



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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## In My Opinion

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The Oregonian editorial of 2/15/05 not only mischaracterized the motive behind my stance on the City of Portland's continued participation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), but also ignored the specifics of my position on this issue.

I have never said, nor do I think, that the Portland Police Bureau should cease continued cooperation with the FBI in requests for assistance concerning specific investigations of terrorist activity. Both the Police Chief and Mayor have assured me that if requests are made by the FBI, they would assign any and all resources necessary for specific investigations. Providing assistance, however, should not mean that Portland officers assigned to FBI investigations receive a "pass" on the same laws, rules and chain of supervision guiding every other Portland Police Officer.

What I have said consistently is that every officer employed by the Portland Police Bureau, even those assigned to the JTTF, must operate within the Police Bureau's chain of command; this is a basic principle of management for any functional organization. The FBI would never consider allowing one of its agents to operate without the ability of that agent's supervisors – up to and including the President of the United States, if need be – to know precisely what that agent was doing.

The editorial board clearly fails to understand, or is choosing to ignore, that the ability of our Police Chief and our Mayor to maintain direct ultimate authority over Portland officers is the only way to ensure compliance with Oregon's unique statutes providing civil liberty protections beyond federal law.

When I voted in favor of participation in the JTTF in 2003, I made my position clear. I said then that I would not vote to reauthorize the agreement with the FBI if both the Police Chief and Mayor did not have complete access to what the officers assigned to the JTTF were doing. I could not then, and cannot now, support our continued blind participation in the JTTF.

I have also said that the cost of the officers assigned full time to the JTTF should be reimbursed to the city by the federal government. Our community cannot even utilize existing jail beds due to the lack of adequate funding for corrections officers. Why would the editorial board

summarily dismiss the idea of the federal government reimbursing the city for a service they assert they cannot do without?

Finally, I want to remind the editorial board that it was my vote two years ago that caused a resolution opposing the invasion of Iraq to fail at the city council. I based my vote on the representations by the Bush Administration that they had incontrovertible evidence that weapons of mass destruction existed within Iraq.

My position regarding the JTTF is not politically motivated, as suggested by the editorial board. More accurately, it is based on an old saying: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."