



# PORTLAND JACL

SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

May 2, 2011

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner, City of Portland  
1221 SW 4th Ave • Room 230  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioner Saltzman:

We are writing in response to your comments at the end of the public hearing regarding Portland's participation in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force: "While the FBI has a checkered history, it doesn't do us any good to be sitting here and talking about things that happened 60 years ago or 50 years ago."

Simply stated, we are insulted by your public disregard for both the testimony of Mr. Henry Sakamoto and the plight of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. All along, we have understood your position to be in favor of having Portland Police become active members of the JTTF. In fact, we admired your willingness to so clearly state your opinion. Until last week, however, we did not understand that you held such disregard for Japanese American history and such contempt as to belittle our community's story and our spokesman in such a public manner.

We do not tell our story to foster conspiracy theories of FBI over-reach. While fewer in number every year, we are living proof of our state's ability to over-reach in the name of defense and security. Nor do we feel our history to be irrelevant given the documented abuses of civil liberties during the recent war on terror. Indeed such abuses have occurred close to home in the cases of Brandon Mayfield and Al-Haramain.

We do not tell our story to discredit the need for security. Like you, we want Portland to be a safe place. But we are unwilling to live with increased security resulting in the loss of civil liberties for any fellow Portlanders. The events of 60 years ago as well as the past decade justify our concern. Shame on you for not only ignoring the concerns of the Portland Japanese American community, but also for insulting our efforts to keep the security of fellow citizens' liberties in the forefront of public debate.

Sincerely,

Jim Kennedy  
Co-president

Jeff Selby  
Co-president