

Houston won't seek \$150M DOJ grant

Council, residents raised concerns on cooperation with ICE

By Isaac Yu
STAFF WRITER

Mayor John Whitmire's administration will withdraw a \$150 million grant application to a federal program after the Houston Chronicle reported Monday that the city had submitted the paperwork last

month, unbeknownst to the City Council.
Houston's bid for the Model Cities Initiative, run by the U.S. Department of Justice, was pulled twice from the council agenda last month as Whitmire said his office was pressing the DOJ to clarify the program's guidelines, while council members and residents raised concerns that the funding might force the city to more closely cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The council has spent months this

year debating the role Houston police play in ICE actions.
But the grant application had been submitted weeks before in order to meet the program's Sept. 1 deadline, the mayor's office said.
Council Member Amy Peck, who chairs the council's public safety committee, said Friday that the mayor's staff told her the council would be asked to approve the funding if it came through.
At least three other council members said they were un-

aware of the city's submission. Two said they thought the Whitmire administration had decided not to apply, especially after his office told Houston Public Media last week that the city was "not taking any action ... at this time" on the grant.
Whitmire said late Monday afternoon that he would withdraw the application in part because his staff erred in not securing council approval before submitting it.
"In the effort to ensure the application was submitted on

time, staff prematurely submitted it before the required council approval was secured," Whitmire said in a statement. "Due to that error and current lack of clarification on the program's guidelines, the city of Houston is withdrawing its application."
In an earlier Monday statement, Whitmire said the city had applied with the goal of supporting its efforts to combat homelessness, violent crime and domestic violence.
Whitmire continues on A6

Exxon warns against ruling



Photos by J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Colorado rancher Kathryn Bedell talks about the effect of droughts on her business as activists gather at the U.S. Supreme Court for a case about whether Exxon and other oil and gas companies should help pay for damage related to climate change.

Attorney tells justices oil giant could owe billions over climate change

By James Osborne
WASHINGTON BUREAU

An attorney representing Exxon Mobil told the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday that his client and other Texas-based oil companies could be forced to pay billions of dollars for damages related to climate change if the justices don't intervene "sooner rather than later."
The attorney, Washington-based Kannon Shanmugam, said U.S. cities and states are using climate change lawsuits as part of an "unprecedented" effort to force Exxon and the rest of the oil industry out of business.
"There is no limit under (their) theory on who can be sued," he said. "They could sue me on a nuisance claim for refilling my car."
Houston-based Exxon is leading the push by oil companies for the Supreme Court to block a 2018 lawsuit filed by the city of Boulder, Colo., that claims the companies should repay them for the costs of protecting residents from extreme weather caused by climate change.
The case could have grave implications for the Texas oil industry, which produces more than 40% of the nation's petroleum supply, as it continues



The case comes amid a global debate about how to address the harm from climate change as communities suffer from heat waves and increasingly intense storms.

to pump out fuels that companies once argued were safe but that scientists now say cause the planet to warm dangerously.
"This case is not about emissions. It's about production and deception," Kevin Russell, the attorney represent-

ing Boulder, told the justices on Monday. "This (lawsuit) forces them to internalize the cost of the damages their products inflict."
The Supreme Court case comes amid an ongoing global debate about
Climate continues on A3

High court's new term includes cases on assault weapons, immigration, voting

By Lindsay Whitehurst
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's new term began Monday with cases on climate change, religious rights and President Donald Trump's crack-down on immigration high on the agenda.
Here's a look at what's in store:

Climate change

The high court is starting its term with a major climate change case. The justices heard an appeal from Houston-based Exxon Mobil and another company trying to block dozens of lawsuits seeking to hold them liable in court for damage related to climate change.
Billions of dollars are potentially at stake in a case out of Boulder, Colo., where local officials say the industry should help shoulder the escalating costs of disasters linked to climate change.
Exxon and Suncor, a Canadian energy company with refineries in Colorado, say lawsuits aren't the way to deal with the global issue.

Assault weapons bans

About a dozen states have banned semiautomatic rifles such as AR-15s, which are often called assault weapons. They say the guns are disproportionately used in mass shootings and that banning them helps reduce gun violence.
Challengers say those laws violate the Second Amendment. They argue that AR-15s and other similar weapons are among the most popular and commonly owned guns in the country.
The conservative-majority court has expanded gun rights in recent years, and four justices had signaled that it was only a matter of time before the court took up the issue. The case will be considered in December.

Immigration

The court will hear two significant immigration cases with potentially big implications for Trump's wide-reaching crackdown.
One is about deportations of migrants who can't be quickly sent back to their home countries. The Trump administration has been sending thousands to other countries where they have no ties, under a series of often-secret agreements.
The court will consider overturning lower court orders allowing them a chance to object. The justices have al-
Court continues on A3

Details on space weapons have not yet launched

By Stephanie Liechtenstein and Ryan Manzuk
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA — Air Force Secretary Troy Meink made headlines recently by confirming that the United States has deployed weapons in space. He did not, however, detail what the weapons were, how they work

or if they were targeting other objects in space.
It's not just U.S. efforts regarding space weapons that remain shrouded in mystery.
Meink, speaking at a defense conference, said the U.S. has fielded "on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action," referring to

U.S. forces. It remains unclear which type of weapon Meink was referencing.
Such resources as the 2026 Global Counterspace Capabilities Report, published by the nonprofit Secure World Foundation and based on publicly available information, help provide an overview of potential space weapons.

The report lists five categories of counterspace capabilities. It examines systems being developed by 13 countries, among them the U.S., Russia, China, India, Australia, France, Iran and Israel.
These include satellites designed to maneuver near, inspect, disable or destroy space-
Weapons continues on A6



Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink says the U.S. has fielded "on-orbit space control weapons."