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SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner issued the following statement in response to the Attorney General Jeff Session’s announcement today of how they plan to strip federal Department of Justice funding from sanctuary cities.

“The Justice Department’s leadership has once again shown blind allegiance to ideology rather than a sound understanding of public policy. Cities, like Syracuse, are sanctuary cities because it is in keeping with our history of welcoming immigrants and refugees. It is also a good policy because it enables our law enforcement agencies to build relationships with the community, so those who are victim to or witness crime are able to come forward without fear of retaliation.

“This divisive decision is against our history as cities and as a nation. This is where the Statue of Liberty watches guard in New York Harbor and proudly proclaims the United States accepts the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. We are the nation where Alexander Hamilton started as a clerk and changed our history and where thousands of New Americans are breathing life into Syracuse’s neighborhoods and contribute mightily to our local economy. This is not who we are and this is not who we should be.

“We continue to review the details of this order to understand its full impact and what our options will be going forward. The City of Syracuse is resolute in its commitment to remaining a sanctuary city for all those who make this their home.”

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