

Seattle sues Trump administration over sanctuary city threat

Mayor says executive order is punishment

By MARTHA BELLISLE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Seattle filed a lawsuit Wednesday over President Donald Trump's executive order that threatens to withhold federal funds from communities that refuse to cooperate with efforts to find and deport immigrants in the country illegally.

Mayor Ed Murray said the order issued in January punishing "sanctuary cities" is unconstitutional and creates uncertainty around the city's budget.

Other governments have sued Trump over the sanctuary issue. San Francisco filed a lawsuit earlier this year, also saying the order was unconstitutional. California's Santa Clara County and two Massachusetts cities with large Latino popu-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, second left, speaks at a post-election event in November of elected officials and community leaders at City Hall in Seattle. On Wednesday, Murray announced that Seattle is suing President Donald Trump over his executive order that threatens to withhold federal funds from communities that refuse to cooperate with efforts to find and deport immigrants in the country illegally.

lations — Chelsea and Lawrence — have also taken legal action.

Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior said in

a statement that "the American people want and deserve a lawful immigration system that keeps us safe and serves our national interest" and

that the federal government will enforce relevant laws.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions reiterated this week that the Justice Department would deny grant money to cities that violate a federal law dealing with information-sharing among local police and federal authorities. Sessions said the cities are making their communities unsafe.

Murray challenged that claim.

"Apparently the Trump administration, their war on facts has now become a war on cities," Murray said during a news conference. "Let me be clear about the facts. We are not breaking any laws and we are prioritizing safety."

Under the order, Seattle could face at least \$10.5 million in cuts to public safety programs, he said.

Trump's order violates the constitution by trying to make local law enforcement enforce federal immigration law, Murray said.

The order also makes communities less safe by forcing people underground, said City Attorney Pete Holmes.

When people are marginalized and made to fear police, they are less likely to come forward as witnesses to crime, Murray said.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court asks a judge to declare that Seattle is in compliance with the law and that the executive order is unconstitutional under the 10th Amendment and the Spending Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"This administration has created an atmosphere of anxiety in cities across America and has created chaos in our politics," Murray said. "It is time for cities to stand up and ask the courts to put an end to the anxiety in our communities and the chaos in our system."

Associated Press writer Sadie Gurman contributed from Washington, D.C.

County's unemployment rate falls to 3.9 percent

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell below 4 percent in February, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

The county's February unemployment rate of 3.9 percent, which dropped from 4.2 percent in January, is tied for eighth-lowest in the state with Sherman County in eastern Oregon. Benton County in the Willamette Valley has dropped below 2.9 percent; the state is at 4.2 percent; and the U.S. is at 4.7 percent. Economists have said the U.S. is at nearly full employment after recovering from the Great Recession.

Clatsop County added 90 jobs in February, 60 fewer than expected. Leisure and hospitality added 120 jobs, while transportation, warehousing



*Preliminary, seasonally adjusted rates.
Source: Oregon Employment Department
Daily Astorian graphic

and utilities added 60. Retail trade cut 70 jobs, and food manufacturing another 50.

The county has experienced a 1.3 percent growth

rate in total nonfarm employment from a year ago, adding 220 jobs. Industries adding the most jobs were retail trade with 150, local government 70 and trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities 100.

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5 percent in February, 0.5 percent lower than the previous month. The county's employment has grown by 100, or just under 1 percent, from a year ago.

Tillamook County posted a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in February, down 0.4 percent from the previous month. The county has added 150 nonfarm payroll jobs since the previous year, a 1.7 percent growth rate in employment.

County employment figures for March will be released April 25.

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