



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.

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

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

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

TEXT OF THE ORDER

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

1. Restrictions on Use of Port Property

Except as related to current, limited civil immigration detention facilities and support facilities located on Port property, or to the extent the restrictions are in conflict with federal law, the use 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.

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

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

2. Know Your Rights Resources for Tenants and Workers

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

- Training shall be conducted by qualified persons with expertise in immigration law and civil rights.
- The Port shall collaborate with tenants on strategies to support worker awareness of rights and appropriate workplace protocols.
- All materials developed pursuant to this Order shall be made available in English, Spanish, and other commonly spoken languages, including but not limited to Vietnamese, Somali, Korean, Amharic, Chinese, Japanese, American Sign Language, and Tagalog at Port facilities, consistent with the Port's language access practices.

3. Employee Response Protocols

- The Port Immigration Workgroup shall maintain a rapid confirmation protocol to assess and verify reports of immigration enforcement activity at Port facilities in order to maintain safety and security, and to reduce confusion by the public.
- The Executive Director shall ensure that relevant Port employees receive ongoing guidance on appropriate interactions with federal immigration authorities consistent with Port policy.

4. State and Regional Coordination

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

5. Implementation and Reporting

- The Executive Director shall develop any necessary procedures, guidance, or training materials to implement this Order.
- The Executive Director shall provide periodic briefings to the Commission regarding implementation progress and any material legal or operational developments affecting this Order.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE ORDER

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

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

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

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

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

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