

December 22, 2024.
JSNE Commentary


Darren Weekly is the elected Sheriff of Douglas County. This [article/transcript](#) caps Weekly’s recent interview (12/5/2024) with Jon Caldara, President of the libertarian think-tank, [Independence Institute](#), Denver.

Caldara regularly interviews public figures on his YouTube channel, [Devils’ Advocate](#). Generally, those figures “toe the party line” using selected media to promulgate current dog-whistles related to the Culture War.


Darren Weekly is no exception. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with GOP politicians in the Douglas County region, Weekly has take on issues such as [immigration](#) and [homelessness](#) as opportunity to manufacture [false sense of crisis and loathing](#).

Last week, another libertarian think-tank - [Leadership Program of the Rockies](#) – issued a common email bulletin. The subject was Weekly’s “Stand on Crime in Colorado”.

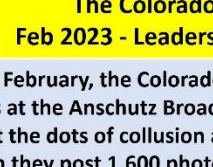
Weekly, along with many Colorado GOP leaders, is a graduate of the [LPR libertarian education program](#). This formal year-long program focuses on training conservatives in preparation for political offices.




Weekly




Jones




Francisco




Kaminsky




Ganahl



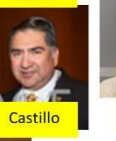
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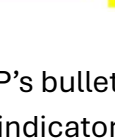
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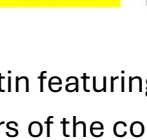
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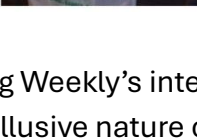
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Feb 2023 - Leadership Program of the Rockies – Broadmoor, Colo Springs

Every February, the Colorado Cabal gathers at the Anschutz Broadmoor to connect the dots of collusion and hate. Then they post 1,600 photos on-line...the people, orgs and Koch astroturfs
<https://leader.zenfolio.com/p902428361>

LPR grads in and around Douglas County

Mark	Baisley	CO SD6, former HD39; FEC United
Kristi	Burton Brown	Advance Colorado; prior COGOP Chair; prior FEC United Chair
Dudley	Brown	Rocky Mountain Gun Owners
Randy	Corporon	Trump/Guliani lawyer; Chair Arapahoe, Tea Party; FEC United; GOP National
Brenda	Dickoner	Ready Colorado; Polis/Education Leadership Council
Deborah	Flora	CD4 Candidate; CPAN; FEC United; filmmaker
Greg	Francisco	Freedom Fathers book banner; FEC United
Heidi	Ganahl	CO Road to Red; prior Governor candidate; FEC United; raised in Monument
Tim	Geitner	Lawyer DCSD
Scott	Gessler	Lawyer DCSD
Lori	Gimelshteyn	CPAN; FAIR
Tony	Hartsook	HD 44
Laura	Hefta	Parker TC; FEC United
Krista	Kafer	Independence Institute
Ross	Kaminsky	Talk show
Erin	Kane	DCSD Superintendent; CPAN award
Brad	Miller	Woodand Park SD; Activist
Ralph	Nagel	Wealthy donor to DougCo GOP and DCSD candidates
Holly	Nicholson-Kluth	prior DCSD, candidate for DCSheriff
Stu	Parker	DougCo GOP VP, Chair
Roger	Partridge	prior DougCo BoCC
Tina	Peters	Election denier Associate Mike the Pillow; indicated; prior MesaCo C&R
Priscilla	Rahn	Candidate, DougCo BoCC; prior - CO GOP VC; FEC United
Jimmy	Sengenberger	Radio talk show; writer for Anschutz media and Independence Inst
Meghann	Silverthorn	DougCo Library BOD; DougCo GOP Secy; prior DCSD Board
Jerry	Sonnenberg	Candidate CD4; CO SD1
Lora	Thomas	Candidate HD43; DougCo BoCC
Jeff	Toborg	Mayor Parker; FEC United officer; QAnon
Will	Trachman	RMLFoundation layer; Chair, CO FederalistSoc; prior DCSD lawyer (Reformers)
David	Williams	Candidate CDS; CO GOP Chair; FEC United
Darren	Weekly	DCSheriff; Able Shepard
John	Castillo	FEC United; UADF militia

LPR’s bulletin featuring Weekly’s interview at another [local think-tank](#) is one of many ongoing indicators of the collusive nature of the [libertarian movement in Colorado](#)...funded by dark-monied [Koch network](#) billionaires including [Anschutz](#), [Coors](#), [Walton](#), [Daniels](#), [Schwab](#) and others.

Weekly’s slanted sound-bites and over-emphasis of issues during the interview presents an opportunity for fact-checking.

On a broader note, Weekly is stoking his public profile, no doubt in preparation for his next political candidacy. After all, he did stand at the podium [to speak](#) at the recent Trump MAGA rally in Aurora.



“Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly, LPR 2023, was featured on Independence Institute’s weekly podcast *Devil’s Advocate*. In the “Is Colorado Anti-Cop” episode, Weekly addressed the growing concerns surrounding gang activity and immigration policies in Colorado, emphasizing the rise of Venezuelan gangs like Tren de Aragua in the Denver metro area. These gangs have been linked to violent crimes, including drug trafficking, robberies, and murder, and intelligence has confirmed threats to law enforcement. Sheriff Weekly criticized Denver’s sanctuary city policies, arguing that they create a haven for criminals by limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities. He also highlighted the critical role of elected sheriffs, who are directly accountable to constituents, in ensuring public safety.”




Click the video above to watch the full interview on *Devil’s Advocate*

Sheriff Weekly outlined his proactive approach to combating these challenges, including intelligence-sharing with other agencies, fostering community collaboration, and prioritizing the apprehension of criminals. While acknowledging the complexities of immigration and public safety, he underscored the importance of transparency and decisive action to maintain order. Despite political opposition, the sheriff remains steadfast in his mission to protect Douglas County’s residents, advocating for strong leadership to address the evolving threats posed by gang violence and immigration dynamics.


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45:15

Ep. 107 - Is Colorado Anti-Cop?

12/5/2024

Does Colorado have a gang problem? Is Colorado doing everything it can to support law enforcement? Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly gives his take on this episode of...

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Does Colorado have a gang problem? Is Colorado doing everything it can to support law enforcement? Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly gives his take on this episode of Devil's Advocate.

Transcript

Ep. 107 - Is Colorado Anti-Cop?

Devil’s Advocate Independence Institute TV (IITV)
John Caldara – President, Independence Institute, Denver (1998 – present)
Darren Weekly, Douglas County Colorado Sheriff (2022 – present)

0:00 Introduction

Darren Weekly: Gang leadership had given them clearance to kill police officers in the United States

John Caldara: How do you know that?

DW: Intelligence gathered from various sources

JC: And did all police departments in the metro area know this?

DW: Uh, I originally heard it from another uh agency outside the state of Colorado and then Colorado um intelligence uh put it out shortly thereafter but I initially heard it from another state.

JC: You heard it from another state...

DW: yes...

JC: That gang activity is hot in Denver that they've been okayed by their superiors to kill law enforcement and that complexes are being taken over by DWI gangs

DW: Yes.

[Music]

0:58

JC: The long arm of the law joins us Darren Weekley Sheriff of Douglas County. Well first why do you like donuts so much?

DW: Who doesn't love a good donut now and again?

JC: Do you get tired of that stereotype?

DW: No, no, it's fine...it's a good way to interact with people.

JC: Hey it's been a while since you and I chatted really what I wanted to talk about was immigration issues in Colorado uh in Denver around the Denver metro area which includes uh Douglas County and try to get a fine. different perspective.

I keep hearing about Venezuelan gangs and I keep hearing hearing...no, no, no...there really isn't much Venezuelan gangs set me straight what's going on in the Denver metro area and with illegals from Venezuela.

DW: There is absolutely 100% a Venezuelan gang problem in the Denver metro area. We're one of many states where Tren de Aragua (TDA) has branched out to. And Denver is a main hub, and obviously with Denver with their sanctuary policies, they were bussed into the city of Denver, but again many have branched out to cities like Aurora.

2:04

JC: Let me ask what is it about Venezuela...I mean...there are migrants spilling over the border from all over South and Latin America. Why Venezuelan gangs? What's the difference here?

DW: Well, the TDA was started uh in Venezuela as a Venezuelan prison gang and so they decided migrate up into the United States because of the Biden Harris open border policies and went across the open border and went throughout the United States.

You know, I'm not saying every Venezuelan is a criminal, not by a long shot but several...many... of these people were and they're now committing crimes um you know everything from drug trafficking to robberies burglaries murder sexual assault uh and it's happening all over the United States.

JC: They said they were a prison gang are they still a prison gang. Did they get out of prison in Venezuela?

DW: That's where they uh originated from. I'm sure there's still you know many of them in prison in Venezuela.

JC: Was this something like um when Castro emptied the jails and sent them all to America so it was our problem is it something similar to that or these just Venezuelan criminals?

DW: I can't say for certain I have heard the same things that um that many of these people um these various nations wanted to get rid of and they sent them through our Southern border.

3:35

JC: Let's talk first about Aurora and I know it's not really your beat, but help me with this. When the apartment complexes were taken over by Venezuelan gangs and we saw the video of it was downplayed. I get it...nobody in Aurora city council mayor...great people... they don't want to advertise this is what's going on in their city but there seem to be this chorus saying this is not really a thing and as the truth comes out it seems like it was a thing what happened in Aurora.

