



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL ON THE PORTLAND JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (JTTF) - 2020

PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU
CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

JANUARY 22, 2020



Portland Police Bureau Report to City Council on the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) - 2020

On May 8, 2019, the Portland City Council adopted Resolution 37424 (As Amended)ⁱ (referred to herein as “resolution”), Establish Parameters of Cooperation between Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI JTTF)ⁱⁱ.

The resolution states, in partⁱⁱⁱ, that by the end of January, a report to City Council shall contain the following information:

- The frequency with which the FBI’s Special Agent in Charge requested the assignment of PPB CIU officers for an investigation;
- The number of cases that were referred to the PPB by the FBI;
- The number of cases that were referred to the FBI by the PPB; and,
- The nature of closed cases referred to the PPB by the FBI, including the demographics of persons investigated; and, the disposition of those cases.

Overview

The mission of the Portland Police Bureau^{iv} is to reduce crime and the fear of crime. We work with all community members to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property and promote individual responsibility and community commitment.

The parameters of cooperation between the PPB and the FBI JTTF, as defined in the resolution, are consistent with this mission statement.

After passage of the resolution and as required by the resolution, the PPB created Directive 750.00, Bureau Cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force.^v This directive, made effective January 2, 2020, is consistent with the resolution and all PPB officers are required to read and sign their acknowledgement of this directive. This directive is subject to annual public review, with outreach to City Council offices to solicit additional feedback.

On January 8, 2020, all PPB CIU members attended annual training with a member of the Portland City Attorney’s Office to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws. This training is required as part of the resolution. The City Attorney’s Office has advised PPB CIU that they are not aware of any changes in state or federal law that would preclude them from legally working with the JTTF in any



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capacity. The City Attorney's office has also reached out to the Oregon Attorney General's office for annual conferral.

2020 Statistical and Information Report to City Council

Presented below are the four areas required to be presented in this annual report:

The frequency with which the FBI's Special Agent in Charge (SAC) requested the assignment of PPB CIU officers for an investigation

The FBI SAC did not request the assignment of PPB CIU officers for an investigation after the Portland City Council adopted the resolution on May 8, 2019. Additionally, PPB CIU officers were removed from assignment from FBI JTTF investigations that began prior to the adoption of the resolution.

The number of cases that were referred to the PPB by the FBI:

In 2019, the FBI JTTF referred 10 cases to PPB. In accordance with the resolution, these cases were shared with PPB CIU for review and investigative action, which is summarized in later paragraphs.

The number of cases that were referred to the FBI by the PPB

In 2019, PPB CIU referred 12 cases to the FBI JTTF for review. The nature of these cases includes bomb threats to critical infrastructure, public buildings, private entities, and houses of worship; threats of mass violence; reports of racially motivated violent extremist and sovereign citizen activity; and threats to public officials. PPB officers took initial reports and conducted preliminary investigation. Of the known individuals involved in these cases, there was one Black male and the others all white males. Several cases did not have identifiable subjects.^{vi}

Nature of Closed Cases Referred to PPB by the FBI (including demographics of persons investigated; and the disposition of those cases)

The following outlines each case referred to PPB by the FBI that fits the described criteria:

Case 1^{vii}

Report of person affiliated with racially motivated violent extremist (RMVE) group.
White Male (identified)
Case Closed – Subject Interviewed - Not a Criminal Offense



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Case 2^{viii}

Report of a person who made a social media post in a group page about a mass shooting.

White Male (identified)

Case Closed – Subject removed concerning post and apologized to group. Reporting party contacted PPB first (report taken) then contacted FBI, who routed it back to PPB - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 3^{ix}

Report of person making non-specific threat about a terrorist attack.

White Male (identified)

Case Closed – Subject interviewed and the case referred to PPB BHU - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 4^x

Report of person making threats against the British royal family.

White Male (identified)

Case Closed – Subject not interviewed; case referred to PPB BHU - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 5^{xi}

Report of person affiliated with a racially motivated violent extremist (RMVE) group talking to a person at a bar.

White Male (not identified)

Case Closed – No information developed to identify the subject - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 6^{xii}

Report of person making concerning social media posts referencing weapons, suicide, a manifesto, a sniper, and martyrdom.

White Female (identified)

Case Closed – Subject interviewed and stated that the posts were part of her work as an artist - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 7^{xiii}

Report of person threatening violence towards police after previous arrest by PPB

White Male (identified)

Case Closed – Threat documented in report - Not a Criminal Offense



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Case 8^{xiv}

Report of a person affiliated with a racially motivated violent extremist (RMVE) group.

