

**Attention: Council Clerk**

Mayor Charles Hales  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Steve Novick  
Commissioner Dan Staltzman  
Commissioner Mary Hull Caballero  
City of Portland  
City Council  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 130  
Portland, OR 97204

February 18, 2015

Re: City of Portland Participation in the Joint Terrorism Taskforce

Mayor Hales and Portland City Commissioners:

We, the undersigned, represent Portland area mosques, Muslim organizations and community groups that serve predominately Muslim American constituents. We are also members of the committee to establish the Shura Council of Oregon and Southwest Washington, an intra-faith coordinating body concerned with political, social, economic and cultural matters affecting Muslim Americans residing in the Greater Portland Metro Area.

We understand that the Portland City Council is considering whether to rejoin the Joint Terrorism Taskforce (JTTF). We fully support all law enforcement efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of terrorism within our country. That is why our community organizations have participated in and supported involvement in the FBI's Citizen Advisory Council and the Arab and Muslim Portland Police Advisory Council, formed in 2001 by former Police Chief Mark Kroeker and Dr. Nohad Toulan. No community has been more affected by terrorism than ours. The majority of victims of acts of terrorism committed in the name of Islam have been Muslim. Moreover, acts of terrorism in the US and abroad have resulted in Islamophobic hate crimes against the Muslim community including arson attacks on our places of worship and execution-style murders such as occurred in North Carolina recently.

At this time, however, we firmly believe that local law enforcement participation in the JTTF is counterproductive to the City's most important law enforcement mission which is the prevention of crime through community and local law enforcement partnerships. As individual organizations we have been engaging with and will continue to engage with federal law enforcement to prevent acts of terrorism in our community. However, because of the gross mishandling of a number of high profile cases by federal authorities affecting Muslims in the Portland area, and the systemic profiling and surveillance of Muslims nationally, we believe that the City's participation in the JTTF may actually discourage members of our community from reporting suspected criminal activity. We believe crime prevention in Portland is better served by strengthening and fostering ties between local law enforcement and Muslim organizations. Therefore, we request that the Portland City Council discontinue the ties between the Portland Police Bureau and the JTTF. The Portland Police Bureau should reestablish ties with AMPAC and Shura Council, which is in its forming stage.

Sincerely,

**Islamic Center of Portland (Masjed As-Saber):** Imtiaz Khan: [president@assaber.com](mailto:president@assaber.com);

**Islamic Society of Greater Portland (ISGP):** Salma Ahmed: [salma.ahmad@comcast.net](mailto:salma.ahmad@comcast.net)

**Muslim Community Center of Portland (MCCP):** Imam Muhammad A. Najieb: [mccp.officeof.imam@gmail.com](mailto:mccp.officeof.imam@gmail.com)

**Bosniaks Education and Cultural Organization (BECO):** Imam Abdullah Polovina: [becopdx@gmail.com](mailto:becopdx@gmail.com)

**Oregon Muslim Citizens Alliance (OMCA):** Gulzar Ahmed: [csi@crecentsystemsinc.com](mailto:csi@crecentsystemsinc.com);

**Islamic Community Center of Hillsboro (ICCH):** Issam Abu-Khater: [issam1963@gmail.com](mailto:issam1963@gmail.com)

**Oregon Islamic Chaplains Organization:** Mikal Shabazz: [mikalshabazz@msn.com](mailto:mikalshabazz@msn.com)

**Muslim Educational Trust (MET):** Wajdi Said: [wajdi@metpdx.org](mailto:wajdi@metpdx.org)

**Islamic Social Services of Oregon State (ISOS):** Laila Hajoo: [info@i-sos.org](mailto:info@i-sos.org)