DW: Before the information went public, we and law enforcement started hearing about um the gang takeovers of the apartment complexes again long, long before this hit the media. I think it was minimized uh by the Aurora Police Department, by the city of Aurora, they initially said that the apartment complex was shut down because of code violations things like that well when you see a SWAT officer that's what we call fully kitted up with a rifle slung over going door too they don't do that for code violations.

My deputies and my detectives specifically have had several uh criminal investigations that have um led us to um the area of Dallas Street uh gnome Street, as part of crimes that have occurred in my jurisdiction where we have traced and tracked these criminals back to those apartment complexes.

5:00

JC: In Aurora?

DW: Yes.

JC: When you said you heard about this, months before you know what I'm finding in Colorado all over politics is that we the poor idiot citizens don't seem to find out about things until later. I think of Jenna Griswald saying you know we're not going to we're not going to let people know we've let out all these passwords on the voting machines because we don't want to start a panic. that she's doing a favor for us my hearing kind of the same thing here. Law enforcement knew for two months that this apartment complex was overrun with Venezuelan gangs?

DW: Yes, yes, and law enforcement was made aware in July that uh we had been targeted or greenlighted to be executed by TDA.

JC: We being who?

DW: Law enforcement.

JC: Tell me...add some meat to that...what did you know when did you know it and what do you mean they were okay trying to kill you.

6:05

DW: Gang leadership had given them clearance to kill police officers in the United States.

JC: How do you know that?

DW: Intelligence gathered from various sources.

JC: And did all police departments in the metro area know this.

DW: I originally heard it from another uh agency outside the state of Colorado and then Colorado intelligence uh put it out shortly thereafter but I initially heard it from another state.

JC: You heard it from another state?

DW: Yes.

JC: That gang activity is hot in Denver. That they've been okayed by their superiors to kill law enforcement and that complexes are being taken over by gangs

DW: Yes.

JC: You heard all of that from outside of the state before you heard it from inside of the state...I want to be I just want to really understand.

DW: The green lighting of law enforcement I heard from outside the state the Takeover of gangs we heard in from within the state.

JC: Can I ask who out of state?

DW: I'm not going to divulge that.

7:06

JC: When you got this information even though Aurora is not your place it spills into DougCo pretty easily. What was your reaction that?

DW: We're not going to tolerate it. In Douglas County we still fight crime we're very aggressive now we're not a major Metropolitan City like the city of Denver or the city of Aurora. But the fact of the matter is we will not tolerate. We are going to track down these criminals and we're going to make arrests. I want the reputation if you come into Douglas County, we will chase you we will catch you and we will put you in jail.

I'm looking forward to the 23rd Judicial District which is our new Judicial District that starts in January. George Brauchler is going to be getting that seat. George is a hard-nosed prosecutor and he's going to be a great partner in terms of public safety for Douglas County.

But in regards to your initial question uh I was infuriated. The fact of the matter is the Denver with their Sanctuary policies, if Denver gets sick everybody else catches a cold. It's just it's maddening that this has been allowed to happen and my citizens that I swore to serve and protect are becoming victims because of somebody else's decisions.

8:16

JC: When you say Denver's Sanctuary City policies, I hear that term, and I'm not too certain what it exactly means. What policies does Denver have that you consider to make it a sanctuary city?

DW: They won't enforce immigration law and they won't cooperate with immigration authorities. And our...

JC: Just hit that back...so Denver will not help ICE or FEDs enforce immigration policy.

DW: That's correct and they also welcome these migrants to be bused up to the city of Denver.

DW: How do they do that?

JC: I'm not challenging you I just want to hear

DW: I don't know the logistics behind it and what conversations have at taken place at the government level. But Denver has opened itself up the busloads of migrants coming in, the overwhelming majority of these people have been unvetted they don't know who they are um they're Feeds given places to stay um in some cases uh Denver had shipped people out of the city of Denver like Adams County and El Paso County uh to my knowledge they haven't shipped any anybody in in uh Douglas County um but this has become our problem in law enforcement in Denver metro area to deal with.

JC: So, now that we have uh new president... let's just lay the cards out. You endorsed Donald Trump. You even spoke at a trump rally here in Denver, actually in Aurora. um why' you feel so strongly about that?

9:39

DW: Because we need to take our country back.

JC: From whom?

DW: From the woke liberal left.

Our country, from my perspective, our country has been a nation that's been in decline. We are not respected on an international level. We need law and order back in our country. At some point, you know, like in the 2020, the cops became the bad guys.

I strongly feel that the pendulum is swinging the other way; obviously, Trump got elected and so I think the American citizens are fed up.

Most Americans are in the middle, they're not far left, they're not far right. But I think Americans have seen enough over the last four years to realize that our country is definitely headed in the wrong direction.