White Male (identified)

Case Closed – Subject interviewed by other law enforcement - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 9^{xv}

Report of social media threat of violence in connection with homicide investigation.

White Male (identified)

Case Closed – Subject interviewed, denied any actual threat of violence - Not a Criminal Offense

Case 10 remains an open investigation and will likely appear in the 2021 report to council.

PPB Oversight and Improving Processes in 2020

The Chief of Police and the CIU Sergeant have the appropriate security clearance to allow for full oversight of any investigation and case review referred to or from the FBI. PPB CIU officers that could be assigned to an FBI investigation are subject to all relevant federal, state, and local laws; all PPB directives (policies); and relevant federal regulations. Violation of any of these could prompt an investigation resulting in discipline up to and including termination. Legal violations could also result in a criminal investigation and prosecution.

The Chief of Police will regularly meet with the CIU supervisor to review any and all information related to information referred to or from the FBI JTTF to ensure continued compliance with the spirit and letter of the resolution.

The Portland Police Bureau will also review all feedback after the delivery of this report and work to incorporate constructive changes where applicable and appropriate to the 2021 report.

Conclusion

Protecting the City of Portland and those who live, work, pray, play, and visit is the responsibility of PPB; however, the PPB cannot do it alone and works with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate threats to life, including hate crimes, and suspected cases of terrorism.

Threats to life, hate crimes, and terrorism are a global challenge that require coordination and information sharing between law enforcement agencies. Identifying those planning to commit a



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criminal act, and more specifically an act of terrorism, and employing interdiction strategies to prevent an attack, is a top priority.

Sadly, 2019 saw a number of attacks^{xvi} throughout the world that led to significant losses of life. In some of these incidents, the suspects exhibited a clear ideology and motivation for the killings, in others the motivating factors were less clear. Certainly, racially motivated violent extremism, specifically white supremacy and anti-Semitism, were factors in several attacks, including two of the most significant attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand and El Paso, Texas.

The PPB, and our law enforcement and community partners, must continue to work to assess threats and work to interdict and prevent violence from occurring in our communities.

ⁱ <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/732572>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/portland/news/stories/portland-fbis-joint-terrorism-task-force-jttf-111318>

ⁱⁱⁱ BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PPB shall report to City Council on an annual basis, by the end of January, with information detailing the frequency with which the FBI's Special Agent in Charge requested the assignment of PPB CIU officers for an investigation; the number of cases that were referred to the PPB by the FBI; the number of cases that were referred to the FBI by the PPB; the nature of closed cases referred to the PPB by the FBI, including the demographics of persons investigated; and the disposition of those cases.

^{iv} <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/>

^v <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/750902>

^{vi} This summary, while not specifically required by the resolution, is being provided in the interests of transparency.

^{vii} PPB Case #19-801613

^{viii} PPB Case #19-12630

^{ix} PPB Case #19-151055

^x PPB Case #19-801545

^{xi} PPB Case #19-801692

^{xii} PPB Case #19-801656

^{xiii} PPB Case #19-170958

^{xiv} PPB Case #19-804191

^{xv} PPB Case #19-804193

^{xvi} March 15, 2019 – Christchurch, New Zealand – An active shooter targeted two mosques. 51 killed, 49 injured.

April 27, 2019 – Poway, California – An active shooter targeted a synagogue. 1 killed, 3 injured.

May 31, 2019 – Virginia Beach, Virginia – An active shooter killed 12, injured 4.

July 28, 2019 – Gilroy, California – An active shooter at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. 3 killed, 16 injured.

August 3, 2019 – El Paso, Texas – An active shooter at Walmart. 22 killed, 24 injured.

August 3, 2019 – Dayton, Ohio – An active shooter outside a nightclub. 9 killed, 27 injured.

August 31, 2019 – Odessa and Midland, Texas – An active shooter killed 7, injured 25.

October 9, 2019 – Halle, Germany – An active shooter targeted a synagogue and a kebab shop. 2 killed, 2 injured.

December 4, 2019 – Pearl Harbor, Hawaii – An active shooter on base. 2 killed, 1 injured.

December 5, 2019 – Pensacola, Florida – An active shooter on base. 3 killed, 8 injured.

December 10, 2019 – Jersey City, New Jersey – Active shooters targeted police, kosher store. 4 killed.