

Portland City Council Agenda
 Written Testimony - Item 772/753

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 753	Christine Borden	Oppose	The current drone program lacks sufficient guidelines and oversight. There must be no more funding approved without objective and transparent protocols in place.	No	08/23/24 9:57 PM
2 753	Anonymous	Oppose	I urge the council to reject the proposed changes to the PPB drone surveillance procedures. PPB has already been operating well outside of their current authority and stated plans in this area, as reported by Redtail Media, and has obscured the nature of their operations when communicating to the public. Until PPB can demonstrate a history and culture of compliance with existing procedures, it is not ready to expand this program, and the current situation should be scrutinized by the council.	No	08/26/24 2:49 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
753	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>Hello council,</p> <p>First, I want to let Commissioner Gonzalez know that I am a police abolitionist and that my submitted testimony may be distressing to him. He has stated on the council record he does not believe I have the right to submit this testimony and thought a content warning for his sensitivity would be helpful. I hope the rest of you are open to hear from community members, even those you disagree with it haven't been influenced to ignore.</p> <p>PPB, per their modus operandi, is asking for more money for more drones. I am not shocked by the police wanting more cash, that's what they do... but I am shocked to see this has gotten as far as it's gotten. Per councils MO, police can be more and more open about their manipulation and misconduct and their budgets keep getting approved. Last year, PPB's traffic division admitted that they had lied to you to regain funding and staffing but nothing was done. No council raised any red flags and so why wouldn't PPB keep up the behavior?</p> <p>Recently, journalist Kate Kaye reported heavily on how PPB's drone program has expanded way beyond the scope of approval. You can read her amazing reporting here:</p> <p>OPB: https://www.opb.org/article/2024/04/23/examining-drones-used-by-the-portland-police-bureau/</p> <p>RedTail: https://redtailmedia.org/2024/04/16/portlands-people-tracking-police-drones-never-before-reported-details/</p> <p>A few lowlights from the report:</p> <p>"PPB's drones have been deployed in neighborhoods where more people of color live and where poverty rates are higher than in other parts of the city and in Portland as a whole."</p> <p>"PPB has deployed its drones over behavioral health-related calls, during traffic stops, and in other situations that may be outside the program's originally-stated mission."</p> <p>"All of PPB's drones were made by DJI, a drone manufacturer based in Shenzhen, China. The FBI and the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency have warned against the use of Chinese-manufactured drones."</p> <p>What we see is another example of PPB doing their own thing with little to no oversight from Mayor Wheeler as their commissioner. The police informed you previously that the drones would be used in a very narrow scope then did something else entirely. Has there been any accountability or demand for change or info? Seems not.</p> <p>Council made public commitments to equity and reducing racism and here we see one area of PPB disproportionate impacts on communities of color. Has there been a call to curtail? Seems not.</p> <p>Rather than change these concerns the police just ask for more to continue the program. As a community who values equity and justice and oversight, the line must be drawn in the sand now. No more money for drones that PPB uses to over police communities of color and enables their continued disregard for community and council oversight.</p> <p>Vote no on item 753 and demand PPB account for their current use and expenditure. Stop writing checks.</p>	No	08/28/24 9:02 AM
772	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>This technology should not be used by the police because our system tends toward unjust surveillance and disproportionate harm to black and brown families. We don't want drones. Please oppose their use in law enforcement.</p>	No	09/03/24 9:19 PM

Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	753	Nicole Mercier
2	753	Dan Handelman Portland Copwatch
3	753	Brian Conley