

## Police State USA. Glimmer of Hope: Citizens Force Seattle To Scrap Police Drones

Seattle joined by Charlottesville, Va. in rejecting federal and DHS local drone roll-out

By [Patrick Henningsen](#)

Global Research, February 10, 2013

[21st Century Wire](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

*It's one of those stories that you had to listen twice when you heard the report on the radio, and then, still in a state of suspended disbelief, I rushed to the internet to check and see if indeed it was the case. With the good news, I could just about hear a faint pulse of the American heart beating again.*

It's safe to assume that after this week's developments, corporate lobbyists, politicians, bureaucrats at the DHS, county sheriffs, city police - and maybe *The President perhaps...* should at least know by now - that Americans do not want drones flying over their cities and towns. A wave of resistance is currently building...

In Seattle, [where residents laid seige](#) to the Seattle Police Department's plans to use surveillance [drones](#), it appears that following Wednesday night's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee hearing - the program has been scrapped.



Washington residents take away expensive new police toys.

This news comes on the back of a week of controversy surrounding Obama's CIA Director nominee, **John O. Brennan**, seen by many as a pioneer of sorts in the field of US military secret drone assassinations. This has presented an ethical dilemma for President Obama, who ascended to power on a liberal PR wave which is fundamentally at odds with this level of anti-constitutional and illegal policy.

Obama himself signed the [bill](#) in early 2012 that enabled some [30,000 drones](#) in the domestic US, to be operated by the Department of Homeland Security and local police

departments, Seattle being one such city scheduled for adoption of a junior 'Skynet' beta program.

Make no mistake about it - there is an Washington DC-based agenda to roll out drones all over the country. Seattle's Police Department had obtained these two small drones through a *federal grant*.

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn explained:

"Today I spoke with Seattle Police Chief John Diaz and we agreed that it was time to end the unmanned aerial vehicle program so that SPD can focus its resources on public safety and the community building work that is the department's priority. [\(They\)](#) will be returned to the vendor."

Public protesters gathered in for the [October public meeting](#) on the city's new drone program, which prompted police to quickly retreat on the issue:

*"The testimony opposing drones has been overwhelmingly clear that the 11 people who testified this afternoon, all of whom testified against the use of drones, was symbolic of the general reaction we are getting," [said](#) Chairman Bruce Harrell.*

Compared to other direct actions, this was a relatively modest effort, which should encourage other citizen groups keeping the encroaching police state at bay - for now at least. Mia Jacobson who represents the citizen group *StandUP* explains, *"If 11 voices can protect the people from flying government robots watching their every move - what can 20 voices do? What can your voice accomplish?"*

In addition to Seattle, the city of Charlottesville, Va., also rejected drones by ordering a [two-year moratorium](#) on their use thanks to The Rutherford Institute, a civil liberties group.

According to [FOX news](#): the U.S. Department of Homeland Security drones do enter Washington State airspace occasionally, patrolling the Canadian border east of the Cascade mountains. The two 10,000-pound Predator-B unmanned aircraft are based in North Dakota.

*Back on Pennsylvania Ave, Sen. Diane Feinstein who was chairing Obama's CIA directorate confirmation hearings for drone-master John Brennan, came under some similar pressure from crowds of protesters, some of whom were 'Code Pink' anti-war demonstrators who were able to 'gatecrash' the DC venue. Brennan defended US state-sponsored murders by unmanned drones abroad by claiming that drone strikes are used only against targets 'planning to carry out attacks against the United States', completely missing out on the extrajudicial nature of the killings (including an estimated 100 children) which is actually causing the whole controversy. Back to square one...*

The original source of this article is [21st Century Wire](#)  
Copyright © [Patrick Henningsen](#), [21st Century Wire](#), 2013

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

## **Become a Member of Global Research**

Articles by: **Patrick Henningsen**

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)