



September 12, 2024

VIA Electronic FOIPA Portal

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attn: Initial Processing Operations Unit
Record/Information Dissemination Section
200 Constitution Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Freedom of Information Act Request: Multinational Gangs in American Communities

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL has over 269,000 followers on X, and our Founder and President has over 725,000 followers on X.

I. Requested Records

AFL respectfully requests, under 5 U.S.C. § 552:

- A. All records including the terms “Tren de Aragua” OR “TdA.”
- B. All records including the terms “Venezuela(n),” “gang(s),” AND “apartment(s).”

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

- C. All records referencing the presence of the Tren de Aragua gang in Aurora, Colorado.¹
- D. Records sufficient to show the number of Tren de Aragua gang members identified and arrested in Aurora, Colorado since January 21, 2021.
- E. All records referencing Aurora, Colorado.
- F. All records referencing the arrests of Dixon Azuaje-Perez, Nixon Azuaje-Perez, Jhonnarty Dejesus Pacheco-Chirinos, and Jhonardy Jose Pacheco-Chirinos, also known as “Cookie” or “Galleta.”²
- G. All records referencing CBZ Management.
- H. All communications with the Aurora Police Department about the Tren de Aragua.
- I. All communications with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office about the Tren de Aragua.

The time period for this request is January 1, 2021, through the date this request is processed.

II. Custodians

- A. Christopher Wray, Director
- B. Paul Abbate, Deputy Director
- C. Jonathan Lenzner, Chief of Staff

All employees at GS-14 and above in the following offices:

Office of the Director/Deputy Director/Associate Deputy Director

- D. Insider Threat Office
- E. Resource Planning Office
- F. Office of the Chief Information Officer

¹ Aurora Police Dept (@AuroraPD), X (Aug. 28, 2024, 7:49 PM), <https://perma.cc/V445-G32M>.

² Aurora Police Dept (@AuroraPD), X (Sept. 4, 2024, 7:38 PM), <https://perma.cc/678X-4VM5>; *see also* Jasmine Baehr, *Colorado Mayor Speaks Out After Video of Armed Venezuelan Gang in Apartment Goes Viral: ‘Failed Policy’*, FOX NEWS (Aug. 29, 2024), <https://perma.cc/6CTL-S59H>.

G. Denver Field Office

Criminal, Cyber, Response and Services Branch

H. Criminal Investigative Division

I. International Operations Division

J. Critical Incident Response Group

National Security Branch

K. Office of the Executive Assistant Director (EAD)

L. Counterintelligence Division

M. Counterterrorism Division

N. Terrorist Screening Center

III. Fee Waiver

AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k). First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. Our officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others, and the public's understanding of your policies and practices will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records.

As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose, and releasing the requested information is not in AFL's financial interest. We note that DOJ has granted us fee waivers in the past.

IV. Expedited Processing

DOJ regulations require the grant of expedited processing for a FOIA request "whenever it is determined that they involve: (i) circumstances in which the lack of expedited processing could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (ii) An urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity, if made by a person who is primarily

engaged in disseminating information; ... (iv) A matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence." 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e).

This request patently qualifies for expedited processing under § 16.5(e)(1)(i), (ii) & (iv). The FBI is tasked with enforcing the immigration laws of the United States, protecting Americans from multinational threats on American soil. The Biden-Harris administration has demonstrated that it does not take immigration law seriously, and as a result, migrants are terrorizing communities across the country.³ The nationwide presence of dangerous criminal gangs is of paramount and urgent interest to the media and all Americans. As discussed above, America First Legal is a qualifying news media distributor, which has been recognized by DOJ in the past. AFL seeks to further this basic purpose.

V. Conclusion

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.⁴ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please provide responsive records in an electronic format via email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Thank you,

/s/ Will Scolinos

America First Legal Foundation

³ See, e.g., Jennie Taer, *Tren de Aragua Gangbanger Was Cut Loose by a Chicago Judge Before Violent Denver Jewelry Heist*, N.Y. POST (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/BXQ6-Y5RF>; Adam Shaw & Bill Melugin, *Bloodthirsty Venezuelan Gang Tren de Aragua Sets up Shop in US as Border Authorities Sound Alarm*, FOX NEWS (Mar. 8, 2024) <https://perma.cc/ME8X-PFDX>.

⁴ U.S. DEPT JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://perma.cc/698A-FABV>.