



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 10, 2022

Parag Agrawal
Chief Executive Officer
Twitter, Inc.
1355 Market Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Shou Zi Chew
Chief Executive Officer
Tik Tok, Inc.
5800 Bristol Parkway, Suite 100
Culver City, CA 90230

Evan Spiegel
Chief Executive Officer
Snap, Inc.
2772 Donald Douglas Loop North
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Agrawal, Mr. Chew, Mr. Spiegel, and Mr. Zuckerberg:

It's no secret that our southern border is a mess. As a result of misguided policies and a lack of action by the federal government, a humanitarian crisis and public safety crisis has developed. Last month, an average of 7,800 migrants were apprehended at the Southwest Border each day. Fentanyl is pouring across the border and filling Arizona communities' bloodstreams. Fentanyl overdoses have replaced car accidents as the leading cause of death for people 19 and younger in Pima County. And in 2021, when overdose deaths hit a record high, fentanyl was involved in more than 77% of adolescent overdose deaths. Human trafficking and drug trafficking is rampant — with cartels preying on those seeking refuge for a better life, and facilitating the flow of drugs into American communities. **And — these criminals are using your companies' social media platforms to make it happen.**

Law enforcement at the state, local, and federal levels have seen social media recruiting by the cartels and traffickers increase since 2019, and skyrocket during 2021 and 2022¹. Our law enforcement authorities have tracked countless social media posts and messages which glamorize the money and lifestyle attainable by smuggling. Messages are exchanged between the account operator who posted the content and the interested viewers who engage with the content. Apprehended smugglers share how they get recruited through enticing social media content in interviews with authorities. These are also visible to the public viewer. Offers of \$1,500 - \$2,000 are being made for young people to travel from Phoenix to the border to assist in human trafficking.

¹ Examples of this activity can be found in the attached article from the Sierra Vista Herald. Additional information may be obtained from Arizona law enforcement agencies working on these criminal investigations.

May 10, 2022

Parag Agrawal, Shou Zi Chew, Evan Spiegel, Mark Zuckerberg

Page 2 of 2

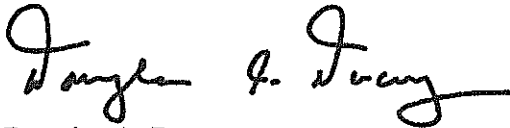
The state has directed a great deal of resources towards this problem - declaring an emergency, deploying the national guard, increasing police interdiction and partnering with other states to help with sharing of information. **But we need your help.**

Kids are being lured with the promise of quick cash to aid the cartels in their smuggling operations, break traffic laws to evade police, endanger themselves, passengers, and innocent occupants of other cars and ultimately jeopardize their future all because they responded to an ad on social media. Your companies have established reporting mechanisms for criminal behavior, but we need stronger action to prevent this activity that is drawing our young people into a life of crime. Inaction only enables cartels to victimize countless youth and families. **This crisis presents a real opportunity for you and your companies to take action and make a difference.**

Just as your companies work to protect youth from obscenity and violence on your social media platforms, it's time to protect them from criminal solicitation as well. In screening these ads, your companies can increase the safety of our communities while also protecting these kids from enticement into activity that will ultimately result in their involvement with the judicial system and all the consequences that come with that.

I urge you to stop letting your social media platform be used as a tool for criminal activity, and I welcome your partnership to address this issue. **It's time for the entire social media industry to put a stop to this activity and prevent the exploitation of our youth.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

Attachment

https://www.myheraldreview.com/news/border/task-force-making-load-car-impact-as-social-media-recruiting-increases/article_a10a3764-ca5f-11ec-a75b-47a1f27b5f5b.html

CENTERPIECE

Task force making load car impact as social media recruiting increases

By Lyda Longa lyda.longa@myheraldreview.com
May 2, 2022



Photos of load car drivers and those they are attempting to smuggle are posted regularly by the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. Recruiters are now increasing how much they pay drivers to smuggle undocumented migrants as law enforcement ramps up its efforts to stop them.

Photo illustration by Melina Christopher Herald/Review Media

COCHISE COUNTY — Transporting undocumented migrants at \$1,000 per person is no longer enough money to risk getting caught by the task force that targets load car drivers, law enforcement officials say.

So those who take to social media to recruit the motorists who police call “load car drivers” — undocumented migrants are referred to as “loads” — have upped their game by mostly offering double the amount for every migrant that a load car driver can stuff into his or her vehicle.

The price now is about \$2,000 for every migrant transported to either Tucson or Phoenix, investigators say.

Additionally, some of these social media recruiters — employed by the drug cartels — are naming Sierra Vista in their posts, mentioning it as either the place to make a quick buck transporting migrants or the place where things are getting “heated,” referring to the arrests being made by the Operation Safe Streets Task Force. The latter, made up of the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office, the Border Patrol, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Sierra Vista Police and other police agencies, was formed specifically to combat the onslaught of load car drivers flooding into Cochise County over the last couple of months.

While local law enforcement can’t arrest anyone for violating federal laws such as human smuggling, deputies, officers and state troopers can arrest load car drivers who try to evade capture by taking off at high speeds with their human contraband often hidden in the trunk of a car or under the seat in a pickup.

The Cochise County Attorney’s Office has been prosecuting such motorists with charges that include unlawful fleeing and eluding and kidnapping.

Law enforcement officials said Monday the task force’s efforts have worked because load car drivers have begun pulling over instead of speeding away at the risk of being caught and taken to the Cochise County Jail.

“I think the Safe Streets Task Force is beginning to have some impact,” said Sierra Vista Police Chief Adam Thrasher. “While we are still seeing some failure to yields, they appear to be slowing down a bit with more reports of smugglers pulling over without fleeing. Hopefully this

is a result of word getting out that it is becoming more risky to get caught and receive significant prosecution in Cochise County, especially for these failure to yields.”

The success of the task force, however, has prompted recruiters to pay more money in order to entice drivers to take their chances with law enforcement, said Thrasher and Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels.

“ ... The increase in money cartels are willing to pay seems to indicate that it is not as easy to recruit drivers to come down here as it was a couple of months ago, but that smuggling activity across the border is remaining steady and they are in need of those willing to drive them north,” Thrasher said. “Unfortunately, as the cartels increase the amount of money, we may see drivers more desperate to elude capture, which is a significant risk to the public.

“SVPD remains steadfast with our partners in the Safe Streets Task Force to protect the public from this dangerous behavior and prosecute anyone that comes down here to commit these crimes.”

Indeed, word of the task force and its doggedness has prompted social media recruiters to begin steering load car drivers to Sells in Pima County.

Dannels said some social media recruitments for load car drivers have included these types of posts: “Lmk (let me know). Gonna start having hella work in Sells ay sierra lowky (low key) getting heated 2k a head as much as you want have routes around the checkpoints in Sells lmk.”