I'm old enough to remember the Jimmy Carter days. I was a little kid but I'm old enough to remember

10:30

JC: I remember well too.

DW: At this point in time felt, I like that again. We were not respected when Jimmy Carter was President, our economy was in a dumpster.

And we were in that same place and I think this election cycle American said hang on a second...this is this is not good for us and they spoke with their vote.

JC: Your support of Donald Trump and your vocal support of him is out of step with Douglas County. I believe Douglas County did not vote for Donald Trump.

DW: They did he did win Douglas.

JC: Okay yeah how much now it wasn't by a lot. Even Lauren Boebert just barely won Douglas County.

You told me you're the only Republican sheriff in the Denver metro area...that's great out of the seven counties there.

Growing up here, that is unthinkable to me. Denver would always have a Democratic sheriff, still be a law-and-order guy. That sheriff was the chief of police for Denver because Denver doesn't have elected sheriffs but everybody else was a Republican. Maybe not Adams County.

But you're an endangered species.

DW: I am, and I think I probably got a target on my back. I get along with...

JC: So, if it's not the voters, it's going to be the Venezuelan.

DW: Yeah, I'm batting a thousand.

I get along with my Sheriff peers throughout the metro area but obviously the demographics in the state have changed. They've even changed in Douglas County but uh yes, I'm the last Republican sheriff in the Denver metro area.

I don't care what your party affiliation. There's some people that were upset with my Trump speech..."that how dare you"...and I heard it all um but I felt...

JC: Would you do it again?

DW: Yes 100%. I felt was the right thing to do. I knew I was going to make people mad but the alternative. are you kidding me um don't know what would have happened if Kamala Harris got elected president. What our what our country would look like in four years...so I did what I thought was right.

JC: Even though you knew that Colorado was going to give its electoral votes to Trump.

DW: I knew that but I had to stand for what I believed in. I love this country. I love my community and I'm going to do what I can to fight for it and as the sheriff I was invited. Trump's people called me a few days ahead of time and they told me you know kind of just in general what they would like me to talk about and they left it at that.

JC: They didn't give you a script?

13:11

DW: I wrote it myself. It went really great. You know, I'm blessed to have been in the position that I was in to give that speech. This country is blessed because we have Donald Trump to look forward to as a president. I think things are going to change drastically.

I think the nonsense that the citizens have endured in our country over the last four years is going to be over.

I think a lot of the wars that have been going on around the world I think they'll come to an end um I think a lot of the nonsense

JC: I think your expectations are a little too high.

He's just president and you know there's so much machinery around the governmental blob on all these levels...one guy one president is not going to be able to reverse course more than just slow it down. It's going to take a huge cultural change over decades.

DW: I don't disagree with you but I think the fact that we have all three branches of government and then we've got somebody at the top you know just my opinion.

I don't know who's been running the country, I don't think it's been the President Joe Biden.

But if we have somebody at the top that is engaged in the problems that we're dealing with...you know we have Congress...we have the Supreme Court...I think a lot of problems can be solved um that have been plaguing this country over the last four years.

14:38

JC: Let's bring it back to Colorado in the metro area.

Okay so the idea of mass deportations is a question mark. As Trump has fond of doing, I think he talks a good game but mass deportations is going to be a ridiculously difficult, complex, legally challenging and just the actual mechanics of it is going to be challenging to do that.

I don't know exactly how it can be done, if even the courts let them. It's easy to let 9 million people spill over the border, it's going to be really tricky to get them back on the other side.

Do you think mass deportations are really going to happen?

DW: I think this president-elect has already said this that they're going to start with the criminals and the people on the terror watch list, first.

If you go to the Douglas County Sheriff's office website you will see a button on the website that shows our demographics of our inmate population. Last I checked we had 11 ICE holds in our jail.

It'll give you the demographic of every inmate in our facility. If you just start with the people that have ICE holds and then the people on the watch list, there's going to be plenty of work for ICE.

JC: Because they're already captured is that what you're telling me. They're already there...ICE doesn't have to go knocking on doors to find them, you already have them.

DW: That's correct. State law Colorado law prohibits us from holding them only for ICE holds so they're in our jail on other charges we can't hold people just on ICE holds.

JC: And that's Colorado state law?

DW: That's correct.

JC: When did that become a Colorado state law?

16:19

DW: 2019

JC: All right so recently yes all right so before that you found someone who was illegal you could you could hold them for ICE, if there was a detainer yes, okay we could all right

Let's get to the juicy part.

So our mayor in Denver has a very different vision for the metro area than you. He has been very welcoming of these migrants. And I sympathize - I mean if I were in another country - I would do what I ever I had to get here.

