



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on February 15, 2025

## Report: Colorado Authorities Withheld 411 on TdA Gang Presence in Aurora

Law enforcement in Colorado lied to the public about Venezuelan gang operations in the suburb of Aurora by hiding the truth about the Tren de Aragua (TdA) murder outfit as it grew increasingly powerful, even seizing control of apartment complexes.

The lies are exposed in government documents obtained by America First Legal (AFL).

Helping the gang take over apartments were the “nonprofit” nongovernmental organizations, subsidized by the Biden administration, that move “migrants” into a town or city without the knowledge of residents.



Libs of TikTok/X  
Tren de Aragua members in Aurora, Colorado, apartment complex

/1□BREAKING — New law enforcement documents reveal that Colorado officials knew the violent Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua posed a real and present danger — but withheld the truth from the public for over a year, shielding criminal illegal aliens and endangering U.S. citizens. [pic.twitter.com/FmA3lhXt6b](https://pic.twitter.com/FmA3lhXt6b)

— America First Legal (@America1stLegal) [February 14, 2025](#)

### “Migrant” Gangland

The documents AFL dislodged from the government show negligence at best, and outright malfeasance at worst.

“Local officials failed to disclose the gang’s violent crimes and the threat it posed to the public for over a year, gravely endangering law-abiding U.S. citizens,” [AFL reported](#).

Though viral video showed TdA gangbangers with weapons in an apartment complex in Aurora, which forced city officials to admit their presence, “state and local officials continued to downplay and outrightly dismiss the threat posed by the gang.”

As [The Associated Press reported](#) on September 5, “Police deny Venezuela gang has taken over rundown apartment complex in Denver suburb.”

Indeed, Colorado officials knew about the TdA infiltration in June 2023, but “failed to warn the public until more than a year later,” AFL reported. As well, those officials and Aurora cops “were aware of Venezuelan-connected criminal activity at two of the apartment complexes more than a year before warning the public of TdA’s growing presence in the area.”

/5 Despite overwhelming evidence, state and local officials continued to downplay or



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outright dismiss the gang's presence — allowing crime to spiral out of control.  
[pic.twitter.com/HX2WRLWzg4](https://pic.twitter.com/HX2WRLWzg4)

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Continued AFL:

An email from February 5, 2024, states that two apartment complexes were “currently having Venezuelan refugees placed there and we have had multiple violent cases involving those addresses with Venezuelan suspects since about June of 2023.” The APD [Aurora Police Department] crime analyst also noted that “it’s difficult to ID people who have no history in the U.S. yet.”

On Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 11:25 AM Keast, Sophia <[skeast@auroragov.org](mailto:skeast@auroragov.org)> wrote:

Good Morning,

Just in case this didn't reach everyone, This is one of Aurora's BOLO's

C.R.S. 24-72-204(2)(a)(I)

Wanted to update you all with possible Venezuelan ties in Aurora. This POI is likely associated to 1357 N Helena St (Whispering Pines Apartments) and 1568 N Nome St (Fitzsimmons Apartments). Both of those addresses are currently having Venezuelan refugees placed there and we have had multiple violent cases involving those addresses with Venezuelan suspects since about June of 2023.

For CMATT, if you happen to see any vehicles stolen from those areas or contact anyone living at those addresses, let me know! Any information is helpful as it's difficult to ID people who have no history in the U.S. yet. (I am also checking the Daily reports to keep tabs as well)

Thanks,

**Sophia Keast**

**Aurora Police Department**

**Crime Analysis and Investigative Support**

As [The New American reported](#) in September, *City Journal's* Christopher Rufo and Christina Buttons revealed that the Biden administration subsidized the gang takeover of apartments by sending millions of dollars to two “nonprofits,” ViVe Wellness and Papagayo.



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Papagayo “worked with a landlord called CBZ Management, a property company that operates the three apartment buildings at the center of the current controversy: Edge [at] Lowry, Whispering Pines, and Fitzsimons Place, also known as Aspen Grove,” [Rufo and Buttons wrote](#). The outfit worked with CBZ to plant Venezuelan “migrants in the company’s Aurora apartment complexes. When a Venezuelan individual or family needed housing, the NGO would contact the regional property manager, who then matched them with available apartments.”

Continued Rufo and Buttons:

It was a booming business. According to the employee, Papagayo arranged hundreds of contracts with the property manager. The NGO provided up to two months of rental assistance, as many migrants did not have, or were unable to open, bank accounts. Within six months, according to the employee, approximately 80 percent of the residents of these buildings were Venezuelan migrants. The employee also noted that the buildings [began to see] gang activity and violence.

Edge at Lowry was the scene of the viral video.

/4 In August 2024, viral surveillance footage showed Tren de Aragua gang members violently taking over an Aurora apartment complex, forcing local officials to acknowledge the gang’s presence. <https://t.co/GCBFCVS17j>

— America First Legal (@America1stLegal) [February 14, 2025](#)

### **Migrant Crime Wave**

A Venezuelan “migrant” crime wave soon began.

At one CBZ apartment, the [AFL-obtained documents](#) reveal, calls for police help nearly doubled between 2022 and 2023, and nearly doubled again the following year. “Criminal investigations increased from 41 in 2022 to 84 in 2023, then 66 in just the first half of 2024,” the documents show:

The crimes “included various motor vehicle crimes, robbery, drugs, trespass, sexual assault and aggravated assault,” and “a shooting that injured two people.” In August 2024, rather than solving the property owners’ complaints regarding gang activity, the City of Aurora condemned the property for “code violations” and “poor property conditions,” evicting its more than one hundred residents. The City of Aurora would similarly designate the Edge at Lowry as a criminal nuisance to be closed in February 2025.

