

## End Cooperation with the Joint Terrorism Task Force 2020

We, the undersigned, call on Portland City Council to end all cooperation between the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), including disallowing any temporary assignment of PPB officers to work with the JTTF. We further call for expanding the annual reporting required by City resolution 37424 ("Establish parameters of cooperation between Portland Police Bureau and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force") to include the nature of closed cases referred from the PPB to the FBI, including the demographics of persons investigated, and the disposition of those cases, which will apply to any cases handled before the end of cooperation. There also must be contemporaneous, oral public testimony taken when the 2020 report is made in January.

The 2019 report<sup>1</sup> on JTTF to City Council said that Homegrown Violent Extremists inspired by "global terrorist organizations such as ISIS or Al Qaeda" were one of the JTTF's "greatest concerns." However the 2020 report<sup>2</sup>, which included demographics and case dispositions, showed that all cases referred by the FBI to PPB were of domestic threats by white people, that none of the closed cases resulted in criminal charges, and, in the cases referred to the FBI by PPB, of the known individuals involved, there was one Black man and the others were all white men. At the 2019 hearing on JTTF withdrawal, Portland residents testified to the trauma caused by FBI investigations of Muslim, Arab, and other community members, and the 2020 report showed no credible threats of terrorism.

Since the murder of George Floyd, Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality have been met by more police brutality. Moreover, Attorney General Bill Barr pledged to use the nation's JTTFs to investigate "organizers and instigators."<sup>3</sup> JTTFs are part of the communication network of fusion centers that have spied on nonviolent Black Lives Matter protests for years. The Portland JTTF is part of the brutal system of policing that is currently the focus of protests across the United States.

In response to attacks and civil rights violations by federal forces deployed to Portland in "Operation Diligent Valor," City Council passed a resolution ending cooperation with federal agencies directed here by executive order in the operation. Some of these same agencies are members of the Portland JTTF and can still cooperate with PPB on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, ending cooperation with militarized federal police is incomplete unless the City also ends cooperation with the JTTF.

Signed,

Portland Democratic Socialists of America  
Portland JACL (Japanese American Citizens League)  
Portland Jobs with Justice  
350PDX  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) of Oregon  
ACLU of Oregon  
PAALF Action Fund  
Brandon Mayfield (survivor of illegal FBI spying)  
Unite Oregon  
Peace and Justice Works/Portland Copwatch  
Pacific NW Family Circle  
Ainsworth United Church of Christ  
Jewish Voice for Peace-Portland  
Empower Portland  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Portland Independent Business Bloc  
Portland United Against Hate  
League of Women Voters of Portland  
Japanese American Museum of Oregon  
Portland-Metro People's Coalition  
BerniePDX  
American Friends Service Committee West Region  
As the Spirit Moves Us  
First Unitarian Church of Portland  
Portland's Resistance  
Rev. Dr. Janet Parker, Senior Minister, First  
Congregational United Church of Christ, Portland\*  
Oregon DA for the People  
Portland Interfaith Clergy Resistance  
Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC)

\*organization listed for identification purposes

Sent Sept. 8, 2020. Additional signers after September 8, 2020 include:

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon  
Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and  
Police Reform  
Latino Network

Oregon Justice Resource Center  
Malcolm Chaddock (survivor of JTTF surveillance)  
Political Action Committee of the NAACP's Portland  
Branch

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

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[1] <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/712408>

[2] <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/752679>

[3] USDOJ News release, May 31, 2020, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-william-p-barrs-statement-riots-and-domestic-terrorism>