

Justices allow Trump ban on most refugees

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is allowing the Trump administration to maintain its restrictive policy on refugees.

The justices on Tuesday agreed to an administration request to block a lower court ruling that would have eased the refugee ban and allowed up to 24,000 refugees to enter the country before the end of October.

The order was not the court's last word on the travel policy that President Donald Trump first rolled out in January. The justices are scheduled to hear arguments on Oct. 10 on the legality of the bans on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries

and refugees anywhere in the world.

It's unclear, though, what will be left for the court to decide. The 90-day travel ban lapses in late September and the 120-day refugee ban will expire a month later.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday night: "We are pleased that the Supreme Court has allowed key components of the order to remain in effect. We will continue to vigorously defend the order leading up to next month's oral argument in the Supreme Court."

The administration has yet to say whether it will seek to renew the bans, make them permanent or expand the travel ban to other countries. Lower courts have ruled

that the bans violate the Constitution and federal immigration law. The high court has agreed to review those rulings. Its intervention so far has been to evaluate what parts of the policy can take effect in the meantime.

The justices said in June that the administration could not enforce the bans against people who have a "bona fide" relationship with people or entities in the United States. The justices declined to define the required relationships more precisely.

A panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a district judge's order that would have allowed refugees to enter the United States if a resettlement agency in the U.S. had

agreed to take them in.

The administration objected, saying the relationship between refugees and resettlement agencies shouldn't count. The high court's unsigned, one-sentence order agreed with the administration, at least for now.

The appeals court also upheld another part of the judge's ruling that applies to the ban on visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Grandparents and cousins of people already in the U.S. can't be excluded from the country under the travel ban, as the Trump administration had wanted. The administration did not ask the Supreme Court to block that part of the ruling.

FEES: City will dedicate 33 percent of franchise fees to street department

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Monday, outlines those projects that will be a priority. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year the city plans to realign the confusing three-way intersection at Harper Road, Geer Road and North First Place behind Home Depot at a cost of about \$1.25 million.

Other top projects include major maintenance work around Newport Park, paving the unpaved portions of Theater Lane, widening North First Place, redesigning the intersections of Highland Avenue and North First Place by the high school and Orchard Avenue and North First Place by the fire station, paving and extending West Gettman Road and widening East 10th Street.

Franchise fee money will also go toward maintenance of current streets, such as a grind and overlay of Hermiston Avenue planned for the coming fiscal year. City councilors said they don't like raising rates on Hermiston residents, but they also feel a need to make sure Hermiston's streets are maintained and that its street system can accommodate the city's growth.

"If you don't keep it up, you have to replace it, and that's much more expensive," Jackie Myers said.

Doug Smith said he recently hit a pothole on a county road that cost him more in payments to Les Schwab Tires than paying increased franchise fees will cost.

Not everyone was on board with the fee increase, however. Resident Cyndie Traner said utility payments were already too expensive for residents, and questioned why the city council could raise those fees without a vote of the citizens.

"I personally don't want to have any increase in my

utilities," she said.

Steven Gerber, senior manager of government relations for Charter Communications, said the fee increase would not come out of Charter's pocket, but will be passed directly on to customers. He questioned the legality of the council's actions, particularly concerning a separate ordinance that allowed the city to start charging franchise fees on Charter's internet and phone services instead of just the fees on cable it had previously been paying.

"Fees are imposed to recover costs, taxes are to raise revenue," he said. "It seems clear this is to raise revenue."

Rich Lorenz, the city's utilities attorney from Cable Huston, said the language in the ordinance matched language that the Oregon Supreme Court recently upheld in a legal battle between the city of Eugene and Comcast.

In the end the city council voted on a series of resolutions raising franchise fees on Umatilla Electric Cooperative, Cascade Natural Gas, Charter Communications, Eastern Oregon Telecom, EZ Wireless, Inland Development Corporation, Windwave Communications and M2 Machmedia. It also passed a resolution allowing the city to charge franchise fees on Charter's internet and phone offerings, a resolution dedicating 33 percent of all franchise fees to the street department, and a resolution adopting the city's five-year capital improvement plan for street improvements.

The increase will come into effect Oct. 1 for Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Jan. 1 for other companies.

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Household income finally topped 1999 peak last year

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — In a stark reminder of the damage done by the Great Recession and of the modest recovery that followed, the median American household only last year finally earned more than it did in 1999.

Incomes for a typical U.S. household, adjusted for inflation, rose 3.2 percent from 2015 to 2016 to \$59,039, the Census Bureau said. The median is the point at which half the households fall below and half are above.

Last year's figure is slightly above the previous peak of \$58,665, reached in 1999. It is also the first time since the recession ended in 2009 that the typical household earned more than it did in 2007, when the recession began.

Trudi Renwick, the bureau's assistant division chief, cautioned that the census in 2013 changed how it asks households about income, making historical comparisons less than precise.

Still, the Census data is



AP Photo/Alan Diaz, File

In this Feb. 2016 file photo, people shop in Miami. After years of sluggish growth, typical U.S. household incomes finally topped pre-recession levels in 2016 and reached an all-time high, according to information released by the Census Bureau.

closely watched because of its comprehensive nature. It is based on interviews with 70,000 households and includes detailed data on incomes and poverty across a range of demographic groups.

Elise Gould, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, said that adjusting for the change in methodology, median income still remains below its 1999 peak. Yet she added that the census report shows that American households

have made significant economic progress in 2015 and 2016.

"We are definitely pulling ourselves out of the deep hole of the Great Recession," Gould said on a conference call with reporters.

Median household income rose \$4,641, or 8.5 percent, from 2014 through 2016. That's the best two-year gain on records dating to 1967, according to analysts at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Yet that improvement

comes after a steep recession and a slow recovery that left most American households with barely any income increases. The lack of meaningful raises has left many people feeling left behind economically, a sentiment that factored into the 2016 elections.

The report also showed that income inequality worsened last year, extending a trend in place for roughly four decades. Average incomes among the wealthiest 5 percent climbed 5.5 percent to \$375,088. Average incomes for the poorest one-fifth of households, meanwhile rose 2.5 percent to \$12,943.

Other measures of Americans' economic health improved. The poverty rate fell last year to 12.7 percent from 13.5 percent, Census said. The number of people living below the poverty line declined 2.5 million to 40.6 million.

That brings the proportion of households living below the poverty line back to pre-recession levels, though it remains about one and half percentage points higher than its lowest point, in 2000.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 11:30 PM) and rows for various TV channels (FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS) listing their respective programs.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Large table listing TV schedules for various channels (A&E, AMC, ANPL, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FOC, FOND, FREE, GOLF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, NICK, ROOT, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, UNI, USA, WE, WGN) with columns for time slots and program titles.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT & THURSDAY MORNING

Table listing TV schedules for late night and Thursday morning slots, including channels like FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, and PBS with program titles and times.