

END COOPERATION WITH THE FBI'S TERRORISM TASK FORCE

We, the undersigned, call on Portland City Council to withdraw the two full-time Portland Police Officers from the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and cancel the Memorandum of Agreement with the FBI.

--Portland was not part of the Task Force from 2005-2011 based on the inability of the Police Chief and Police Commissioner to have the same "Top Secret" clearance as the officers they oversee. That issue has not changed.

--After Portland re-joined the JTTF fully in 2015, the public stopped receiving annual reports, so there has been no indication whether PPB officers have reported violations of provisions of ORS 181A.250 prohibiting law enforcement from collecting or maintaining information on people's "political, religious or social" affiliations without reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct.

--President Trump has made it clear he plans to target people based on their religion (Muslims), national origin (immigrants), and political beliefs (protestors), not to mention the media and others. Any JTTF activity along these lines would violate not only ORS 181A.250 but would also be in apparent violation of HB 2002's restrictions against profiling-- police targeting people solely based on race, national origin or a host of other characteristics.*

--Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a member of the JTTF, meaning Portland's pledge to be a Sanctuary City is threatened by PPB officers participating in the Task Force.

--San Francisco pulled out of its Joint Terrorism Task Force on February 1, acknowledging that working with the FBI in its current form would lead to violations of state and local laws and policies.

As was the case from 2005-2015 when Portland formally re-joined, this would not restrict Portland Police from working on legitimate law enforcement investigations when actual criminal activity is suspected and detected on a case-by-case basis.

The time is ripe for Portland to be part of a national movement to protect residents and citizens from further potential civil liberties abuses.

Signed

ACLU of Oregon

Unite Oregon

Portland Japanese American Citizens League

Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform

Peace and Justice Works/Portland Copwatch

Brandon Mayfield

League of Women Voters of Portland

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)

Iraq Veterans Against the War

Veterans For Peace Chapter 72

Council on American-Islamic Relations of Oregon

Islamic Society of Greater Portland

Jewish Voice for Peace-Portland

Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition

Enlace (Portland)

Portland National Lawyers Guild

Portland Jobs with Justice

Sisters Of The Road

Oregon Progressive Party

International Socialist Organization (Portland)

Individuals for Justice

Network Against Racism and Islamophobia

350 PDX

For more information or to add your organization's signature to this letter contact Portland Copwatch at 503-236-3065 or <copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org>.

*-HB 2002 (2015), now ORS 131.920

Last updated November 7, 2017