



NEWS | GOVERNOR'S VAUNTED EL PASO CONTRACT LASTS 22 HOURS

22 hours after signing a contract with Dixie's governor on undocumented immigration, Governor Michael D. Grant abandons his half of the deal following a lawsuit settlement

by Gerts V. Welsh | January 7, 2023

FREMONT— Less than a full rotation of the Earth after signing a highly anticipated compact with the State of Dixie pledging to crack down on undocumented immigration, Governor Michael D. Grant (R-FR) has abandoned his side of the deal in a settlement to a lawsuit filed by the City of San Francisco.

Governor Grant and Governor Seldom237 of Dixie, both Republicans, met in the border city of El Paso to announce a joint effort to crack down on undocumented immigration. Speaking to the press, Grant proclaimed that “illegal immigration is a threat to the United States Government and to the people of Fremont” and announced that his administration would take “a strong and unyielding stance against illegal immigration.”

At the end of the press conference, the Governors signed an interstate compact named the El Paso Contract, which commits the two states to joint actions to enhance enforcement along the U.S.–Mexico border and take action against local governments that limit cooperation with immigration authorities, sometimes known as “sanctuary cities.”

To implement each side's commitments under the compact, each Governor signed an accompanying executive order. Grant's order, entitled “Safeguarding the State against Illegal Immigration,” prohibits any law enforcement officer or public official from “undermin[ing]” immigration law upon threat of suspension or removal by the Governor. It further suspends state highway funding to any local government that “offer[s] protection” or “any aid or assistance” to undocumented immigration.



A stock photo of the seat of the Supreme Court of Fremont in Alameda, Fremont. After a lawsuit, the Governor entered into a consent decree abandoning the terms of the executive order he signed in cooperation with Dixie Governor Seldom237 (R)

These provisions, reminiscent of President NinjaDragon's attempt to impound Fremont's federal block grants during the Minutemen crisis that was halted by the U.S. Supreme Court, were immediately attacked by local governments and legal experts as illegal and unconstitutional.

Shortly after the executive order was written, the City of San Francisco filed suit at the Fremont Supreme Court, arguing that the Governor has no authority to suspend local officials or withhold funds from local governments and that state law protects the autonomy of municipal institutions.

In a major blow to the initiative, the Governor then made an unprecedented personal appearance in open court to admit the illegality of his actions and to "encourage the Court to strike down this order." Following this frank admission, counsel for the city negotiated a consent decree with the state that would permanently prohibit the enforcement of Executive Order 24.

With the state supreme court set to enter the consent decree as its final judgment in this case, Fremont's implementation of the El Paso Contract has lasted all of 22 hours, leaving many critics of the Governor to question whether he is getting proper legal advice and to attack the trip to Texas as an expensive waste of public funds.

"There is nothing so vexatious to tyrants as a free press." —Samuel Adams

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