

Does Trump suit have merit?

President's administration is taking Connecticut, New Haven to court

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the Trump administration announced it was suing the state of Connecticut and the city of New Haven over immigration policies the federal government says makes them "sanctuary" jurisdictions.

Recent history suggests, however, the suit might not get very far.

Over the past year, courts have thrown out several similar Trump administration suits against other states and cities that restrict cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. Many of these cases, experts note, have raised issues courts previously ruled on during Trump's first term.

Sheila Hayre, a law professor at Quinnipiac who specializes

in immigration law, said she found little novel about the administration's suit against Connecticut and New Haven.

"I really wanted to read it because I thought we might see some new and interesting arguments that hadn't already been raised in prior administrations in prior decades," Hayre said. "I was actually surprised to see that it doesn't really raise any interesting issues that haven't

already been hashed out by the courts."

The Justice Department complaint seeks to invalidate Connecticut's Trust Act, which limits how and when local police can share information with federal immigration agents, as well as local policies enacted in New Haven.

The suit, which names Gov. Ned Lamont, Attorney General

Suit continues on A4



Alex Brandon/Associated Press

President Donald Trump speaks with reporters on April 13 outside the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C.



Courtesy of Danbury Youth Services file photo

Christmas was made possible for 28 children in the Danbury Youth Services TARGET (Teaching Reaching Gaining Excellence Together) program in 2014 with gifts from St. Stephen's Church in Ridgefield. As of April 3, Danbury Youth Services, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the critical needs of Danbury area youth and families, is temporarily closed due to financial issues.

'We can't operate without funding'

Officials: Financial issues temporarily close Danbury Youth Services

By Kaitlin Keane
STAFF WRITER

DANBURY — The Danbury Youth Services, which has been serving Danbury area youth and families for more than five decades, temporarily closed due to financial issues, officials said.

"We are not so sure at this point if we are going to be open," said Ediany De-

Sousa, Danbury Youth Services' senior clinician. "We can't operate without funding ... and we have all the employees that rely on that."

DeSousa said she has been referring families to community resources and emergency contacts since Danbury Youth Services closed April 3. She said the Danbury Youth Services board has "constantly been in touch" with state

and city officials about funding to continue the nonprofit's programming.

DeSousa said Danbury Youth Services gets "a lot of funding" for its programming through the state and the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, as well as through fundraising events. Danbury Youth Services did not elaborate on the amount of the

Youth continues on A4

Homeschool bill stripped but still controversial

The homeschooling bill that drew thousands of opponents last month is

back on the Capitol conveyor belt, ready for a vote in the House of Representatives Thursday, with the

most far-reaching and objectionable measure removed.

That does not mean it lacks controversy. Far from it. Republicans and most home-schooling families say requiring local schools to demand any form of registration and checks on home-schooling is a government overreach.

Haar continues on A4

Danbury shooting suspect tied to dispute

By Kendra Baker
STAFF WRITER



DANBURY — A Waterbury man has been charged in connection with a New Year's Eve shooting

on Eden Drive that court documents say may be tied to an ongoing dispute.

Matthew Nunez, 20, was arrested on a warrant April 15, for conspiracy on each of the charges of illegally possessing a weapon

Suspect continues on A6

Danbury offers \$325K to ex-finance director to drop suit

By Brian Gioiele
STAFF WRITER

DANBURY — The city has upped the ante in its attempt to get former longtime finance director David St. Hilaire to drop his lawsuit accusing Danbury of firing him without cause and refusing to honor a retirement deal when St. Hilaire agreed to resign in 2022.

Danbury has offered St. Hilaire \$325,000 to settle the suit, a \$200,000 hike from the settlement offer presented to him earlier this year.

"This offer ... will resolve all claims against the city of Danbury," said a two-paragraph

"Offer of Compromise" filed by city attorney Taylor La Pira in state Superior Court.

Attorney Elisabeth Maurer, who represents St. Hilaire, would not comment on the latest settlement attempt.

Chief of Staff Taylor O'Brien would not comment on the pending litigation.

"Mayor (Roberto) Alves took office after this case had begun, and at the advice of legal counsel, is ensuring that all decisions made are what is best for the city and its residents," O'Brien said.

The city's latest settlement offer is the newest development in a case that began when the



St. Hilaire

Hilaire denies.

The city's accusation about St. Hilaire's vacation payout and a city accusation that he did not work enough in-person time during the COVID-19 pandemic led the two sides to negotiate a retirement agreement in 2022 that called for the resignation on Halloween in return for three months of salary, health

insurance coverage, \$80,000 in vacation pay and other benefits.

St. Hilaire upheld his end of the agreement by resigning, but the city didn't hold up its end of the agreement, he says.

"The city breached the material provisions of the (retirement agreement) by revoking its offer based on its need to investigate a tax lien," St. Hilaire claims in a lawsuit he filed against Danbury in 2024. "No such investigation has been completed, nor has the city adopted or reaffirmed its obligations under the (retirement agreement)."

The city's latest offer to settle

with St. Hilaire follows the city's request in November to have part of the lawsuit thrown out of court because he "was not terminated, but rather voluntarily resigned following negotiations with the city."

St. Hilaire's attorney responded in court papers that the resignation "was required by the (retirement) agreement that the city later repudiated."

"The city should not be allowed to retain the benefit of the settlement agreement, including St. Hilaire's separation from employment, while depriving St. Hilaire of the benefits for which he bargained," wrote Maurer.

