



Community members gather during a public safety forum regarding recent burglaries targeting the Asian American community on Oct. 23, 2025. Credit: Isaac Wasserman / Lookout Eugene-Springfield / Catchlight / RFA

JUSTICE

Prosecutor alleges use of 'DoorDash' ruse, Wi-Fi jammers in Asian American burglary ring



BY JAIME ADAME
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QuickTake:

A federal magistrate judge ordered a suspect in the case released. But she stayed her order pending a prosecutor's appeal, and the suspect remains in custody.



Prosecutor raises fresh claim of 'DoorDash' tactic at hearing for suspect in Asian American burglaries

About 7 Minutes

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A U.S. district judge set oral arguments for Tuesday, Nov. 25, to consider whether to keep a man in custody who is suspected of involvement in a series of burglaries targeting Asian American households.

U.S. District Judge Michael McShane issued the order Friday, Nov. 21, a day after a federal prosecutor told a magistrate judge about evidence of a fourth targeted burglary linked to a seven-person crew arrested by Eugene police in October.

William McLaren, an assistant U.S. attorney, spoke at a detention hearing Thursday for 34-year-old Derinson Martinez-Grandas, a Colombian national who has previously been held in detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to online records.

McLaren told U.S. Magistrate Judge Amy Potter that the new evidence of the fourth burglary — this one in Gresham, a suburb of Portland — was one reason why Martinez-Grandas should be detained.

But Potter declined to do so, noting, among other factors, the defendant's lack of a criminal record. However, she stayed her

ruling, anticipating an appeal by prosecutors, and Martinez-Grandas remained in custody.

A court filing Friday by the U.S. attorney's office stated that "[e]ach burglary victim is an Asian family who owns and operates a small business."

The document alleged that in Eugene "the crew burglarized an Asian family who owns a Chinese restaurant on October 6" using a "fake delivery person" ruse.

The burglaries

Martinez-Grandas is one of two named suspects in a Nov. 6 federal criminal complaint alleging conspiracy to transmit stolen property.

Five additional alleged co-conspirators have not had their names released by federal prosecutors, but a previous U.S. attorney's office news release described the seven suspects as having been arrested after a search warrant executed by Eugene police at an Airbnb on Skyline Boulevard.

Eugene police Chief Chris Skinner [announced the arrests](#) Oct. 10, saying evidence linked the men to a burglary in north Eugene and that police suspected their involvement in a Salem burglary.

Those two October burglaries follow a larger string of break-ins in Eugene targeting Asian households dating back to July of last year, Skinner has said in a previous interview.

Apart from the federal prosecution announced this month, the Lane County district attorney is also [pursuing burglary charges](#).

A criminal complaint filed Nov. 6 by federal prosecutors linked the co-conspirators to burglaries in Eugene, Salem and Auburn, Washington. Local and state officials had previously said the targeted burglaries are [a statewide concern](#).

Thursday in court, McLaren spoke of a fourth burglary Oct. 7 in Gresham.

While upstairs on a work-related call, a Gresham resident “noticed getting pinged by DoorDash,” McLaren said. A person moved “to the backyard and was still yelling ‘DoorDash,’” McLaren said, as the resident then “saw their [home] surveillance cameras go out.”

Prosecutors and Eugene police have said burglars are using signal-jamming technology to counteract home surveillance systems.

McLaren said a home window was damaged in the Gresham burglary and alleged that a man suspected to be one of the named co-conspirators, 26-year-old William Estiven Rodriguez-Gaviria, fled the scene. A court document filed in the case said the Gresham resident “made eye contact with Mr. Rodriguez-Gaviria,” who then fled.

Detention

In addition to the Gresham burglary, McLaren cited evidence found at the Eugene Airbnb as reasons to detain Martinez-Grandas.

But Potter declined to order that Martinez-Grandas remain in detention.

“He has no criminal history,” Potter said.

Also, Martinez-Grandas has lived in the United States for about 3½ years, Potter said.

Irina Hughes, an attorney with the federal public defender's office representing Martinez-Grandas, said he has a pending asylum application. In Colombia, Martinez-Grandas took part in protest activity.

"He was wounded during those protests in Colombia," Hughes said.

Hughes also said Martinez-Grandas has a "significant other" who is pregnant.

Potter said federal Pretrial Services — a component of the justice system that helps ensure defendants return for court appearances and do not pose a threat to the community — visited the couple's home in the Los Angeles area and "did not see any red flags for the apartment."

But Potter said she had been informed that prosecutors would appeal her decision, so she announced she would be staying her order for a U.S. district judge to review.

McLaren thanked the judge, and asked Potter her position on evidence that Martinez-Grandas fled the Airbnb where Eugene police served the search warrant. Court documents claim that Martinez-Grandas rented the home for the week.

Court documents filed by prosecutors in advance of the detention hearing alleged that in the house there were "stashes of purses, handbags, and clutches near a pool table and coffee table" consistent with items reported stolen by victims in Washington of South Asian descent.

The court document also alleges that the wooded area near the Airbnb was “littered” with jewelry that investigators believe was “scattered by the fleeing burglars.”

Show of support

Some 20 people representing and supporting Asian American communities sat in attendance at the hearing, including board members of the Asian American Council of Oregon.

McLaren and Potter both spoke about the harm to Asian American communities caused by the burglaries.

McLaren noted how in the Airbnb investigators found “two plugged in Wi-Fi signal jammers,” and spoke about the fear felt when the person home in Gresham saw their cameras turn off, and how similar tactics have affected others.

“That fear is real and much more than the monetary value of their lost goods,” McLaren said.

He also read an excerpt from a victim’s letter to the court, which described concerns about being surveilled and then finding broken items.

“There was no regard for our home,” the burglary victim stated in the portion of the letter read by McLaren.

Potter said, “It’s abhorrent that this was clearly targeted.”

“I cannot imagine how scary it is to know this was happening to your community,” Potter said.

In an interview after the hearing, Marvy Schuman, an Asian American resident of Eugene, said she wanted to attend to “one,

support the community.”

Schuman also said that one of the burglaries happened near her home.

“We know the Chinese family that were burglarized. And the time frame was very disconcerting, because it was from 3 to 5 p.m., that was the window, right when they were picking up their kids from school. So it was a very disturbing event,” Schuman said.