

Submitter: Amrit Boyd
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

Dear City Council,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal to expand the use of police surveillance drones in Portland.

Portland does not need more police surveillance. We need more accountability, more community support systems, and more investment in real safety—not state-sanctioned intimidation. Historically, increased police presence and surveillance has led not to safety, but to deeper unrest and erosion of public trust. The Portland Police Bureau has shown, time and again, that it is not interested in protecting all of its citizens equally—especially those who protest, speak out, or belong to historically marginalized communities.

The addition of police drones does not make our city safer. It sends a clear and chilling message: dissent will be watched, tracked, and potentially punished. We have the constitutional right to protest, to gather, to speak, and to resist. That right should be protected, not surveilled.

Let's be honest—this isn't about safety. This is about control. If we are truly interested in safety, we should be investing in community-based mental health services, housing, education, and harm reduction—not in expanding a surveillance state that has already done so much harm.

The people of Portland have made it clear that we want care, not control. We want safety rooted in community, not intimidation from above. We do not want our taxpayer dollars funding tools that will only deepen the divide between the people and those in power.

Please vote no on the expansion of police surveillance drones. Portland deserves better.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen