

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Civil Action No. 25-cv-00555-SKC-SBP

WILDER MANUEL LOPEZ DE LEON,

Petitioner,

v.

JUAN BALTASAR, Warden of the Denver Contract Detention Facility, Aurora, Colorado, in his official capacity;
ROBERT HAGAN, Field Office Director, Denver Field Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in his official capacity;
KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in her official capacity;
TODD LYONS, Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in his official capacity; and
PAM BONDI, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, in her official capacity,

Respondents.

RESPONDENTS' STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's Order at ECF No. 17, Respondents, after conferring with Petitioner's counsel, respectfully submit the following Joint Status Report.

Petitioner Wilder Manuel de Leon is a citizen of Guatemala who has resided in the United States for many years. ECF No. 1 at 2; ECF No. 2-3. At the time he was taken into custody by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) he was residing in Stuart, Florida. See ECF No. 2-3. Petitioner was being detained at the ICE detention facility in Aurora, Colorado. ECF No. 1 at 2.

Petitioner initiated this habeas action in February 2026, challenging his detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b). *See generally* ECF No. 1. Following briefing, on February 20, 2026, the Court granted the Petition for a writ of habeas corpus. *See* ECF No. 17. As relief, the Court ordered that Petitioner be immediately released and, within thirty-six hours, transported back to Stuart, Florida. *Id.* at 8.

A few minutes after 2:30 pm on February 20, 2026, Respondents' counsel contacted ICE to ensure immediate compliance with the Court's order. Respondents purchased a flight for Petitioner on a commercial airline departing the Denver International Airport at 10:10 am Mountain Standard Time on Saturday, February 21, 2026 and arriving in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at approximately 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time the same day. After landing in Fort Lauderdale, an ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) agent drove Petitioner to his residence in Stuart, Florida.

Upon receiving Petitioner's flight information, Respondents' counsel reached out to Petitioner's counsel to provide that information so that Petitioner's counsel could contact his family and inform them of his pending arrival. *See* Ex. 1. At approximately 7:45 pm, Petitioner's counsel confirmed that Petitioner had arrived at his home. *Id.*

Dated: February 21, 2026

PETER MCNEILLY
United States Attorney

s/ Leslie Schulze
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Counsel for Respondents

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 21, 2026, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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s/ Leslie Schulze

U.S. Attorney's Office

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE FOR DRAFTING**

Pursuant to the Court's Standing Order for Civil Cases, undersigned counsel certifies that no portion of this filing was prepared using generative artificial intelligence.

s/ Leslie Schulze
U.S. Attorney's Office