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Judge affirms order backing day laborers

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PHOENIX — A federal judge has made permanent her order blocking a law in the Phoenix suburb of Cave Creek that barred people from standing on public streets and soliciting employment from occupants of cars.

U.S. District Judge Roslyn Silver's order on Friday came two months after she temporarily blocked the law on constitutional grounds.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund sued the town in March, saying the law violated free-speech rights.

The Town Council revoked the ordinance after Silver's ruling.

Mayor Vincent Francia said the council might propose other action targeting illegal-immigrant day laborers. But he said free speech is vitally important to the country, so he didn't mind losing the case.

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