My concern is that 9 million is way too many and with a planet of 8 billion people half of whom would rather be in America than whether they are, it's just undoable so why do some people get in others can't.

Mayor Johnson says he misspoke and I'll give him credit for just misspeaking saying he's going to have his cops on the border of the County to do battle. You know, what I find so funny about that is it was Trump who was inciting insurrection right but here the mayor is saying we're going to have guns at the border of the county. "We're going to have five 50,000 Highland mommies there" ready to take up arms what.

As a guy who's made a living saying really dumbass stuff, I understand what it pumps out of another politician's mouth, but when asked to pull it back, he really didn't clarify it but he said he would do everything...he'd go to jail to protect these people and that the people of Denver will keep the Feds from deporting these folks.

18:04

DW: It's against federal law so under um title 8 USC I think it's 124, harboring an illegal immigrant, it's a crime. When I was running for Sheriff, there's a lot of misinformation out there about the office of sheriff you know oh you're a constitutional Sheriff, you have more power than the president.

All of that is honestly that's nonsense but the fact of the matter is that federal law supersedes state law. I have several detectives that are assigned to Federal task forces FBI, DEA, and they have Federal Authority even though they're local cops.

So, they have they're deputized as special deputies. I believe it's under the US Marshall's office even though they work with the FBI or DEA so the federal government has the authority to deputize law enforcement officers and give them federal authority.

I don't know if that's going to happen. I know that that that things are being planned right now. I don't know what It ultimately is going to look like um but the fact of the matter is I was really shocked to hear the mayor of Denver make those comments and I don't know if you really believe those comments but if you are going to order Denver police officers to interfere with federal agents that's a huge mistake.

JC: One it's illegal, let's just say that. And two, listen, I know cops yeah...I don't think cops want to start having gun battles with other cops just my sense they don't...

DM: I know a lot of Denver police officers and they're like yeah that's not going to happen um so I don't know what the mayor of Denver believes um he has the authority to do. I don't know he's willing to be arrested maybe he is maybe he's not who knows

The citizens of the United States overwhelmingly voted for Donald Trump and I think part of that vote was because of this migrant crisis that we have in our country right now.

It's just it's chaos and the federal government managed to allow these people to be bussed all over the country, they can figure out a way to get them out of the country as well.

20:40

JC: When you say it's against federal law to harbor a person who's here illegally...are they really here illegally? Many of them have come in and they say they want Refugee status.

I am I'm running for political reasons and officially the federal government goes...okay we can't tell if that's true or not until we run you through the process which might take years and therefore you know here's a place to stay here, some food, we'll figure out what you're going to do. And we'll take the years it takes to wait to bring your case in front of the judges who can give you asylum here. In the meantime, you're just here.

DW: Right. So, my understanding of the process is a lot of these people were given dates to appear at various locations to start that process after they made it through the southern border.

I think we're going to have our hands full with the actual criminals that have committed crimes in this country, but I believe that the Trump Administration will actually vet these people out um and determine whether or not they are seeking Asylum. The Biden Harris Administration...I don't think they've done that.

JC: When Denver arrests somebody who commits a crime... and let me tell you, I wonder if they really do because so many of them get popped out so quickly especially for low-level offenses, but stealing my car is not a low-level offense to me.

So do they have the same sort of demographics that you have would 11 person you know or 11% of their population in prison or jail right now be there on ICE holds or these are people who are here illegally but they're in jail for a crime is it the same numbers?

DW: I have no idea because the city of Denver is not sharing that information. To my knowledge I'm the only law enforcement CEO that's running the jail that is sharing that information with the general public.

JC: So, I go to Doug CO's sheriff's website, I can see who you've got in jail not by name but by his country from here from there, for this crime, for that crime.

DW: That's correct - DC sheriff.net - you can see the names of the individuals. It's a separate link but you can see the names of the individuals, it's public information. I think it's in everyone's best interest to share that information with who's in my custody.

JC: I want to spend a minute on that. It's public information for me to know who you have in custody and their nationality and the crime that they're accused of, but you are the only Sheriff that does.

This to my knowledge, and I'm assuming this is not a rocket science to make this stuff public, it's not like you've got to assign a crew of people to keep this website up and running I'm imagining this is information that every jailer has.

23:43

DW: It's automated...it automatically updates every morning at 7 am. If any sheriff is interested, we can certainly show them how we do it. It's not rocket science but it refreshes every morning at 7 o'clock so you can see exactly who is in our custody and the reason.

I did that is because there was misinformation out there as well like you know with that that we have TDA members taking over Douglas County, and our Jail's full of TDA members, the fact is our jail is mostly full of white males...that's the majority of the population that's in our custody.

JC: So makes sense because most of Douglas County is white.

DW: Exactly so I thought it was important to be transparent with the public about who's actually incarcerated in our facility.

