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City Scores Second Court Win Against Trump Administration within the Past Week

Federal court sides with Columbus and other cities fighting back against Trump administration's illegal attempts to withhold federal funding from so-called sanctuary cities

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued a statement today as a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction prohibiting the Trump administration from illegally withholding millions of dollars in federal funding from local governments on its so-called “sanctuary cities” list, including Columbus.

The [City filed suit in July](#) after the Trump administration erroneously added Columbus to its sanctuary cities despite the city never declaring itself as a sanctuary city. As a result of the designation, the administration threatened to withhold more than \$10 million justice and homeland security funding.

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein's full statement:

“Columbus is a diverse and welcoming city, but we also follow the law and have been clear in our mission to get violent offenders off our streets. That is why we were surprised when the Trump administration included us on its so-called sanctuary cities list, and even more troubled when it threatened to withhold \$10 million in federal funding because of it.

“This decision is a positive step toward correcting the irrational and illegal attempt to shake down city leaders in this administration's attempt to get us in lockstep with every one of the president's extreme and divisive policies. We will continue to pursue this case and others to ensure federal funds are distributed as Congress intended,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

Columbus filed the lawsuit alongside several dozen other targeted cities after the Trump administration ordered the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security to withhold funding and potentially criminally prosecute cities and local officials for failing to comply with new executive orders on immigration. The orders are similar to several signed during Trump's first term, which multiple courts rejected as blatant and unconstitutional attempts to usurp legislative authority.