

My name is Cindy Romero; I am a wife, a mother of five, a grandmother of three, a part-time worker and student, and a former resident of Aurora, Colorado. I am one of the many victims across the nation of the violent transnational terrorist organization Tren de Aragua and a former lifelong Democrat.

My husband and I resided at The Edge of Lowry Apartments for four years. While the first few years were a pleasant experience, we soon began observing changes in our once-quiet neighborhood. In the spring and summer of 2024, we noticed shuttles dropping off large numbers of illegal immigrants onto the property. Throughout the year, we watched in horror as a few apartments full of migrant families quickly evolved into large groups of gun-toting military-aged males threatening the remaining leaseholders into abandoning their properties, then kicking in the doors to the many vacated units to make room for other gang members.

Open-air drug use, drug dealers, and seemingly underage prostitutes filled the common areas of the buildings. Loud parties in the parking lots lasted well into the morning; stolen and abandoned vehicles blocked residents' cars, property damage was evident, and random shoot-outs soon began to be expected on our block every night. These criminals brought in unlicensed electricians to run electricity to abandoned apartments and locksmiths to change locks outside the buildings to deny access to the owners, emergency services, and even the leaseholders left in the building.

Despite several calls for help to the Aurora Police Department, they often provided conflicting excuses for not responding. For example, one officer told me that he wanted to respond but was instructed not to, or they were often responding to other rampant crimes across the city or had to respond to any crime in my neighborhood with no less than 3 or 4 officers and an armored vehicle. One officer even suggested I go to the media because he felt sorry for me; he likely unintentionally saved my life. Although we were low-income and barely paying our bills, we realized the need to invest in home protection, and we purchased three additional handguns and 6 cameras in case we had to defend ourselves. During June and July, the gang members slowly began to torture us, through intimidation, loud arguments and physical conflicts outside our door all night while vandalizing and taking over the vacant apartments on our floor. After several confrontations with the gang members, several calls and submitting video evidence to the Aurora Police Department with no results, we gave up trying to stop them from squatting on the property. We spent the next few weeks looking for another rental.

Unable to locate another low-income property rental that didn't have the same issues we were facing every day, we reached out to local mainstream media and several NGOs in our community, begging for help, only to be turned away because we were taxpayers. There are no government programs to grant citizens temporary protected status from imported gangs in our own country.

On August 18th at 11:21 p.m., ten minutes after my viral video was recorded, a young man was mortally wounded outside my apartment building in a firestorm of bullets, causing thousands of dollars in damages to cars and surrounding properties by 6 gunmen later identified as TDA. Thanks to the heroism of one local Aurora City councilwoman named Danielle Jurinsky, who had been sounding the alarm over TDA for months while being called a liar and ignored by the governor, I was finally able to escape those horrible conditions. In the media frenzy following the video release, many TDA members have now been identified and arrested all over the country. Danielle Jurinsky has never received an apology or

acknowledgment for exposing the threat.

When I heard that Mr. Trump had taken an interest in Aurora and our struggles with TDA, I was relieved and hopeful that a change was coming. As President, he did not disappoint me, and I feel safer knowing that our country becomes more secure daily. I continue to think that the lives of my family and many others in my community were put at risk by the Biden administration's failed sanctuary policies at the southern border. Sanctuary status puts citizens at risk