JC: How do you know if somebody is here legally?

DW: When you arrest them, we will do a clearance on them through our computer system and determine if we got an identify...who they are. They self-report many times that they may have an ID from another country. Once we clear them and get the accurate information, ICE may or may not have a detainer on them and we can share information with ICE...that's one of the things that's a misinformation out there.

But what we can't do is hold them for ICE. if it's just an ice detainer that's been assigned by an agent. Now if there's a warrant for their arrest...it's criminal charge signed by a judge through the federal government, we can hold them for that. Just not the detainees.

JC: Alright, so you arrest somebody who's a gang member Venezuelan gang member. He's also here illegally. Let's say you successfully prosecute him for his crime, he goes to a Colorado jail?

DW: Correct

JC: He gets sent to a Colorado prison if convicted?

DW: Correct.

JC: And we have to pay for that?

DW: That's correct.

Recently, we just had a case, it's called the gold bars case. Two Indian migrants came through our Southern border and they were able to con a woman out of \$200,000 in gold bars. We were able to secure conviction on that and these guys got sentenced to six years in prison. Once their time is up, they will be deported.

JC: So, we're going to put them in hotel Colorado for six years and then pay to send them back to India.

DW: Correct.

JC: Am I not thinking right here am I missing something wouldn't it be cheaper just to send them back to India?

DW: If it was, I think the as far as our criminal justice process, they're going to serve their time. If we sent them back to India, and they did no time served, who's to say they wouldn't just come right back and commit more crimes.

JC: Because it's so easy to get in.

26:30

DW: Yeah, exactly... well currently but I don't think it will be in the future.

JC: I think it's hard to protect a such a large border like the United States has. I think it's just a difficult thing and building a wall is a difficult thing, and enforcing it is a difficult thing but you can't argue with the numbers that have come in in the last four years. At least 9 million people who have streamed across the border, it does say it just it says everything and this is a federal issue.

Personally, I think Governor Abbott in Texas is genius for busting these people out to send them to the places that say they are sanctuary areas so it's not just his problem it's the nation's problem. I think he woke up a nation to the issue.

DW: I don't disagree with you. And I think it's also important to talk about the fentanyl crisis in this country. 75,000 Americans are dying annually due to fentanyl overdoses, much of which is coming through that southern border.

JC: 75,000?

DW: Correct.

JC: So basically, almost twice as many people that died in Vietnam die from fentanyl overdose or gun violence.

DW: I mean obviously it's a headline, here and there, but that's not the top story of how many people are dying every day even in Colorado from fentanyl.

And again, it's coming up through that southern border. A lot of the fentanyl now is not in pill form we're finding it more and more in powder form. Because it's easier to transport.

So, it's something to be aware of a teenager can get a hit of fentanyl at a house party for two or three bucks because the market is so saturated. And they don't even know what they're taking and they could kill them.

JC: There are things that are fentanyl testing kits and I hear college kids saying oh we test all of our drugs for fentanyl because you know, we're we know what we're doing... I see you shaking your head.

DW: I think it's ridiculous. First of all, if you're taking this stuff anyway, I mean how concerned are you about your health and welfare? I don't know who's using these fentanyl test kits. But the fact and I am a parent you know of somebody in their 20s um you know I I'm terrified. Obviously I've got a I've got a good kid that wouldn't um take drugs or anything like that. But the fact of the matter is times are different and these kids have no idea what they're taking and I say kids it's it could be a teenager it could be somebody in their 20s.

29:06

JC: Bringing it bringing it back to Denver...what happens when Mayor Johnson uses the city and county police to try to keep migrants in the city safe, from the Feds coming to get them.

Then you just go down south to Douglas County and you've got a sheriff who is working with the feds to identify these people and have them deported.

What does that dynamic look like in reality? Because it's one metro area...I know, when you're in politics you know this is Denver, this is DougCo, this is Aurora but really for anybody with a bus pass or a car it's just Denver Metro.

DW: I think the difference is being elected vs being appointed. I don't answer to a city council. I don't answer to a mayor. I answer to the people that elected me, Sheriff.

I don't care what your party affiliation is. You know I don't only serve Republicans, I serve all of the citizens of Douglas County and I'm accountable to them if I don't do a good job. And I don't keep my community safe I don't get reelected. When you're appointed chief of police you tend to do what the city manager um mayor or town city council tells you to do.

JC: How many how many constituents do you have?

DW: About 275,000.

JC: The chief of police in Denver has one constituent...that's the mayor and then maybe the city council. That's the constituency he has to please. That's why elected sheriffs are so remarkably vital and why there's such a difference between sheriff's offices and police departments. You know the police guy has no responsibility to the people. Every time one of your deputies pulls over somebody in Douglas County, he's pulling off over one of your constituents who's going to vote on you and that interaction will reflect on your next election. It's remarkably great accountability.

DW: You're 100% accurate and that's why we have great deputy sheriffs that we hire. You hear about the hiring crisis in law enforcement particularly with Denver. They're down a couple hundred cops.

By the end of this year. I will be fully staffed. I am not having a hiring problem. I'm hiring Denver cops, I'm hiring Aurora cops, because they want to come and work for my agency because they feel appreciated.

We take good care of them. They got competitive pay, competitive benefits, great retirement plan and the citizens appreciate public safety.

It's not about politics. I get just as many Democrats come up to me and say, "Sheriff if you're doing an outstanding job. Sheriff, I just talked to one of your deputies the other day. Sheriff, I got pulled over by one of your deputies the other day."

I am accountable to all of the citizens of Douglas County and it's in my best interest to ensure that I hire the best cops I can hire and that we do the job the way that's it's supposed to be done.

32:10

JC: Aurora has, as you said, a huge shortage of cops. Denver is down 200 maybe even more cops and they're out there advertising..."please come to Denver where you have no authority". And won't be able to actually enforce the law. I understand why cops would rather work in a law enforcement environment where they're valued. Where they can actually do their job.

What's the difference between the two? In other words, if I'm a cop and I'm thinking about either applying to work for you or the Denver Police Department, what's the real difference? I mean what's my day-to-day will be different how?

DW: We catch bad guys and if you follow us on social media, you will see you'll see foot pursuits. You'll see car chases. You'll see us making arrests and protecting our community.

We're not reckless. We got very strict policies and procedures but we do the job the right way and we hold criminals accountable. I want the reputation - if you come into Douglas County, I don't care where you live. If we don't catch you in the act, we will track you down and find you.

You may steal one of our cars but guess what? We're going to get a warrant, and if we find that car and put a track around that vehicle to find out where you're going to go. We will go above and beyond the call of duty to apprehend criminals in our jurisdiction.

JC: You will go into other jurisdictions to catch somebody who did a crime in DougCo?

33:46

DW: Absolutely...100%. We let that jurisdiction know if we're going to execute a search warrant. If we're going to put a tracker on a car, we have to do that with a warrant. We will we will go out of our way and put the time and energy that it takes to catch these individuals that commit crimes in my county.

JC: When you say if I come work for you, I get to catch bad guys compared to what? Describe it in Denver County and I know that I'm putting you on a hot seat but really be honest.

DW: I don't work there but I have heard from Denver cops, "we're not even allowed to do police work". And I've heard from other jurisdictions. I've heard from Aurora that you know they don't even have time.

The little things matter in law enforcement, the quality of life things matter in law enforcement. Some of these bigger agencies like Denver - they won't they won't respond to your house if you got if you have a theft report. They'll tell you to go online and do it and then it goes God knows where.

We understand the value and the quality of life in our county and we want to ensure that our citizens feel like they're protected and that we are responsive to them when they've been victimized. Whether it's a theft report, burglary your car got broken into, or you're a victim of domestic violence.

We will put in the time and energy that it takes and you know. We're not perfect. We make mistakes or we don't have enough evidence to prosecute but we're going to do everything that we can to hold that line.

You know when I got elected, I gave my inauguration speech I said I'm going to do everything that I can to keep Douglas County, Douglas County, and what I meant by that is the quality of life in Douglas County. That we won't become like the rest of the Denver metro area and people don't know jurisdictional lines but the rest of the Denver metro area is a mess.

People live in Douglas County for a reason regardless of party affiliation because it's safe. You don't see homeless people on every street corner. You don't see a crime ridden community because the little things matter and it's a whole broken windows theory.

So it's important that um that we have enough cops out there on the street to be proactive; they are not just being reactive, just answering call to call to call.

36:08

My Commissioners have been very gracious to my agency. They've added many law enforcement officers every year. I think over the last three years they've added over 60 law enforcement officers to my agency. And the municipalities – Parker, Castle Rock - they've added cops as well because we recognize the importance of public safety in a community.

JC: What's your advice to Mayor Johnson?

DW: Make public safety a priority. I don't understand when he made those statements especially when the Trump Administration has said we're going to go after criminals and people on the terror watch list first. Then you have Mayor Johnson saying he's going to there's going to be a Tiananmen Square type of thing and they're going to block them from doing that.

I'm like what are you what are you thinking? The Denver Police Department has trouble just policing the city of Denver and not to mention adding this other layer.

I just I don't understand it and I don't get it...I think that the Democrats wanted to create a one party system which is why that they opened the border to begin with.

JC: What do you mean by that?

DW: I think that they wanted to give voting rights to these migrants that have made their way here so that the migrant would vote Democrat. I think a lot of people feel that way.

