

## The Oregonian

### Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler condemns deportation raid

By Jessica Floum

March 28, 2017

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler condemned the arrest of a Southeast Portland immigrant by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials Sunday and questioned the ability of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to withhold funds from the city following a threat to that effect by Sessions Monday.

[Federal immigration officials arrested](#) 25-year-old Francisco K. Rodriguez Dominguez in his Southeast Portland home Sunday. Rodriguez Dominguez last year was charged with a misdemeanor driving under the influence. However, he had received clearance under President Barack Obama's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy that granted some undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children renewable two-year deportation deferments.

"This arrest does nothing to promote public safety," Wheeler said in a statement. "Instead, actions like this only serve to tear apart our community and needlessly alter the lives of our residents. The city had no role in this arrest and I am against it."

Sessions said in a Monday press conference that the federal government will take "all lawful steps to claw back any funds" awarded to a so-called sanctuary city that refuses to use city resources to enforce federal immigration laws. Sessions said failing to assist with federal immigration enforcement violates a federal rule.

"All of this is happening in an environment that contains a lot of heated rhetoric but not a lot of facts," Wheeler said.

The mayor said his office spoke with immigration and U.S. Department of Justice officials to ask them not to deport Portland residents who aren't serious criminals. He also warned local residents that immigration officials' can operate in the city without informing city officials.

"Today my administration spoke with both ICE and DOJ about our concern that their actions tremendous damage they are doing to the social, civic, and economic life of our city," Wheeler said. "The City of Portland, our police bureau, and our employees do not cooperate with ICE."

He encouraged people to learn more about their rights regarding immigration enforcement by visiting the [Oregon Immigration Resource website](#).

### Portland policy director to retire after Facebook controversy

By Jessica Floum

March 28, 2017

A long-time top aide to Portland Commissioner Nick Fish is retiring after an activist publicized controversial Facebook posts the aide had written on Facebook since October.

Jim Blackwood Jr., Fish's senior policy director, will retire Saturday after working in the commissioner's office for more than seven years, said Sonia Schmanski, chief of staff to Fish.

Blackwood's retirement comes weeks after Portland activist Gregory McKelvey shared 11 of Blackwood's Facebook posts. One called [the shooting of a protester](#) during an anti-Trump demonstration "inevitable." Two others [highlighted cases](#) where black men killed police officers. [One post said](#) "it's only fair" to name the races of "cop killers."

Other posts criticized City Hall protesters, Measure 97 and Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

"Lawlessness and violence always begets more of the same," Blackwood wrote in a [Facebook post](#) about the shooting of an unarmed protester during a late-night march against Donald Trump's election victory. "If you are 'protesting' in the middle of the night, you don't have a cause. You are merely doing it because it is fun."

Blackwood, 61, told The Oregonian/OregonLive in a text that he decided to retire in February after talking to his family and friends. But Schmanski said Blackwood announced his retirement in mid-March.

McKelvey shared Blackwood's [Facebook posts](#) on March 3. He said he shared Blackwood's posts because they confirmed many protesters' concerns that Portland policymakers see protesters as a problem rather than a productive part of the political process.

"Nick became aware of comments made by Jim on Jim's personal Facebook page," Schmanski said. "Nick does not agree with many of the comments, and no, the comments do not reflect his values."

Schmanski would not say whether Blackwood was asked to retire due to his Facebook posts. She emphasized that he announced his retirement plans after returning from vacation in March.

Fish was not available for comment Monday.

"It's never easy to be down a person on a small team," Schmanski said.

McKelvey said he's glad to see Blackwood go.

"It's sad because everyone has to make a living, but when your job affects the rest of the city, we can't have somebody with those views determining policy," McKelvey said.

"I don't think the timing of this retirement is coincidental," he added.

## **Portlanders of all stripes should help Mayor Wheeler lead (Opinion)**

*By Guest Columnist Dan Holladay*

*March 28, 2017*

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Ted Wheeler. Let me first state that for those who are not aware, Wheeler is a democrat and I am the republican mayor of Oregon City.

That being said, Wheeler and I had a great discussion on many topics about how our cities might cooperate and about the legislative priorities of not only Portland, but all of the cities in the metro region. We met in his conference room just inside the Mayor's office. When I asked why we were meeting there rather than his office, his answer not only surprised but impressed me a great deal. He said that he does not use the traditional office of the Mayor, instead he uses a space in the back with what he calls his team. His feeling is that he needs to be close to

and among that team to be most effective. This is a distinct departure from past "imperial" mayors. I got the sense from not only him, but also his team, that they are working hard to find solutions to his city's problems.

The most disturbing issue we talked about was the constant disruption of the Portland City Council meetings by a handful of protesters bent on preventing any business from being conducted. I believe in the First Amendment and that all citizens have the right to be heard by their elected officials. I don't believe that those same citizens should have the right to prevent other citizens or elected officials from being heard or conducting the business, which they were duly elected to conduct.

This puts Wheeler between a rock and a hard space. Here is my solution to the problem. Portlanders from the left, right, center, independent and unaffiliated who believe everyone has a right to speak and that the Portland City Council has important daily work to do, as well as far ranging policy decisions to make, should start showing up to those meetings. Peer pressure can be a very powerful tool. Don't disrupt or pick fights, just overwhelm the protesters with sheer numbers of average folks who want to see Portland be "The city that works."

Wheeler and I will disagree on many policy questions over the next years, however I am convinced that his motives are to do what he feels is in the best interests of all Portlanders. To the protesters I say that the mayor is probably in agreement with you 80 percent of the time, so maybe a little more dialog and a lot less screaming would go further in accomplishing your goals. Unless, of course, disruption is the goal. If so, that is not the way a representative republic works.

As my mother is fond of saying "you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar." In other words, talking and human interaction between individuals makes it much harder, if not impossible, to hate your adversary.

To all Portlanders I say, you elected from what I can see is a fair, dedicated, qualified and honest man as your mayor. Give him a chance to lead.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Wheeler criticizes sanctuary city crackdown, immigration arrest**

*By Jim Redden  
March 28, 2017*

Five days after the City Council officially declared Portland a so-called sanctuary city, Mayor Ted Wheeler pushed back against a threat by U.S Attorney General Jeff Sessions to crack down on them. That means it will not help enforce federal immigration laws.

The council passed its declaration last Wednesday. On Monday morning, Sessions said the U.S. Department of Justice would require cities seeking some of \$4.1 billion available in grant money to verify that they are in compliance with a section of federal law that allows information sharing with immigration officials.

"I urge the nation's states and cities to carefully consider the harm they are doing to their citizens by refusing to enforce our immigration laws," Sessions said, explaining the justice department was carrying out an executive order issued by President Donald Trump

In response, Wheeler issued the following statement Monday afternoon criticizing Sessions' statement and the reported Sunday arrest by federal immigration enforcement officers of a young Portland who was brought into this country when he was a child:

Mayor Ted Wheeler released the following statement on Attorney General Jeff Sessions' comments on sanctuary city's and recent ICE actions in Portland.

"Today, Attorney General Jeff Sessions again reiterated the Trump administration's threat to withhold funding from sanctuary cities. His comments provide barely more information than the already broad statements provided by the president himself. It is unclear whether the AG is referring to future grants, or to funds already provided. Also unclear is his legal ability to withhold funds DOJ funds from states under these conditions. It should be noted that DOJ grants to the City of Portland in our 2015-16 budget totaled just more than \$3 million.

"All of this is happening in an environment that contains a lot of heated rhetoric but not a lot of facts. For example, just last week an Oregon Republican Party spokesman said that Portland's status as a sanctuary city means we are harboring, "criminal illegal aliens who are murdering and raping." This statement is inaccurate and harmful.

"An ICE arrest in Portland over the weekend demonstrates how wrongheaded this statement truly is. This weekend, ICE arrested Francisco J. Rodriguez Dominguez, a 25-year-old who has lived in the United States since he was five. Far from being a violent criminal, Francisco is a respected member of the community, a student and a volunteer. This arrest does nothing to promote public safety. Instead, actions like this only serve to tear apart our community and needlessly alter the lives of our residents. The city had no role in this arrest and I am against it.

"Today my administration spoke with both ICE and DOJ about our concern that their actions tremendous damage they are doing to the social, civic, and economic life of our city. The City of Portland, our police bureau, and our employees do not cooperate with ICE. However, ICE has the power to operate within our city, and does not have to inform us of their activities. To learn more about your rights regarding ICE and immigration enforcement, please visit Oregon Immigration Resource here: [oregonimmigrationresource.org/resources/?tab=deportations-and-ice-activity](http://oregonimmigrationresource.org/resources/?tab=deportations-and-ice-activity)."

Multnomah County Commission Deborah Kafoury also issued the following statement criticizing Rodriguez's arrest:

"The arrest of Dreamer Francisco Rodriguez Dominguez in East County over the weekend will not make our community safer. This is what it looks like when politics gets in the way of common sense.

"It is inconceivable to me that the Trump administration is using our government's precious resources to arrest a community leader, a taxpayer, for something his parents did when he was 5 years old. Francisco Rodriguez Dominguez is a valued member of the Reynolds school community, his Episcopal church and a beloved soccer coach. He was taking the steps required to become a citizen.

"He is not a threat. He is not dangerous. He is a coach, a mentor and an inspiration to children. Politics should not deny him his day in court.

"Immigration and Customs Enforcement managers in the Portland district have discretion and I am asking them to use it. Release him from Tacoma so that he can resume his legal path to citizenship."

# City Hall Update: Portland officially decreed a Sanctuary City

*By Jim Redden  
March 28, 2017*

The City Council officially declared Portland to be a Sanctuary City last Wednesday. Although Oregon law already prohibits law enforcement officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, the resolution approved by the council also directs city bureaus to train their staffs how to respond to federal immigration officials requesting information on city employees or residents.

"Portland has a proud tradition of being a welcoming and inclusive city. Our strength lies in our diversity; we honor people of all nationalities, ethnicities, races and religions," said Commissioner Nick Fish.

The vote was denounced by Oregon Republican Party Chairman Bill Carrier, who issued a statement Thursday that said, "This kind of political grandstanding is a dereliction of their sworn duty to provide for the peace and safety of Portlanders. No wonder so many citizens here in Oregon have lost faith in their public officials."

Carrier does not live in Portland. However, he has some experience as a municipal leader. He is mayor of Adair Village, a city of about 840 people near Corvallis, in Benton County.

## **City Council protests continue**

The ongoing conflict between the Portland City Council and a group of persistent protesters hit a new low during last Wednesday's hearing on the sanctuary city resolution.

Angry because a Multnomah County grand jury did not charge any of the Portland police officers involved in the fatal shooting of armed robbery suspect Quance Hayes with a crime, the protesters repeatedly disrupted the hearing and shouted as the council members spoke.

Mayor Ted Wheeler apologized for the disruptions on his Facebook page after the hearing. "I am saddened — and frankly embarrassed — by the behavior of many attendees, who were not there to participate in civil discourse but to disrupt," he wrote.

Wheeler did not evict any of the protesters, however. He is waiting to enforce a new policy calling for evictions of up to 60 days for repeated disruptions, until a federal court ruling on its constitutionality.

## **Most of Centennial Mills to be demolished**

The City Council unanimously approved the Portland Development Commission's request to demolish most of the aging Centennial Mills redevelopment site on Wednesday morning. The iconic Flour Mill building with the water tank on top is now the only structure scheduled to be preserved.

The council also directed the PDC to maximize the construction of housing affordable to those earning zero to 60 percent of the median family income in any future project there. Mayor Ted Wheeler also urged the PDC to preserve access opportunities to the west bank of the Willamette River where the property is located, even if they are completed later.

The decision means that the Portland Police Bureau's Mounted Horse Patrol, which moved there in 2001 and temporarily moved out in 2015, most likely will never return. The council

must now decide whether to continue the mounted unit in next year's budget and, if so, where to permanently house it.

The PDC bought the property for \$7.7 million in 2000. It already has allocated over \$12 million to demolish the buildings at the greatest risk of collapse. A new Request for Proposals for work on the complex could be issued in late 2017 or early 2018.

## Willamette Week

### Local Officials Defiant Over Sanctuary City Status After Trump Administration Threats

*By Rachel Monahan*

*March 27, 2017*

City of Portland and Multnomah County leaders remained defiant after threats from the Trump administration to punish sanctuary cities by withholding or pulling Department of Justice grants.

City and county officials say they currently receive \$5.5 million from that department.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in a press conference today announced plans to punish jurisdictions that defy U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement requests, but it's not clear he actually has the legal authority to do so.

"The Department of Justice has long required local jurisdictions to comply with 'all applicable laws,' including 8 USC 1373 as a condition of DOJ grant funding," says Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury in a statement, referring to the federal code requiring local jurisdictions to share information with federal immigration enforcement.

"We have no policies that violate the code. Bottom line: in Multnomah County, we follow federal and state laws. So we do not expect to lose any of the \$2.5 million in federal money that either comes directly to us or passes through the state or city."

In his statement, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler criticized the attorney general's statements as threatening but also vague.

"Also unclear is his legal ability to withhold funds DOJ funds from states under these conditions," says Wheeler. "It should be noted that DOJ grants to the City of Portland in our 2015-16 budget totaled just more than \$3 million" — a small fraction of the city's overall budget.

Wheeler also took aim at the Oregon's Republican Party for adding to the hateful rhetoric.

"All of this is happening in an environment that contains a lot of heated rhetoric but not a lot of facts," Wheeler says in the statement. "For example, just last week an Oregon Republican Party spokesman said that Portland's status as a sanctuary city means we are harboring, '[criminal illegal aliens who are murdering and raping](#).' This statement is inaccurate and harmful."

State law prevents any jurisdictions from spending public dollars for the enforcement of federal immigration laws, and both the city and the county have symbolically reiterated their support for remaining sanctuary jurisdictions.

Most critically, county law enforcement agencies across the state have barred their officers from following ICE's request to hold immigrants who are in jail for longer than the local enforcement otherwise would. A 2014 federal court ruling found that doing so was unconstitutional.

