loss for local and statewide economies

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daphneewingchow/2025/02/11/trump-immigration-crackdown-threatens-us-food-supply/>

3) The disruptions caused by the fear of being stopped on the way to the grocery or local store, has led to loss of small businesses and loss of economic stability in neighborhoods or smaller communities.

<https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2019/08/11/ms-ice-raids-small-businesses-lose-customers-struggle-close-peco-koch-families-children-workers/1966149001/>

4) When people are afraid of seeking medical care, the entire community suffers.

- Because of the large proportion of migrants involved in picking lettuce, blueberries or other crops, poor health will obviously lead to increased risk of food contamination.
- A large proportion of caregivers and healthcare providers across the state are migrants; if they are afraid of seeking healthcare care, infectious diseases are going to be more widespread, posing an increased risk for the elderly and those receiving residential or home care services.
- The same holds true for cleaning services, the tourism/entertainment sector, construction sites and other essential services.

5) If the Portland Police Bureau is seen collaborating with ICE or with the Customs and Border Patrol, which is a part of the JTTF, children are not going to be sent to school for fear of separation. Oregon children are already behind in terms of emotional and educational development since COVID. School funding is going to be deeply affected by these absences and changes, thus affecting Oregon's long-term economy for lack of a prepared workforce. This

does not take into account the severe trauma and mental health consequences of separation or living in fear.

All of the above disruptions would ensue from increased participation of public safety officers in the implementation of complex and inadequate immigration laws.

These will affect **working class folk, regardless of background**. Only those who can pay for private healthcare, schools and expensive food would be spared.

Because of all of the above, we urge the Portland Police Bureau to continue working with the JTTF only on an as-needed basis, for the sole purpose of ensuring public safety.

Quality and details in JTTF reports

The report provided is also extremely thin; it should provide more details in order to determine the true value of the JTTF and nature of the threats to public safety from terrorism.

The FBI has indicated in recent reports that the greatest danger is coming from white nationalists. The report should highlight whether this is the nature of the cases referred to the JTTF.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/fbi-white-supremacists-pose-the-primary-threat-of-domestic-terrorism-2022-11?op=1>

Summary

The greatest danger to public safety is a divided community and increased tolerance of verbal and physical violence, often directed at marginalized communities.

In its role to protect public safety, the PPB needs to embrace policies and collaborations that are going to strengthen community ties. The PPB has a unique opportunity to lead the way for a stronger and more united Oregon; participating in activities perceived as hostile and divisive runs counter to its core mission.

Respectfully submitted



Nathalie Paravicini, ND
Volunteer, Portland Green Party

Portland City Council
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
Testimony List

	Document Number	Name
1	2025-028	Ethan Krow
2	2025-028	BRANDON MAYFIELD
3	2025-028	Debbie Aiona
4	2025-028	Dan Handelman Portland Copwatch
5	2025-028	Nathalie Paravicini
6	2025-028	Carol Landsman