

To: All Citizens of the City of Portland, Oregon
From: Martin G. Slapikas, Resident, SW Portland
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Subject: What is Your definition of Terrorism? A Neighborhood Crime
Prevention Issue: Participation in the Portland Joint Terrorism
Task Force (PJTTF)
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The role of the City of Portland is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and I emphasize *ALL PEOPLE*, who live, work, play and visit in Portland. The direction for this comes from the Portland City Council and directs the City's Police Bureau to be responsible for protecting the lives, property and rights of all people.

The Portland City Council is threatening to no longer participate in the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force (PJTTF). It becomes suspect that City Council is holding the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Portland hostage while Council attempts to blackmail the Federal Government over the issue of PJTTF supervision through the issue of security clearances.

Yet in all of the Council's rhetoric, one can find no definition of terrorism on which Council is to base their decision. Consequently, the following definition is offered:

Terrorism is:

"The use of violence against civilians to promote a cause so unpopular that it cannot succeed without an element of intimidation."

BACKGROUND

Terrorism attacks have been documented as targeting noncombatant, unarmed U.S. civilians. Most, if not all, of the residents of Portland are noncombatant, unarmed U.S. civilians. It would seem that Portland's neighborhoods are a responsibility, and of interest, to the Portland City Council. And Council has previously acknowledged Portland's position in the U.S. by stating a goal of enhanced national security.

So why is there even a question of continuing to participate in the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force formed to protect all, and once again emphasis on *ALL*, Portland residents and citizens from acts of terrorism?

In the year 2000, many months before 9/11, The United States Commission on National Security/21st Century issued a report outlining threats and recommendations as to what must be done to counteract the threats to the United States. The Commission was CO-chaired by former Senators Rudman and Hart.

The Commission's report listed six threat areas. They are:

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| 1. Biological | 2. Cyber | 3. Nuclear | 4. Chemical |
| | 5. Radiological | 6. Enhanced Conventional | |

Also listed were seven strategic functions. They are:

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|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Deterrence | 2. Prevention | 3. Preemption | 4. Crisis Management |
| 5. Consequence Management | | 6. Attribution | 7. Retaliation |

Four levels of involvement were listed. They are:

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|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 1. Federal | 2. State | 3. Local | 4. Private |
|------------|----------|----------|------------|

This is 42 distinct mission areas that must be satisfied by each level of government involvement. Most, if not all, rely on gathering current and accurate information.

The report proved prophetic as our nation was attacked September 11, 2001. Terrorists failed to kill the 50,000 plus N.Y.C. civilians expected at the World Trade Center Towers that morning. They did, however, succeed in murdering approximately 3,000 noncombatant civilians in the twin Towers.

In September, 2002 Portland City Council declared a "...mutual goal of enhanced national security" to be shared with the federal government.

Unfortunately, the memory of that massacre of our fellow citizens appears to have faded from memory. Certain members of Portland's City Council act as if our nation hasn't been terrorized at all. This resolution gives the community and the world the impression that Portland is divorced from the attack on our nation, and that nothing like that can or will happen here. Council, and in some cases, the residents of our city, have withdrawn to their old patterns of living, to their old preoccupations, to their old business of politics.

CONCERNS

My concerns are many. They include, but are not necessarily limited to, those listed below. They are, however, based on the belief that the majority of Portland citizens are noncombatant civilians and have a desire to be protected from acts of terrorism. It is also based on the belief that City Council should have the desire, and certainly has the obligation to the rest of the nation, for continued participation in the pursuit of enhanced national security.

1. **Should City Council vote not to participate in the PJTTF, upon what definition of terrorism will the decision be based?** The following is proposed: "The use of violence against civilians to promote a cause so unpopular that it cannot succeed without an element of intimidation."

2. **If the City of Portland is no longer to participate in its share of national security, does the city have the resources to protect its citizens from the threats listed in the Commission's report?** A major threat comes from covert operatives, who may already be in Oregon, even Portland, who have the intention to conduct, or support, an attack. Finding them is probably a top FBI priority, but it is also one of the most difficult tasks. The very nature of a covert operative – trained to not raise suspicion and to appear benign – is what makes their detection so difficult. That is why local police participation is so important.

