



PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Law
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ATTORNEY GENERAL CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT OF AUTO THEFT AND BURGLARY RING

DENVER—Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman announced today that her office has filed criminal charges against a band of criminals in connection with alleged violations of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (“COCCA”).

Known as the “Bow Tie Crew” or “BTC,” Mr. William Cussins, Audrey Halvorson, Brandon Martinez, Ashley Egeland, Christopher Bartz, and Cody Cox, have been charged in Broomfield District Court, along with four associates, after the Colorado Statewide Grand Jury returned a 122-count indictment.

The group and its associates stole cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV’s, trailers, and burglarized homes and small businesses. In addition, BTC members committed weapons offenses and engaged in identity theft – using stolen credit cards and fraudulent checks to feed their drug use and cover living expenses. In total, it is estimated the “crew” stole and burglarized well over \$800,000 in cars, trucks and other property.

“While not a well-organized street gang, the ‘Bow Tie Crew’ showed a brazen disregard for the law and inflicted significant damage to our community,” said Attorney General

Coffman. “With car thefts and property crime rates on the rise, we should all be concerned because ultimately we each pay the price for these crimes in elevated insurance rates.”

The Office of the Attorney General, with funding from the Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority, worked in conjunction with the Colorado Metro Auto Theft Task Force, the Broomfield Police Department, Arvada Police Department, Weld County Sheriff’s Office, and the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center investigated the case and secured the indictment.

In 2015, a total of 14,859 motor vehicle thefts were reported by law enforcement agencies in Colorado according to the Colorado Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC). This is an almost 30% increase in motor vehicle thefts from 2014. That equates to more than \$88 million in losses in Colorado alone in one year.

The filing of criminal charges or an indictment is merely a formal accusation that an individual committed a crime. Each defendant should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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