In an APD document collecting incidents across CBZ Management apartments, they recorded an assault on a property manager, the arrest of two armed men allegedly on their way to kill a property manager, a stabbing incident, multiple incidents involving men with guns or gun cases, and TdA scamming residents. Alarming, APD documented “extortion statements about [the] gang receiving 50% of rent collected.”



12/13/24, 10:05 AM

Aurora PD Organized Crime Request.html

### Criminal activity and calls for service

There has been a consistent increase in calls for service to 1568 Nome St. over the last few years, nearly doubling from 2022 to 2023 and on track to double again between 2023 and 2024. APD investigated 41 crimes in 2022, 84 crimes in 2023, and 66 crimes in 2024 through July 31. The crimes included various motor vehicle crimes, robbery, drugs, trespass, sexual assault and aggravated assault. Most recently, on July 28, there was a shooting that injured two people and led to four arrests. The notion that Aurora Police will not patrol that area or will not send officers to that complex is simply not true. In fact, APD issued a Specified Crime Property Determination Notice in September 2023, declaring 1568 Nome St. a Criminal Nuisance Property.

The city and the APD are also aware of concerns at the national level that members of a Venezuelan prison gang have arrived in the United States and established organized crime cells in cities throughout the country. APD leadership shares in those concerns and is actively working with law enforcement agencies across the metro area to conclusively determine if indeed there is a connection between metro criminal activity and a specific group or organization. APD, in partnership with the regional RAVEN Task Force, has assigned four detectives to a special task force that includes additional local, state, and federal partners to investigate violent crime impacting our migrant community.

No one at the city is denying or ignoring the possibility of organized crime impacts at the 1568 Nome St. property or any other. However, what is critically important for the public and the property owners to understand is that the latest concerns they raise about possible gang activity on their property at 1568 Nome St. are immaterial and irrelevant to the longstanding code violations and the poor property conditions that have triggered the forthcoming abatement.



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- Whispering Pines consists of the following addresses 1357 Helena, 15423 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 15483 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue is 265 calls for service combined since 01/01/2024 so these numbers are not encompassing the earlier dates as stated in the letter. I will ask Dom for the wider date range and offenses.
- The **Assault** mentioned on page 4 is **Zev Baumgarten** as victim under AP2023227187 Det Meier assigned this case which is inactive due to victim failure to cooperate with case. Sgt Bungartz also completed a supplemental report on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
C.R.S. 24-72-204(2)(a)(I)
- AP2024131746 **Threats to Zev Baumgarten** assigned to Stoepple and inactivated.
- Incident on page 4 in reference to **2 males leaving property with guns in April 2024 that were arrested on way to kill property manager**. I am unaware of this case number nor any of this information.
- Incident page 5 showing apartment #205 does not state what building this is occurring. **Picture is of a male carrying a rifle case**. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
C.R.S. 24-72-204(2)(a)(I)
- Incident on page 5- **TDA scamming residents** and placing false on-line ads for apartments that are vacant-No knowledge of this incident.
- Incident on page 5- **Stabbing incident** Investigator Rickelman May 21, 2024 AP202496804. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
C.R.S. 24-72-204(2)(a)(I)
- Incident on page 5- Large group of gang members in hallway. Do have video of this but these parties were never contacted so unknown if they are gang related/validated.
- Incident on page 6- is documented under AP2024125835 assigned to Det Meier is still open includes **extortion statements about gang receiving 50% of rent collected**.
- Incident page 7- have video and is documented under AP2024130140 [REDACTED] C.R.S. 24-72-204(2)(a)(I)  
[REDACTED] assigned to Det Meier and is still open.
- Incident page 7- **Property Manager drove to 1568 Nome and observed men with guns** this was on June 24, 2024 under AP2024120311 assigned to Agent Peddie and is inactive. Call for service us under Renato Manjarres DOB 11/20/86. It should be noted Renato is Property Manager and associated to approximately 24 calls for service (I have attached list for ease of finding case #'s)

Then TdA began expanding its sphere of malign influence. State and local cops found “‘a developing trend’ of ‘Venezuelans stealing and selling stolen vehicles and... using fake plates,’” the documents revealed.

In other words, President Joe Biden and “migrant” activists opened once-peaceful Aurora to an invasion of Venezuelan illegal-alien criminals.

## ICE Raid

Rounding up those criminals and protecting Coloradans was a top priority for the new Trump



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administration.

But far-left Denver Mayor [Mike Johnston vowed rebellion and insurrection](#) to stop Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from entering the city.

He said that Denver cops and “50,000 Denverites” would cordon off the city to stop the federal agents from entering.

Beyond the promise of resistance from Johnston, ICE faces another obstacle. To protect illegal-alien rapists and murders from deportation, leakers inside federal law enforcement revealed the date and time of the raids.

ICE had hoped to bag 100 gang members in Aurora when it showed up on February 5, but they were long gone when the agents arrived. They collared just one gang member and arrested 30 other illegals.

“We’re not going to tolerate it anymore,” [border czar Tom Homan said](#) of the leak:

This is not a game when we show up at these sites. This is a dangerous job for the men and women of ICE and Border Patrol and all the DOJ [Department of Justice] agencies. To have this type of interference puts our officers at great risk. Not only the officers, [but] it puts the aliens at great risk because anything can happen when we take our eyes off the goal here. ...

[This is] not a joke, this is serious business. And they need to stop, or we’re going to prosecute them through [the] Department of Justice.

Homan told Fox talker Sean Hannity that he believed the leaker, likely in the FBI, had been identified.

Another leak went to the *Los Angeles Times*, which on February 7 disclosed forthcoming raids.

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi vowed to prosecute leakers.



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