Statement from Chair Kafoury on Jeff Sessions' remarks on sanctuaries and arrest of Dreamer Francisco Rodriguez Dominguez

*"The Attorney General today said the Department of Justice will withhold and potentially claw back federal Department of Justice grant funding from jurisdictions in violation of certain federal immigration laws such as 8 U.S.C. 1373.*

*"The Department of Justice has long required local jurisdictions to comply with 'all applicable laws,' including 8 USC 1373 as a condition of DOJ grant funding. We have no policies that violate the code.*

*"Bottom line: in Multnomah County, we follow federal and state laws. So we do not expect to lose any of the \$2.5 million in federal money that either comes directly to us or passes through the state or city.*

*"Note: Of the \$2.5 million we receive, we then pass through \$520,970 to our community providers to perform the program objectives. Department totals are as follows:*

*District Attorney's Office = \$588,816*

*Department of County Human Services= \$913,356*

*Department of Community Justice= \$665,457*

*Multnomah County Sheriff's Office= \$325,896*

*Health Department = \$8,636*

*"Separately Sessions has urged state and local jurisdictions to comply with federal immigration detainers. We have never seen a grant specify such a thing. If that was a condition, that would be subject to litigation because they would be saying, 'We need you to violate this person's constitutional rights as a condition of getting federal grant money.'*

*"Current law does not require states to assist federal immigration authorities. That is because the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the federal government from commandeering state resources and personnel to carry out federal policy objectives. Oregon's 1987 statute complies with current federal law. We follow state law.*

*"If the Trump Administration wants to condition grant funding on nebulous criteria it hasn't explained, we would expect it to be challenged in court.*

*"This feels like a distraction to the real and serious issues we need to be working on."*

Statement on weekend arrest of Dreamer Francisco Rodriguez Dominguez

*"The arrest of Dreamer Francisco Rodriguez Dominguez in East County over the weekend will not make our community safer. This is what it looks like when politics gets in the way of common sense.*

*"It is inconceivable to me that the Trump administration is using our government's precious resources to arrest a community leader, a taxpayer, for something his parents did when he was 5 years old. Francisco Rodriguez Dominguez is a valued member of the*

*Reynolds school community, his Episcopal church and a beloved soccer coach. He was taking the steps required to become a citizen.*

*“He is not a threat. He is not dangerous. He is a coach, a mentor and an inspiration to children. Politics should not deny him his day in court.*

*“Immigration and Customs Enforcement managers in the Portland district have discretion and I am asking them to use it. Release him from Tacoma so that he can he resume his legal path to citizenship.”*

#### Mayor Wheeler’s Statement on AG’s Comments and Recent ICE Actions in Portland

*PORTLAND, OR – Mayor Ted Wheeler released the following statement on Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s comments on sanctuary city’s and recent ICE actions in Portland. “Today, Attorney General Jeff Sessions again reiterated the Trump administration’s threat to withhold funding from sanctuary cities. His comments provide barely more information than the already broad statements provided by the president himself. It is unclear whether the AG is referring to future grants, or to funds already provided. Also unclear is his legal ability to withhold funds DOJ funds from states under these conditions. It should be noted that DOJ grants to the City of Portland in our 2015-16 budget totaled just more than \$3 million.*

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## The Portland Business Journal

### Wheeler: Sessions' vague 'sanctuary' threats put \$3M at risk

By Andy Giegerich

March 28, 2017

Portland's mayor expressed frustration Monday over uncertainty related to the Trump administration's threats to so-called "sanctuary cities."

As CNN and many other outlets reported Monday, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has threatened to cut federal funds from so-called sanctuary cities and states that don't comply with immigration laws.

Such spots, loosely, permit people to live there to help them avoid deportation. Portland's City Council voted unanimously last Wednesday to become a sanctuary city.

The Sessions threat applies in cities, as CNN put it, "where policies limit cooperation in enforcing federal immigration laws."

The federal government has not disclosed which cities it might target.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said the threat is murky.

"It is unclear whether the AG is referring to future grants, or to funds already provided," Wheeler said. "Also unclear is his legal ability to withhold funds DOJ funds from states under these conditions."

The Justice Department allotted more than \$3 million in grants to Portland last year.

Wheeler's concerns come just after immigration officials arrested 25-year-old Francisco J. Rodriguez Dominguez, who's lived in the U.S. since he was five. Dominguez "s a respected member of the community, a student and a volunteer," Wheeler said.

"This arrest does nothing to promote public safety. Instead, actions like this only serve to tear apart our community and needlessly alter the lives of our residents. The city had no role in this arrest and I am against it.

"The city of Portland, our police bureau, and our employees do not cooperate with ICE. However, ICE has the power to operate within our city, and does not have to inform us of their activities."