

JTTF Town Hall Notes

January 13, 2011

PSU: Smith Ballroom

Note cards:

The US Attorney speaks of everyone bringing in pieces of a puzzle—what if it's a piece of the wrong puzzle?

In what way is the 2005 resolutions broken?

Join the JTTF?

What would we gain?

It would violate 2 of 3 evaluation criteria (#2 and #3 criteria)

Since when is it acceptable to spy on citizens of this country?!

Point of Concern: looking at the history of the FBI since its inception, one sees that its dirty tactics have never changed, although technology has. We used to say “if you lay down with dogs, you’ll get up with fleas.” The fleas you’d get by willingly collaborating with the FBI are too serious a risk. Please don’t do this!

Please do not use money coming from the federal government as an incentive to join JTTF.

Why are the Commissioners “reexamining” this now? All of a sudden, what is it based on? Are there any examples of communication breakdown, resulting in near catastrophe, which would have been better dealt with by police—JTTF? Nobody (in the group) has explained why we have to consider the JTTF. What is the reason we’re here? Is it the Xmas tree plot? But that just roved how incompetent the FBI was. Why if they told Reese, did they not stop it earlier? And why did they even tell us about it if it was thwarted? Wasn’t it just scare tactics?

I heard on the news about the FBI's eGuardian database. They collect info on people based on reports of "suspicious" behavior. WE need more information on that. We also need to think carefully about whether state law would allow our local officers to participate in a task force that engages in such activity.

The City should take an aggressive stance against rejoining the FBI by doing a Freedom of Information Request regarding a deliberate act of Terrorism by concocting the Black Friday action. Further the state should demand the FBI comply with 181.575 includes 181.100 – Federal Agents!

Get your/our money back from this study. This was anything but un-biased or neutral. Fill potholes instead. This makes it clear you've already decided.

Group Notes:

Questions & Concerns

- Local control of the police force
- Threat to civil liberties of PDX citizens posed by JTTF
- JTTF infiltration of peace organizations
- Afraid of secret government organizations that entrap people who don't agree with them
- Police should stay accountable to the city of PDX and to state law
- We would lose oversight if we join JTTF—does not protect civil liberties, FBI harasses and threatens.
- Tax payers' money shouldn't go to secret organizations
- What do we gain by joining JTTF?
- What about the FBI's involvement in the WTC 1991 bombing? They couldn't protect NY while they were providing surveillance for that group. The FBI has a pattern of providing real bombs to terrorists.
- Benefit: increase communication between law enforcement organizations. Look at San Francisco and Seattle.

Re-evaluation criteria:

What is the CC's definition of terrorism? Is there any non-criminal terrorism?

Has anyone met a terrorist? The operation is benign.

How can PDX benefit the USA?

Customers of PGE are concerned about threats to the infrastructure, the citizen's crime commission thinks JTTF membership is a good idea.

We are missing the opportunity to hear dialogue between extreme viewpoints in this forum.

How can we heal the wound that the FBI created for the trust African Muslim youth had for law enforcement?

2. PDX will have no recourse if the JTTF violates ORS 181.55

I don't trust the FBI, period. Nothing can change that.

Security is important but how can we get it collaborating with people who violate civil liberties.

We don't want functions of the Patriot Act to become local law.

3. Top secret clearance of JTTF officers:

PDX officer could opt out if he's required to do something in violations of local law—so it's up to his conscience.

Who selects officers for JTTF?

How will *their* rights be protected if they become whistleblowers?

JTTF, FBI and PPB have investigated lawful peace organizations.

Is there any info from other metro areas to refute or confirm our concerns?

Baltimore is part of JTTF—they had a bomber anyway.

Are we being negatively impacted by being outside of JTTF?

What benefit does the FBI get from our 2 officers?

Don't shy away from being different.

We're not opposed to the job the FBI has to do—just the way they do it.

If we can't control PPB, we shouldn't bring in outside forces. Why give power to people not in PDX?

