



Sponsor(s): Commissioner Hasegawa
Commissioner Mohamed

ORDER No. 2026-03

AN ORDER OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

... to advance community protection and civil rights at Port of Seattle facilities; restrict the use of Port property for civil immigration enforcement purposes, and coordinate with regional partners to ensure transparency, accountability, and the dignity of all workers and travelers.

PROPOSED FEBRUARY 24, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1911 by a vote of the people, the Port of Seattle promotes economic opportunity and quality of life in the region by advancing trade, travel, commerce, and job creation in an equitable, accountable, and environmentally responsible manner.

From its earliest days, the Port's success—and the region's prosperity—has been tied to welcoming people from around the world. Economic development in the Puget Sound region depends on new residents seeking opportunity, international visitors conducting business, and tourists choosing our region as a destination. Immigrants make up significant portion of the regional workforce that keeps Port facilities operating every day, while international travelers and business visitors are essential customers who support airlines, cruise lines, hospitality, retail, and small businesses throughout the region. Policies or enforcement practices that create fear among workers or deter visitors have direct economic consequences, as demonstrated in other regions where aggressive federal immigration actions have resulted in business disruptions and substantial economic losses. The Commission is committed to ensuring that all employees, tenants, and members of the public at Port facilities are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

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43 Customs and Border Protection, CBP, and Homeland Security Investigations, HSI, have offices at
44 Port facilities, including Seattle Tacoma International Airport, SEA. The Port recognizes the
45 important role these federal agencies play in carrying out their immigration and customs
46 enforcement responsibilities at our ports of entry.

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48 With increased immigration enforcement and a shift in how existing immigration policies are
49 implemented, the Port is committed to ensuring that our workforce, SEA workers, and our
50 communities have access to the most up-to-date and effective information to keep their families
51 and communities informed and safe.

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53 Regional partners, including the City of Seattle and King County, have adopted complementary
54 actions to protect immigrant communities and promote transparency. Through this Order, the Port
55 aligns its policies and practices with applicable law and regional efforts while continuing to respect
56 lawful federal authority in existing federal operations.

TEXT OF THE ORDER

60 The Port Commission hereby directs the Executive Director to implement the following:

62 1. Restrictions on Use of Port Property

63 Except as related to current, limited civil immigration detention facilities and support facilities
64 located on Port property, or to the extent the restrictions are in conflict with federal law, the use
65 of Port property will be restricted as follows:

- Port property shall not be used for civil immigration detention facilities.
- Port property shall not be used for civil immigration enforcement support facilities, such as for vehicle staging, equipment storage, operational briefings, or administrative functions.

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71 New leases, permits, or agreements for the use of Port property shall not authorize civil
72 immigration detention facilities or support facilities. Existing agreements shall be reviewed,
73 where practicable, for consistency with this Order and applicable law.

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75 This provision shall sunset within three years of adoption pending Executive Director review.

76 2. K_{c} V_{c} Right. R_{c} 6. T_{c} and W_{c}

78 • The Port shall expand access to “Know Your Rights” training and informational
79 resources for Port tenants and their employees at aviation and maritime facilities

80 • Training shall be conducted by qualified persons with expertise in immigration law and
81 civil rights.

82 • The Port shall collaborate with tenants on strategies to support worker awareness of
83 rights and appropriate workplace protocols.

84 • All materials developed pursuant to this Order shall be made available in English,
85 Spanish, and other commonly spoken languages, including but not limited to Vietnamese,
86 Somali, Korean, Amharic, Chinese, Japanese, American Sign Language, and Tagalog at
87 Port facilities, consistent with the Port's language access practices.

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89 **3. Employee Response Protocols**

90 • The Port Immigration Workgroup shall maintain a rapid confirmation protocol to assess
91 and verify reports of immigration enforcement activity at Port facilities in order to
92 maintain safety and security, and to reduce confusion by the public.

93 • The Executive Director shall ensure that relevant Port employees receive ongoing
94 guidance on appropriate interactions with federal immigration authorities consistent with
95 Port policy.

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97 **4. State and Regional Coordination**

98 • The Port shall coordinate community protection efforts with the state and regional
99 partners, including the City of Seattle, King County, and the Northwest Seaport Alliance,
100 to promote consistency in public-facing information and appropriate strategies.

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102 **5. Implementation and Reporting**

103 • The Executive Director shall develop any necessary procedures, guidance, or training
104 materials to implement this Order.

105 • The Executive Director shall provide periodic briefings to the Commission regarding
106 implementation progress and any material legal or operational developments affecting
107 this Order.

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109 **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE ORDER**

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111 The Port of Seattle's economic vitality depends on the contributions of the diverse communities
112 that live and work throughout the region. Immigrant workers are essential to the continued success
113 of SEA, maritime terminals, and the businesses operating on Port property.

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115 This Order builds upon the Commission's prior actions, including Order 2023-05, directing the
116 Executive to develop a portwide policy on language access and the strengthened Welcoming Port
117 Policy Directive, which affirmed the Port's commitment to equity, civil rights, and ensuring that
118 Port facilities remain welcoming and accessible to all.

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120 Washington State's Keep Washington Working Act (Chapter 440, Laws of 2019; RCW 10.93,
121 43.10, and 43.17) establishes clear limits on the use of state and local resources for federal civil
122 immigration enforcement and reflects the state's commitment to public safety, civil rights, and
123 community trust. This Order aligns the Port's practices with that law and provides additional
124 clarity regarding the use of Port property and facilities.

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126 Concerns regarding civil immigration enforcement have created fear and uncertainty among our
127 communities, including workers and travelers nationwide. Clear, transparent policies governing
128 the use of Port property help maintain public confidence, ensure consistency with state law, and
129 reinforce trust between government and the communities it serves.

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131 Across Washington State and the Puget Sound region, state and local governments have taken
132 steps to limit the use of public resources for civil immigration enforcement and to protect personal
133 information. This Order aligns the Port's practices with those regional efforts while preserving
134 lawful federal authority where required.

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136 Through this action, the Commission affirms that Port property will be stewarded responsibly,
137 consistent with state law, regional values, and the Port's mission. The Commission reinforces that
138 the Port will continue to operate as a welcoming international gateway—one that protects
139 economic stability, upholds state law, and supports the dignity and contributions of all who live,
140 work, and travel through our region.