

BACKGROUND: PORTLAND JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE 2/27/17

ORS 181A.250

No law enforcement agency, as defined in ORS 181A.010 (Definitions for ORS 181A.010 to 181A.350), may collect or maintain information about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual, group, association, organization, corporation, business or partnership unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities, and there are reasonable grounds to suspect the subject of the information is or may be involved in criminal conduct. [Formerly 181.575]

1997: Portland joins the Joint Terrorism Task Force in preparation for the Nike World Games.

Nov. 2000: Portland Copwatch notices a City Council "consent agenda" item which would reimburse overtime costs for officers assigned to the JTTF. A discussion ensues which results in Council changing language in the Agreement but passing it.

Sept. 2001: Despite the events of 9/11, civil liberties, labor, faith, social justice, environmental, and other activists fill City Hall demanding they not renew the contract for another year. After the vote fails due to Charlie Hales voting against it, a second non-emergency ordinance to renew the contract passes.

Oct. 2001: Because of the heightened awareness of ORS 181.575, Portland Police refuse to take part in the dragnet of Muslim and Arab Americans launched by the FBI in the wake of 9/11.

April 2005: Under Mayor Tom Potter, Portland withdraws from the JTTF on a 4-1 vote, based on the Police Commissioner's inability to oversee officers under his command without equal security clearance.

Nov. 2010: FBI agents facilitate a plot at Pioneer Courthouse Square, involving Mohamed Mohamud, 19, a Somali immigrant.

April 2011: Council votes unanimously to resume working with the JTTF with caveats including a required annual report on the PPB's activities in the Task Force and assurances that officers are trained about ORS 181.575.

Feb. 2015: After three years of insufficient reporting (2012-13-14), the City puts forward two resolutions-- to either go "all in" or "all out" of the JTTF. Council votes 3-2 to re-join, with Mayor Hales joining Commissioners Fish and Saltzman, with Commissioners Fritz and Novick voting "no." The new contract keeps two officers on the Task Force in perpetuity with a one month advance notice requirement for either side to terminate, so no annual reports or votes by Council are required.