Is joining a fear based, reactive action?

How much of our scant resources will be used up? We have a history of PPB abusing their authority. Don't give them more power to single people out.

Criteria convinced me not to join JTTF.

"Terrorism" isn't well defined

The way we are being protected by the FBI (ie entrapment)

Possible to remain open and inclusive and join JTTF (look at CA)

Also look at: FBI track record, protecting the officers, legality—constitutional, trust level of FBI, vets worked to protect US civil liberties don't let citizens be spied on, balance with safety, tangible, concrete, transparent accountability

What are the checks and balances

What's changed in the relationship?

What are the actual benefits of going back?

Ounce of prevention: build relationships and trust in diverse communities, listen to majority of PDX citizen, put dollars that go into investigation elsewhere, joining JTTF will increase city's livability _____ control.

Look at priorities of the city first i.e. homelessness, food insecurity, distrust of police, etc.

What is the cost of joining JTTF?

Do other metro areas get money for joining JTTF?

Are any other police forces in metro area (Beaverton, Gresham) part of JTTF?

What are we doing to attract so much terrorism in the first place?

We need to look upstream to stop people from hating this country.

How much more likely to be killed by taser than terrorism?

Are we being protected or affected by what's happening—too much power and access handed over.

City Council should:

Denounce the war on terror openly and adamantly

Keep focus on PDX's unique nature

I heard your presentation and still do not understand how it works.

Definition of terrorism doesn't include property damage only applies to humans

Learned new things and appreciate handouts.

Having read about FBI—why is it ok for them to do that?

Re: anti-war activists

Biggest gap:

What happens when JTTF deputizes PPB? Are they then considered Federal agents?
How would you know if PPB officer was a JTTF agent and therefore legally required to tell the truth?

Mechanics: JTTF is collecting info where are files being held?

Difference in training between Portland's CIO and JTTF? [not about cost/pay]

Does any Federal dollars come into PDX for joining? Who gets dollars?

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck it is a duck.

Let's call it what is—secret police with no oversight all we need is fancy uniforms and insignias

How does it feel to be the FBI's sock puppet?

How do they think anyone will believe that the supervisor/manager but if supervisor/manager is not cleared how can they manage officer. "Catch 22"

What is the relationship with JTTF and surrounding Oregon towns? How does it relate?

Insure local officers are subject to supervision from Police Chief, Police Commissioner and have access to advice City Attorney

How can it be a criterion unless the City believes that they cannot protect PDX now.

City Council should only change resolution if they believe it's broken now

Keep PPB jurisdiction and management LOCAL and transparent

Like to see Council negotiate with JTTF to ensure compliance with state law. What is possibility before making decision?

Re: definition of terrorism: "must appear to intend" feels too vague. Definition should be less vague.

Why use terrorism? Why not use criminal intent?

A cost benefit analysis of perceived value of civil liberties vs value of safety from terrorist?

Everyone wants to feel safe different things frighten different people. Opening a door to loss of civil liberties, 9/11 used as an excuse.

I feel as a Muslim I will be investigated.

What about the historically targeted? Do we want our local police to be part of these investigations?

What was the FBI's motivation for creating the Christmas tree act?

What stops JTTF from doing this 'entrapment'?

What would have been the different if a police officer was involved in the investigation? Would there have been an intervention?

Process defeats the purpose, I want citizen dialogue. Does JTTF really care about Council?

It would be helpful to know exactly how JTTF and PPB have been working together. I need more specifics.

What did the JTTF know about the Woodburn incident?

Why has this issue come up?

Police were informed re: plot anyway—so why?

Plot set-up to encourage JTTF

FBI is out of control

Incidents are building fear, and Islamaphobia. We need to build relationships instead of walls.

Concern that JTTF would target Muslims

What about the bill of rights

Fear in Muslim community—FBI actions have eroded trust that had been built

Boy's life (Muhammed) ruined because FVI didn't work with partners.

