

Sessions: Sanctuary cities undermine law's moral authority

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday criticized sanctuary cities that try to protect immigrants in the country illegally as places that “undermine the moral authority of the law.”

He made the comments a day after the Trump administration appealed a judge's ruling blocking its efforts to withhold money from the cities.

Sessions, speaking to law enforcement officers in a sanctuary city in the sanctuary state of Oregon, urged officials who have decided that local police should not cooperate with federal immigration agents to reconsider those policies.

As he spoke, protesters lined the streets outside the Portland field office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Their chants could faintly be heard inside the room where Sessions appeared.

Sessions said the federal grant money that U.S. cities receive are not an entitlement, and cannot be given to sanctuary cities that he said frustrate efforts to reduce crime.

“Rather than reconsider their policies, these sanctuary jurisdictions feign outrage when they lose federal funds as a direct result of actions designed to nullify plain federal law,” Sessions said.

A Chicago judge last Friday at least temporarily blocked the administration's attempt to withhold one particular public safety grant from cities that don't cooperate.

On Monday, U.S. government lawyers appealed a judge's ruling in lawsuits by San Francisco and another California county challenging President Donald Trump's broader executive order threatening to cut off funding to sanctuary cities.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick rejected the administration's argument that the executive order applies only to a relatively small pot of money and said Trump cannot set new conditions on



A group protests U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions Tuesday as he arrives in Portland to discuss sanctuary city policies with city and regional law enforcement officials.

spending approved by Congress

The Chicago lawsuit blocked late last week was in response to the administration's decision to attach immigration restrictions to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

Sessions told the law enforcement officers in Portland that city officials in “these sanctuary jurisdictions feign outrage when they lose federal funds as a direct result of actions designed to nullify plain federal law.”

And he accused Portland and other cities of suing the administration “so that they can keep receiving taxpayer-funded grants while continuing to impede federal immigration enforcement.”

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who did not attend the speech, wrote a letter to the Sessions saying that the city celebrates diversity and that “our local laws support these values and we are better for it.”

“It is for these reasons that I strongly oppose the Trump administration's

efforts to coerce local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws,” wrote Wheeler, a Democrat.

Sessions highlighted the case of Sergio Martinez, a man accused of assaulting two women in July after his release from a Portland jail. Martinez has a lengthy arrest record, and has been deported more than a dozen times.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it asked the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to prevent Martinez' release so the agency could take him into custody.

But Sheriff Mike Reese said last month that the case would have ended differently if the federal agency had sent a criminal detention warrant signed by a judge.

“Instead,” he said, “they processed a civil detainer, which they know cannot be legally used in Oregon.”

Oregon three decades ago became America's first sanctuary state with a law that prohibits law enforcement from detaining people who are in the U.S. illegally but have not broken other laws.

Governor Brown doesn't get meeting with Sessions

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM—U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions didn't meet with Gov. Kate Brown while in Portland Tuesday, despite her request for an audience with him.

In a speech at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Northwest Portland, Sessions castigated sanctuary cities as promoters of “lawlessness.”

Meanwhile, Brown spoke with reporters in her office at the Oregon Capitol. The governor said she requested a meeting with Sessions but received no response from his office. She said she would have appealed to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The program allows undocumented young adults brought to the United States as children to legally work and attend school in this country.

“He clearly did not have time to meet with me and hear my strong views about how I feel about making sure that Dreamers are able to go to school, to work and to lead lives in this state,” Brown said.

Sessions' office did not immediately return a phone call from the Pamplin

Media/EO Media Capital Bureau seeking comment on why he decided against meeting the governor.

In his speech, he said the nearly 500 sanctuary cities across the nation “hinder the work of federal law enforcement” and “promote lawlessness.”

“That makes a sanctuary city a trafficker, smuggler, or gang member's best friend,” Sessions said.

Brown said she is “appalled by the position of the attorney general.”

“I want to make it very clear that Oregon is a state that

welcomes and wants to encourage our immigrant and refugee communities,” the governor said. “We see them as a very important part of Oregon's cultural and economic fabric, and they're part of what makes Oregon unique.”

A 1987 law effectively made Oregon a sanctuary state. Brown reinforced that law with an executive order in February barring the use of any state resources to enforce federal immigration policy.

Sessions announced Sept. 5 that the Trump administration would phase out DACA in the next six months, unless Congress chose to enact the program legislatively.



