

Ohio counties labeled as ‘sanctuary jurisdictions’ by DHS

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Cleveland.com

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has put Lorain, Franklin and Warren counties and the cities of Cincinnati and Columbus on a list of “sanctuary jurisdictions” it says are defying immigration laws.

A statement from the agency said the communities on its list from all over the country will be formally notified that they’re not complying with federal statutes. They will also be urged to “immediately review and revise their policies to align with Federal immigration laws and renew their obligation to protect American citizens, not dangerous illegal aliens.”

The agency said its actions comply with an April 28 [executive order](#) from President Donald Trump that directs Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem Attorney General Pam Bondi to identify and publicly highlight jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

The order instructs federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget to identify appropriate federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions, including grants and contracts, for suspension or termination, as appropriate.

“These sanctuary city politicians are endangering Americans and our law enforcement in order to protect violent criminal illegal aliens,” said a statement from DHS Secretary Kristi Noem. “We are exposing these sanctuary politicians who harbor criminal illegal aliens and defy federal law. President Trump and I will always put the safety of the American people first. Sanctuary politicians are on notice: Comply with federal law.”

Cleveland.com has reached out to Lorain County officials for comment on DHS’s action.

Earlier Thursday, Trump border czar Tom Homan pledged that DHS will “flood the zone in sanctuary cities.”

“We’ll give exactly what they don’t want: More agents in the neighborhoods, more worksite enforcement,” said Homan. “There is no sanctuary for illegal aliens. You can call it a sanctuary jurisdiction all you want. It’s a bunch of crap.”

In January, [Lorain County Sheriff Jack Hall told cleveland.com](#) that his department will carry out its duty in arresting and detaining criminal immigrants under the direction of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), provided ICE provides a criminal warrant.

“No law enforcement officer, other than those agents who work for ICE have the ability to enforce the action because they are not warrants, so they’re not even criminal charges – they are civil actions,” Sheriff Hall explained. A local sheriff, any county sheriff anywhere in the United States cannot just go in and start arresting illegal immigrants.

“We have to confirm whether it is a criminal detainer or is it a civil detainer. You can’t just go out and start arresting people on ICE civil detainers,” Hall continued. “If you have criminal charges for these people’s arrest – these are criminal actions that they’re taking enforcement action on – then any law enforcement officer can take enforcement action on any of those active criminal warrants.”