3. Will the City of Portland no longer share its information with the Federal Government? While the proposed resolution "...does not prohibit the cooperation and collaboration ..." it puts local, self imposed limitations on that cooperation and collaboration against an intolerant enemy that has no such restriction while living in our tolerant society. It also binds the City and therefore its citizens to suffer the consequences of this city policy. Furthermore, it does all this without establishing the City's definition of terrorism upon which Council's decision should be based.

4. Does the City of Portland have the capacity to perform the requirements of the strategic functions also listed in the Commission's report?

5. If not, what is the role of the City to be in protecting its citizens?

6. If the City of Portland is to no longer participate in the PJTTF, what strategic role is expected of Portland residents at the private involvement level? Each Neighborhood Association coalition has a crime prevention committee. Issues such as graffiti, car prowls, house break-ins, effect of homelessness in each neighborhood are regularly discussed. Yet, crime prevention, in the magnitude of mass murders recently experienced on 9/11, or Oklahoma, has not been addressed by neighborhoods, except for one neighborhood association.

Will private citizens and businesses be provided funds to protect themselves? Will there be a requirement to arm the citizenry?

7. Is this resolution creating a double standard of crime investigation?

For

example, what are the limitations on investigation if a bomb explodes in

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Portland abortion clinic versus trying to prevent a terrorist induced mass murder in the City of Portland?

The proposed resolution calls for acknowledging limitations on Portland Police Bureau personnel assigned to federal joint task forces under ORS 181.575 and ORS 181.850. Implementing these limitations was not a slam dunk back in 2001. When it first came up, the local papers reported Oregon State Attorney General Hardy Meyers and Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schrunck found these statutes do not restrict police questioning. Former Portland Mayor Vera Katz chose not to accept their interpretations. The current council is continuing the controversial policy.

Imagine, for a moment, if those 9/11 passenger airlines attacked Portland and those 3000 murdered civilians were from our neighborhoods. Would the victims be upset if a Council member did, or did not, receive a security clearance? Would their survivors be upset to know that our police force could not ask the questions that might have prevented the murders?

City leaders desire Portland's participation in the global economy. Like it or not, Portland is on a global two way street. Participating in the global economy should alert city leaders to take notice of the obvious threat of global terrorism to our local citizens, institutions and economy. The City of Portland is a part of the fight against terrorism.

In my view, Portland's continued participation in the PJTTF should be a major concern of each neighborhood association, business and citizen in the City of Portland. City Council is making a binding City policy on this issue. It impacts our safety and will have major reverberations to our city economy and around the nation. If there ever was a time for the silent majority to speak out, this is it. If this isn't a crime prevention issue, I don't know what is.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE PJTTF

Whereas, Terrorism is defined as “The use of violence against civilians to promote a cause so unpopular that it cannot succeed without an element of intimidation;” and,

Whereas, Terrorism attacks have been documented as targeting noncombatant, unarmed U.S. civilians; and,

Whereas, The State of Oregon and the City of Portland, Oregon are part of the contiguous U.S.; and,

Whereas, most, if not all, of the citizens of the City of Portland, Oregon are noncombatant, unarmed U.S. civilians; and

Whereas, most of the residents of the City of Portland, Oregon are citizens of the U.S.A, and are locally governed by the Portland City Council; and,

Whereas, the fundamental role of the City of Portland is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people who reside, work, worship and recreate in Portland; and,

Whereas, the Portland Police Bureau is responsible for protecting the lives, property, and rights, including the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness of all people in the City of Portland; and,

Whereas, Portland's economic development is based, in part, on participation in a global economy; and,

Whereas, Portland City Council previously acknowledged a goal of enhanced national security; therefore,

Be It Resolved, the Citizens of the City of Portland urge the Portland City Council to continue participation in the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force (PJTTF) for the purpose of protecting the lives, property, and rights of all people in the City of Portland from future acts of terrorism; and,

Be it Further Resolved, that the Portland City Council is to continue support for the City's stated interest in a shared goal of enhanced national security with the rest of the nation.

Be it Further Resolved, this resolution is Binding City Policy.

Requested by the Citizens of Portland,