Brown

DRIVING: Washington has also banned all use of cell phones while driving, increased penalties

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more loved ones devastated by the news of their death.

“One of the worst parts of my job is knocking on someone's door and giving them the worst news of their life,” Berland said.

Most people wouldn't drive down Interstate 84 with their eyes closed just because their friend dared them to, but if they answer a text from that same friend while driving, it creates a similar effect. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, a person takes their eyes off the road for an average of 4.5 seconds while reading a text. At 55 miles per hour, that's the equivalent of driving the length of a football field blindfolded. If the road curves unexpectedly, a car in front hits the brakes or a deer runs onto the road, that “blindfold” can be disastrous.

“Nobody intends on

Team up to keep eyes on the road

To encourage people to think more carefully about their driving habits, Oregon State Police, in partnership with AAA, Oregon Department of Transportation and other sponsors, have come up with a new campaign called Drive Healthy.

Participants can register on the website drivehealthy.org in teams of at least five people and download the LifeSaver app that tracks whether they are using their phone while driving. Points are deducted from teams every time one of their members unlocks a cell phone while driving their car. The top-scoring teams will be displayed on the website's monthly leaderboard and will be entered into drawings for Amazon gift cards and other prizes. Sponsors hope the public competition will encourage companies, church congregations, families and other groups to form a team that will provide motivation to leave the phone alone while driving.

Many smartphones also have built-in features or apps that users can enable that provide services such as automatic replies to texts and calls stating that phone's owner is driving and can't respond.

crashing,” Berland said. “Nobody intends on taking that call and then running a red light or rear-ending someone or running over a child.”

It happens, though. Last

year Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston got a visit from one of his sergeants, informing him that his great-niece Alexxyss Therwanger had been killed in a car crash outside of Pilot

Rock. She had been using her phone throughout the trip. Edmiston then had to inform his sister and her husband, who helped raise Alexxyss, of her death.

Edmiston has seen other distracted driving deaths in Hermiston. In 2011 Jonathan Newkirk died in a head-on crash after crossing the center line in front of Hermiston's Recycled Water Treatment Plant on North First Place. His cell phone indicated he had been placing a call when he crashed.

Previously, using a phone while driving was a Class C violation, with a presumptive fine of \$160. Presumptive fines are the standard amount charged for a certain violation, while the court can choose to impose a higher amount. All fines are automatically doubled in a school zone or construction zone.

Under the law that takes effect in a couple of weeks,

a first-time offender who did not cause a crash would face a Class B violation, with a presumptive fine of \$260 but a maximum fine of \$1,000. Those first-time offenders could have their fine suspended if they complete a course of safety classes within four months, but the violation will stay on their record.

Second-time offenders face a Class A traffic violation, on par with driving more than 30 miles per hour over the speed limit and carrying a presumptive fine of \$435 but a maximum of \$2,000. Any additional violations become a Class B misdemeanor, resulting in a criminal record for the perpetrator and up to a \$2,500 fine and 6 months in jail.

There are a few exemptions to the rules. A person can call 9-1-1 while driving during an emergency if there is no one else in the vehicle who can make the

call. Drivers can also use a single touch to activate a hands-free device. School bus drivers, commercial truck drivers, emergency responders and utility workers can use a two-way handheld radio in the scope of their employment.

Umatilla County drivers crossing border into the Tri-Cities or Walla Walla also need to be aware of new distracted driving laws in Washington. Washington has also banned all use of cell phones while driving and increased penalties, but also added habits such as eating or putting on make-up. Those non-phone distractions are a secondary offense, meaning an officer can't pull someone over solely for eating in their car, but they can add it to a ticket for speeding or other violations.

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CPR: Has also saved a man who collapsed playing basketball

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Pearce started coughing up blood. Brown worked to clear his airways.

Pearce was taken by ambulance from the bowling alley and Brown said he received a phone call later that night that he was awake and coherent. On Tuesday Pearce was in critical condition at Kadlec Medical Center, Richland.

Brown makes his living doing private security, though he said he is currently not working while he waits to have knee surgery. Brown said he gained some medical knowledge through classes he took in high school and in the military.

Brown said he has been in a similar situation in Pendleton, when he and another man performed CPR on a man who collapsed playing basketball. In that situation, they also used a defibrillator, and were able to get

the man's heart started again.