Local agencies only friends Muslim community can trust.

Japanese remember internment—don't erode civil rights

Propaganda machine is biased and pushes an agenda

Muhammed was responsible for his version.

Already have structure for preventing crimes.

Terrorism is applied in androgynous way instead of objectively

Concern about entrapment is increasing

Supervisory concerns

Trust issues/ relationships broken

Rights: will they be the same?

1. What we have now is working.

Why is it the PPB job—other agencies already do this

Nothing prevents the PPB from reporting/contributing

Skeletons in closets of agencies/faith?

Misleading

Could not tell Police Chief and major

Honest communication between FBI and PPB

2. No

History of violation of Human Rights by FBI (sneak and peek)

How will this protect our civil liberties?

Respect the attempts of major/council however feel offended by process/framing

Experience of oppression impacts

Patriot Act – foreign national – fear

Oregon Constitution protects our rights better

No benefit in joining

Substitute communist/labor leader for terrorist

How does our community relate to communities who have joined?

-we are an activist community

Portland is different, we care more

Why we should not join:

We are progressive

Voice of reason

We have to have dialogue

What are the other consequences/perspectives on this issue

FBI promotes fear

Civil disobedience is civil defense

Love freedom – protect civil rights

Must have clear oversight

Support the role of the FBI in preventing child trafficking

3. If we join would we stay open and inclusive?

No

Muslim community feels marginalized

Selective enforcement/political motivation

Concerns about competence and bias

Other goals and values:

Third time Portland citizens have said no

There are other growing needs of the community

-Food, housing, employment etc. That should be the real concern of our leadership

Set example by striving for social justice

Terrorism grows from a seed of hatred as a response to negative action

Need more dialogue on issues of perceived differences

What is the timeline on this?

No we can't meet the goals

The definition of Terrorism, does that mean anyone who commits those crimes is a terrorist?

Why just Muslims?

Over-criminalizes/racism included

Why couldn't/didn't FBI inform mayor/police about Christmas tree lighting?

Q: around clearance between police officers and their supervisors—inconsistent.

-officers can't be supervised because they are the only ones with top clearance

FBI uses sting to coerce PDX to join

Government's newest attempt to control certain targeted populations

Definition of terrorism is not applied fairly, risks compromising civil liberties of certain targeted populations

CRITERIA:

- dismantling racism as part of what they do

- lack of trust in turning these decisions over to the Task force

- acknowledge and look at existing intelligence groups and communities and work with that rather than impose

- criteria are crap

- what does it mean to "effectively prevent acts of terrorism"

Until we change the word terrorism" which only targets certain individuals and communities—Muslims) then we can't fairly apply what this is aiming at.

Fundamentally opposed to being a part of this, which violates our civil liberties and our rights as citizens to live in a country that values liberty and opposes spying on its citizens

Effectively prevent and investigate criminal acts

Doesn't ensure "open and inclusive community"

Terrorism is racist and discriminating

Concern around protection of individual rights—bad enough already

Protect individual rights under US and Oregon law—impossible if Oregon law had more protections. Joining undermines those protections

FBI and PPB are terrorist organizations

Joining violates second and third criteria

Joining doesn't help us manage our limited resources—stretch us too thin. Would take away resources to deal with existing problems

Don't trust decisions by City Council around this particular issue because their voices aren't heard.

Questions/Concerns

- New FBI Building's implications

- Hierarchy of governments?
- Federal Law's impact on civil rights
- Not sure of issue—city has command?
- Confidence in Police/lack of
- What involvement did pdx police have in Christmas tree bomb?
- want our elected officials to assert oversight
- concern about city's willingness to exert oversight

3. Criteria:

- Monetary cost of joining or how much will Feds give the city?
- address intimidation tactics
- why are other cities participating?
- what benefits/costs? i.e. Tucson
- Evaluate past counter terrorism investigation efforts
- Better definition of terrorism—what does city council think?

