

October 2023 CPO 1 Meeting Minutes

By Bruce Bartlett, CPO 1 Vice Chair

CPO 1 starts our land use-oriented meeting by reading the county's [Land Acknowledgment statement](#).

In person at the Cedar Grove appts Community Room

A recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Fran Warren, CPO 1 member and a leader of [TreeKeepers of Washington County](#), reported on the Significant Natural Resource (SNR) work being done in the county to map remaining habitat areas to determine which warrant enhanced protection. An online open house provides comment opportunity on proposed [natural resource map updates](#).

Washington County Sheriff, Pat Garrett, and Undersheriff Caprice Massey visited us. Sheriff Garret is retiring from his office and Undersheriff Massey has been approved as his replacement until the election in 2024. The Sheriff oversaw the implementation of the [Mental Health Response Team](#) which has served the county well. The MHRT has now been duplicated in other cities. US Massey brings an extensive background of experience to the office. From her response to questions from the Board of County Commissioners: "... building and maintaining accountability, transparency and trust in the department is paramount as sheriff."

Detective Jeremy Chedester is a 20-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office who provided an overview of Domestic Terrorism in Washington County and around the state (starting at 36 minutes into the meeting recording.) He spent the last 7 years as a member of the Investigations Division of the [FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces](#) and described the various groups the JTTF tracks: Anarchists, Animal Rights Extremists, Antiabortion Extremists, Militia/Sovereign Citizen Extremists, INCELS (anti-women), White Supremist Extremists, ideological Lone Wolves, and use of Weapons of Mass Destruction. He investigates individuals involved in these groups, but not the groups themselves.

Terrorism is formally defined as "The unlawful use of force or violence committed against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof, in the furtherance of political or social objectives", including religious objectives. In 2021, 18 states experienced terrorism attacks with the tri-county area of Oregon (Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties) having the highest concentration of incidents with Portland ranking in the top 6 cities across the nation.

As Det Chedester explained, Antifa stands for "[Anti-Facist Action](#)" which has its roots in Europe/Germany in the 1930's while Hitler was institutionalizing [Nazism](#), a form of fascism with disdain for liberal democracy and the parliamentary system. [Rose City Antifa](#) today is of this historic Anti-Fascist lineage. They use the same symbols/flag of Anti-Fascist Action but has become more radicalized and violent while not engaging in deadly force. Exacerbating this situation is the presence of the Anarchists who revel in destruction who intermingle with Antifa.

[White Supremist groups](#) today have their roots in the racial and ethnic hatred inherent in Nazism. The Proud Boys, while not explicitly espousing white supremacy, attract members who do. The white supremacist group Patriot Front has been active posting flyers in Washington County and is modeled on Hitler Youth. Starting around 2015, the Vancouver, WA group [Patriot Prayer](#) and the [Proud Boys](#) began [marching around Portland](#), antagonizing communities with the intent to draw Antifa and the Anarchists into fights. In recent years, more extremist members of the Proud Boys, who were intent on violence broke away and formed the [Rose City Nationalists](#), a new fascist group that trains with weapons. They

are part of 3N, the Northwest Nationalist Network, a relatively new fascist group active from California to Washington. Now five leaders of the Proud Boys have been [convicted of sedition](#) leading the insurrection on Jan 6 and have been given decades long sentences.

Det Chedester gives trainings on domestic and international extremism to new law enforcement recruits, the Mental Health Response Team, the Crisis Negotiation Team, patrol officers, businesses as well as community groups like the CPOs. For the Beaverton School District, he trains their newly-formed [Youth Services Officers](#) group; seven from the Beaverton Police, four from the Washington County Sheriff and one from the Hillsboro Police.