Brown said he was fairly calm during the whole event.

“You can't panic at that stuff,” he said. “I just kind of zeroed in on him.”

Several people stopped by Brown's lane on Tuesday night, where he was back for another game, to congratulate him and thank him for his actions the night before.

The incident highlights the importance of having non-emergency personnel train in CPR and first aid.

The Umatilla County Fire District, Blue Mountain Community College, Good Shepherd Medical Center and St. Anthony Hospital all offer CPR training to the public.

Matt Fisher, a shift lieutenant with the UCFD, praised Brown's ability to act in a crisis.

“That man collapsed with a

cardiac arrest, and this morning, was flown out to Kadlec and is still alive,” he said. “Their CPR undoubtedly made a difference in his outcome.”

Juli Gregory, of Good Shepherd's education department, said the hospital routinely offers five different classes a month, including CPR, first aid, and a combination class that teaches both.

Gregory said the classes tend to be well-attended, whether by individuals or by businesses that require their employees to get trained.

The CPR class at Good Shepherd is \$45, the first aid class is \$50, and the combination class is \$90. Those interested can sign up at the hospital website, gshealth.org.

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TURKEYS: Property owners must get permit from ODFW to kill any birds

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the benefits they get from being in town — namely food and places to roost at night.

“And right now, there is no hazing and the food is great,” he said.

Scaring off the birds from one place won't matter much, he added, if the house two doors down is feeding them.

“So what my thinking on it is, we need to lethally remove the turkeys,” Rimbach said.

That recommendation created a moment of silence, and city staff double-checked to make sure he said “lethally.”

He had. “I know it doesn't sound nice,” he said. “But lethally removing turkeys is the way to go.”

Turkeys are smart, Rimbach continued, and killing a few might be enough for the rest to catch a clue and move on.

That action would require property owners to secure a permit from ODFW. Rimbach also said one or two permitted city employees could take on the task. They also would have to clean the birds and provide the meat to organizations, such as a church, to distribute to people in need.

Rimbach said some methods of killing are “more socially acceptable” than others. ODFW, for example, would not be OK with someone going after the birds with a baseball bat. He suggested a .22-caliber gun would be best, but shooting in town would be too risky.

Bill Caldera, the city police chief,

agreed that shooting into trees to kill turkeys would not be safe.

Rimbach noted that trapping would not work in the city because the department uses rocket nets or cannon nets. If one went astray, he said, that's a 10-pound bullet flying around.

Six Pilot Rock residents attended the meeting. Pam and Don Fisher said the turkey population on their property has grown from about 20 birds three years ago to 66. Pam Fisher described mounds of turkey scat two and three feet tall where the birds gather. Others in the small audience said they were fed up with the fowls fouling their railings and decks.

One woman asked about poisoning the birds, and another person asked about relocating them.

Rimbach cautioned against poison. He said there are poisons for specific breeds of birds, but he did not know if there was one just for turkeys. Before the state can issue a kill permit, he said, the city needs to prohibit feeding turkeys. That local law provides the legal backbone for the lethal action. He provided the council with ODFW guidelines for dealing with turkeys and examples of ordinances from some Oregon cities. Porter said she would pass that information to the council to discuss at the next meeting.

Until then, Rimbach said, there was nothing stopping the city or property owners from obtaining a permit to haze the turkeys.

“We give them out like Tic Tacs,” he said.

PENDLETON: REACH had \$7,000 available to spend

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Jackson said he was personally uncomfortable with a lease any shorter than six months.

The council was also unresponsive to REACH's request for the city to pay for the first six months of the building's utilities and inquired into the organization's current operational state.

Jackson said REACH had \$7,000 available to spend and intended to spend 1-2 days a week at the facility from 3 p.m.

to 8 p.m., expanding operations further once it became more sustainable.

Councilor John Brenne was skeptical.

“I have several concerns here,” he said. “I'm also concerned they have no trained counselors. They have no staff. They have no budget.”

After a lengthy debate, Councilor Scott Fairley made a motion to lease the building for a one year with the one-year extension option, but it was defeated. A

second motion made by Brenne for a six month lease with a six month extension option didn't receive even a second.

A third motion made by Primmer, which included the city option to terminate, was ultimately passed 7-1, with Brenne voting against.

The council also turned down a motion to expand an administrative rule that would have banned tobacco use in all city parks, but unlike the REACH lease, no further action was taken.