

Terrorism Task Force Draws Fire

Leader cautions city about FBI abuses

Avel Gordly, one of Portland's most respected African American leaders, has joined a chorus of voices urging the Portland City Council to not re-join a Joint Terrorism Task Force on a full time basis.

The former state senator expressed her concern in a letter to the City Council on Thursday.

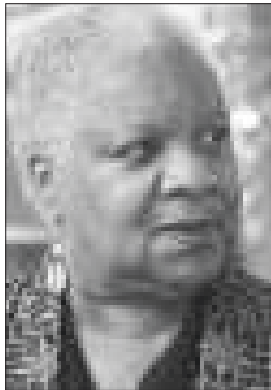
"The African American community, the Arab/Muslim community, the Latino community and other people of colour, and immigrants, as well as activists of all stripes, are likely to be subjects of FBI investigations given the low level of suspicion needed to open up files," Gordly said.

"Most troubling, the FBI has told the mayor he will not be able to receive a security clearance, which is unacceptable, she said.

Gordly urged Portland to take a stand that is right, just, and fair as an example to other cities, rather than going along with the status quo.

"Please vote for staying out of the task force, and against assigning two full time officers," she said.

The task force bills itself as a partnership between various American law enforcement agencies that is charged with taking action against



Avel Gordly

terrorism, which includes investigation of crimes such as wire fraud and identity theft.

There are currently 100 Joint Terrorism Task Forces nationwide, including at least one at each of the FBI Field Offices, except in Portland. Portland became the only city in the nation to withdraw from a Joint Terrorism Task Force on April 28, 2005.

The Center for Intercultural Organizing, the Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Voices for Peace, and the American Civil Liberties Union have all also spoken out against Portland re-joining the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The City Council has postponed its decision on the matter on Thursday. The next scheduled vote on the resolution has not been announced.

Discussions on Race and Policing

Widespread protests in response to the deaths of black men at the hands of police in 2014 have prompted a national conversation over issues of race and policing—subjects with which many residents of the Portland area have long been familiar.

Oregon Humanities invites community members to talk about the challenges built into how we protect ourselves in a series of discussions on race and policing led by trained facilitators.

The free and open to the public sessions will take place this month at the following times and locations:

Saturday, Feb. 21, 1:30 p.m. at

the Center for Intercultural Organizing, 700 N Killingsworth St. Facilitated by Veronica Dujon, professor of sociology and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Portland State University.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m. at Mount Hood Community College, Student Union, 26000 S.E. Stark St., Room 105. Facilitated by Adam Davis, executive director of Oregon Humanities.

Saturday, Feb. 28, 4:00 p.m. at the Rockwood Library, 17917 S.E. Stark St. Facilitated by Wendy Willis, executive director of the Policy Consensus Initiative.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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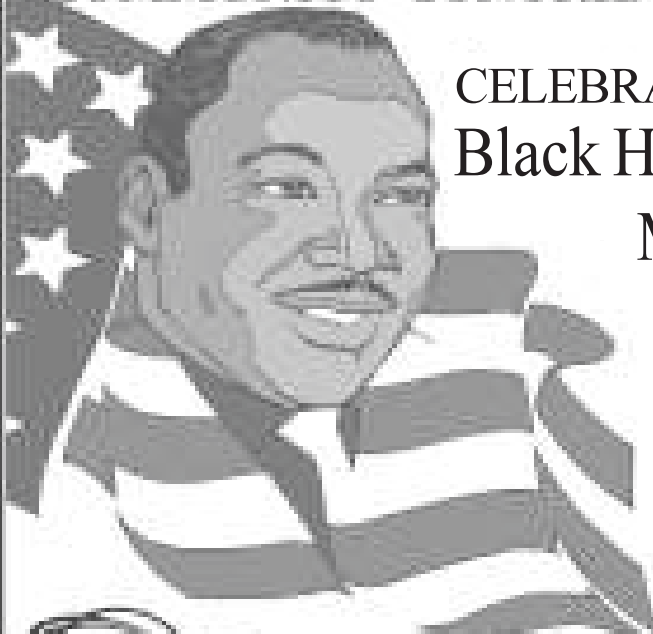
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