JC: You know I have no idea if my ancestors came to this nation legally or illegally. I'm just grateful that they have. The difference was when they got here, there was no safety net there was no government welfare state, there was no services from the government to these people. They had to find their own communities - their family, the friends from the old country they had to be in in their area so that they could get help from

those people and in return they gave help to the next guy who came in.

You know, for me, it's not the state of welfare...it's the welfare state that's causing this problem.

And why wouldn't you want to come up here especially if you're not going to get arrested when you commit a crime.

Let's wrap this up. Denver is a sanctuary city. Is Colorado a sanctuary state, given the 2019 law change that ties a hand of guys like you. Is it a sanctuary state?

DW: No, it's not. You know obviously the Democrats have control of our Capitol. We got a few seats back this election cycle but outside of Denver & Boulder, I really don't think so.

I'll bring this up again. I believe that the fact that Trump won says a lot about the state of the country. Obviously, he didn't win Colorado but I think outside of the metropolitan area, it's not a sanctuary state.

And I think it's important - I would like to get this out as well.

I don't want to be portrayed as some sort of a racist. My grandmother is Mexican, migrated here from Mexico. I'm part Mexican myself. I'm not a racist. This has nothing to do with race, it has everything to do with public safety.

When I gave my Trump speech, I said I want you to imagine a terrorist coming across our Southern border. Imagine a terrorist cell, sleeper cell, in the United States that is plotting some sort of a mass casualty event.

I have no inside information but the fact of the matter is our open border lends itself to something like that, whether it's Denver, Los Angeles, New York, Miami wherever the.

Biden Harris Administration created this crisis and I believe President Trump is going to fix it.

I believe my federal partners know that there's a lot of terrorists, individuals that are on the terror watch list in our country now. I'm very hopeful that um everything will be done to protect our citizens.

But these are the major issues, that the people from the Left they're not considering that could be happening in our country or could happen in our country at any time.

JC: If harboring someone who here illegally is crime federal crime there are a lot of people uh who are doing this out of the charity of their hearts. I know people who have opened up their homes to migrants because they're sleeping in tents, they're staying in rec centers. And the mayor's out there asking people...hey, can you open up your home to these people? Are they criminals?

41:00

DW: You know that's a tough question. I don't mean to come across as painting all of these migrants as criminals because they're not.

And this is not an easy problem to solve. I don't mean to come across that this is going to be a simple issue.

I don't think in their heart that they are criminals. I think they're trying to do the right thing and I think they're trying to help people. The problem is we've got a lot of muddy water to sift through and it's going to take decades potentially to figure it out.

JC: How many people, here illegally, do you think in the next year or two will be given to ICE from DougCo?

41:28

DW: Potentially maybe 500, maybe a thousand. We're much smaller community our jail population as of today was like 348 um I did pull some stats and we've only had 78 people thus far that have actually had ICE holds but that doesn't mean only

JC: That seems like a lot of people.

DW: Well, those are people that ICE has on their radar, right, and so if there was a migrant that committed a low-level crime and it's not on ICE's radar already they may not have an ICE detainer. But right now, it's just 78 but again we don't hold.

JC: Last question. You seem to be very comfortable being Republican throughout this whole conversation. You said, we've got the Court, we've got the Congress, we've got this, we've got that.

You identify strongly as a Republican.

I hate to tell you this - that's a dumb political move in this state and especially the way DougCo is changing demographically. Arapahoe was stronghold Republican, Jeffco was stronghold Republican, why do you feel so comfortable talking about being a Republican?

DW: My parents were Democrats. I just grew up admiring Ronald Reagan. I just naturally grew up to embrace the Republican principles and values. I grew up admiring the leadership of Ronald Reagan and you know my 18th birthday, I remember registering to vote and registering as a Republican.

I don't think Democrats are bad or anything like that but I believe in less government uh I believe in financial fiscal responsibility. I believe the government should be out of people's lives. You know I think the most important role of government is to protect its citizens, and I think the Biden Harris Administration has turned their back on protecting the American public.

43:40

JC: I'll go a little farther. It's not just the Biden Harris Administration. It is a progressive, nearly socialistic Democrat system we have here in our capital, in our governor's office, and in the courts, and we are in a very progressive state and we're starting to see the cost of that not only with high inflation people not being able to afford a home, but, surprise, crime.

All right so you going to run for re-election?

DW: I think so. I'm going to kind of wave my options but I love my job. I love my community. So, at this point that's...

JC: Even though the Venezuelan gangs have an order out to kill you.

DW: You still love your job. You know the citizens elected me to do a job and I believe that I am the best person and most qualified to do that job. and so, um I want to keep my community safe and so my plan is I'm going to continue to do so.

JC: Sheriff thanks for spending some time with me...this was very interesting

DW: Thank you for having me.