

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

County Government Center  
70 West Hedding Street  
East Wing, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, California 95110-1770

(408) 299-5900  
(408) 292-7240 (FAX)



**James R. Williams  
COUNTY COUNSEL**

**Greta S. Hansen  
CHIEF ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL**

**Winifred Botha  
Danny Y. Chou  
Robert M. Coelho  
Steve Mitra  
ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 28, 2017

CONTACT: Laurel Anderson  
(408) 299-5119  
Laurel.anderson@ceo.sccgov.org

## **Santa Clara County Condemns Unconstitutional Effort by Attorney General Sessions to Withhold Federal Funds**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.**— In the Trump Administration's latest end-run around the U.S. Constitution, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions has announced that the federal government will unlawfully withhold—and even seek to clawback—federal funding supporting programs that improve the safety of our communities.

This announcement comes just days before the April 5th hearing for the County of Santa Clara's lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's unlawful Executive Order promising to withhold all federal funding from "sanctuary jurisdictions." At the hearing, a federal court will consider the County of Santa Clara's request for national injunctive relief from the Order.

"The Attorney General's announcement that the Trump Administration will withhold and clawback federal law enforcement grant money is the latest sign of unlawful coercion," said County Counsel James R. Williams.

Amicus briefs were filed in support of the County's request for injunctive relief by dozens of cities, law enforcement agencies, school districts, and preeminent constitutional scholars across the country, as well as the State of California. In addition, nearly 300 legal scholars signed a joint letter to President Trump asking him to rescind his Executive Order, which they say is in excess of his authority and is unconstitutional.

"The Attorney General's move is intended to force jurisdictions to follow a wrongheaded immigration policy that does not align with our local values," said Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive. "The County of Santa Clara looks forward to the hearing on April 5<sup>th</sup>, at which the federal court will hear arguments about the danger of an unchecked executive branch and the dire implications for the health, safety and well-being of our County's residents if President Trump is allowed to trample our Constitution."

# # #