4. Recommendations:

- More city level action/attention to US foreign policy
- Fund CIU, don't join JTTF
- Impact on civil liberties, efficacy—given history of surveillance
- If joining: understand, consider FBI's resources

What do other cities that are part of the JTTF know that Portland doesn't?

Concern about risk if he is transparent.

PPB still under suspension of JTTF?

Change foreign policy and examine

Criteria is limited

- need to mention civilian authority

Law enforcement and freedom are oxymoron. Joining the task force doesn't make us feel safer.

No transparency (i.e. Mr. Mayfield)

How did other cities decide to join? What were their criteria.

What good has the FBI provided to the community given the data that has been given to them?

What is collaboration; how effective is it?

- need better dialogue on JTTF to prevent abuse

If Portland does join can we take advantage of information from other cities?

History of the agency is not good

Do dialogue to a higher/meaningful level

What does Portland gain/lose by joining?

Not loose autonomy of our police department. FBI is taking over autonomy from states.

City should be transparent

Set up AAPAC such as the one they have in Seattle to build trust, share information and protect citizens

How much more resources/effort is needed? If any?

Are we already meeting the resources without joining the JTTF?

Fear of persecution by FBI, some are not afraid of the FBI

JTTF focuses on the Muslim community

There needs to be local control of the police

Good collaboration with FBI to keep citizens safe

Civil liberties violated by raising judgment before trial

Way to fight terrorists with good use of law enforcement and resources

Concerns that with will restrain good relations between PPB and Arabs/Muslims

What's the benefit of Pdx joining FBI?

2. -Shouldn't be either/or . . . already ties . . . look into MOU

- concern not being involved in investigations . . . participation values community

- hear facts before jumping to conclusions re: FBI/JTTF

- timing . . . why now? Lack of communication between community and FBI

3. -Add protecting elected officials as part of evaluation criteria
- other cities our size (i.e. Seattle) are part of JTTF . . . look at what they've done
 - What is in it for us? How will it benefit pdx? What will be done differently?
 - If rejoin, will Mayor and Chief be able to get top secret clearance?
 - concern about specific groups being targeted
 - what civil rights will be violated?
 - current system works – can revisit in future
 - open dialogue/trust needed between law enforcement and community . . . access to info
 - creation of JTTF will increase fear in participation in civil activism
 - community will feel more at ease if FBI shares what they're working on
- Prioritize safety . . . will it violate civil rights by joining JTTF? What would've changed at the "Black Friday" incident?
- Freedom to protest wars without harassment by PPB
 - local control of what happens in Portland
 - questionable FBI tactics . . . control PPB first before bringing in another agency
 - current system works . . . understand more what happened in Mr. Mohammad's case.
 - According to ORS 181.575, PPB can't do all that FBI does in criminal investigations
 - clarification on how pdx withdrew from JTTF . . . pdx constitution protects civil liberties more than state . . . give chief/Mayor higher clearance for oversight

Concern over misinformation (would police chief have oversight?)

Importance of security clearance—may not be high enough standard and need more information

Why are we reexamining this?

- need more background

Why is this terrorism and not Arizona?

JTTF money could go to schools instead

Christmas bombing obvious reason for reexamination

Lack of trust in FBI (entrapment)

Concerned that lines communication won't work without joining JTTF

Concern that only a few officers would have information if we join JTTF

Concern that Oregon law will be violated

Civil liberties are very important

PPB listening in to conversations—concerned over privacy

Didn't like forum structure—wanted to engage in persuasion

We should look at criteria of other cities that have joined

What's the benefit to joining as criteria

9/11 message we failed to communicate

Too many unanswered questions from FBI

Too much secrecy

Concern with untrue accusations

Work on Portland Police local relations first

What is terrorism? A scare tactic

Encourage the public to gain more information

Communication

Better to be involved and have some oversight

Can understand both perspectives—has fears on both sides