

# ***The Minnesota Fraud Narrative: Coordinated Messaging***

**Date:** 30 December 2025

**Compiled by:** Claude Opus 4.5 for Arti Fishal

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*This document compiles research and analysis examining how a legitimate 2022 federal fraud prosecution has been transformed into a coordinated political attack on Minnesota's Somali community, Governor Tim Walz, and Democratic governance more broadly. The analysis traces the timeline of narrative seeding, identifies key actors and their methods, and documents the infrastructure of amplification that enables what journalist Dave Weigel terms "attention hacking."*

*The central figure in the narrative engineering is Christopher Rufo, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, whose documented methodology for manufacturing political narratives - openly described in his own statements - provides a template for understanding how the Minnesota fraud story has been weaponised.*

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## ***Part One: The Underlying Fraud Case***

### ***The Feeding Our Future Prosecution (September 2022)***

*The Department of Justice announced federal charges on 20 September 2022, during the Biden administration, against 47 defendants for their alleged roles in a \$250 million fraud scheme that exploited a federally-funded child nutrition programme during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*According to the [DOJ press release](#):*

*"These indictments, alleging the largest pandemic relief fraud scheme charged to date, underscore the Department of Justice's sustained commitment to combating pandemic fraud and holding accountable those who perpetrate it," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland.*

*The scheme exploited changes to the Federal Child Nutrition Program implemented during COVID-19. The USDA had waived some standard requirements, allowing for-profit restaurants to participate and permitting off-site food distribution to children outside educational programmes.*

#### **Key Facts from DOJ Documents:**

- *Feeding Our Future* was a nonprofit organisation founded by **Aimee Marie Bock** (who is white) that served as a sponsor participating in the Federal Child Nutrition Program
- The organisation went from receiving approximately **\$3.4 million** in federal funds in 2019 to nearly **\$200 million** in 2021
- *Feeding Our Future* opened more than **250 sites** throughout Minnesota and fraudulently obtained and disbursed more than **\$240 million** in Federal Child Nutrition Program funds
- Defendants created dozens of shell companies to enroll in the programme and to launder proceeds
- Fraudulent documentation included fake meal count sheets, false invoices, and fabricated attendance rosters using names from websites like "[www.listofrandomnames.com](http://www.listofrandomnames.com)"
- Some defendants used Excel formulas to insert random ages between 7 and 17 into rosters

#### **The "Racism" Defence Allegation:**

*When the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) attempted oversight, the DOJ documents state:*

*"When MDE employees pressed Bock for clarification, Bock accused MDE of discrimination and unfairly scrutinizing Feeding Our Future's sites. When MDE denied Feeding Our Future site applications, Bock and Feeding Our Future filed a lawsuit accusing MDE of denying the site applications due to discrimination in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act."*

*This is the kernel of truth behind claims that fraudsters "hid behind racism allegations", though it was the white founder making these claims, not the Somali defendants.*

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## **Part Two: The Narrative Transformation Timeline**

### **Phase 1: The City Journal Article (Mid-November 2025)**

On 19 November 2025, City Journal published an article by Ryan Thorpe and Christopher Rufo headlined "**The Largest Funder of Al-Shabaab Is the Minnesota Taxpayer.**"

*This article made the explosive claim that Al-Shabaab, an Islamic terrorist group active in Somalia, was being funded by millions of dollars stolen from Minnesota taxpayers.*

#### **The Source Dispute:**

According to the [Star Tribune](#) (29 December 2025):

*"A core source for the article now calls the story 'bullshit' and claims he was misquoted. Retired Seattle detective Glenn Kerns – the only named person in the City Journal article who connects Minnesota Somali fraud with terrorism, a core premise of the story – said he never traveled to Minnesota to investigate the connection, as the piece claims."*

Ryan Thorpe, one of the City Journal authors, stated he has "multiple call logs, text messages, and transcripts of our phone calls" and that Kerns "was not misquoted."

*Multiple federal investigators told CBS News Minnesota that there is no evidence taxpayer dollars were funneled to Al-Shabaab. Andy Luger, the former U.S. Attorney for Minnesota who oversaw the Feeding Our Future case, told the Star Tribune that the defendants his office prosecuted "were looking to get rich, not fund overseas terrorism."*

### **Phase 2: Trump's Truth Social Posts (21 November 2025)**

On **Friday, 21 November 2025**, President Trump posted on Truth Social:

*"Minnesota, under Governor Walz, is a hub of fraudulent money laundering activity.... Somali gangs are terrorizing the people of that great State, and BILLIONS of Dollars are missing. Send them back to where they came from. It's OVER!"*

According to the [American Prospect](#):

*"Egged on by unsubstantiated claims by noted right-wing pugilist Chris Rufo, he posted" the message about Minnesota being "a hub of fraudulent money laundering activity."*

*After publishing the City Journal story, co-author Christopher Rufo urged Trump on social media to revoke temporary asylum for Somali refugees fleeing civil war. The president obliged.*

### **Phase 3: The "Garbage" Comments (2 December 2025)**

*At a Cabinet meeting on 2 December 2025, Trump unleashed what multiple outlets described as a "xenophobic tirade" against Somali immigrants.*

According to [FactCheck.org](#):

*"Trump went on a rant against people of Somali heritage at the end of a Dec. 2 Cabinet meeting at the White House, calling them 'garbage' and accusing them of stealing large sums of money from Minnesota taxpayers."*

Trump stated:

*"I hear they ripped off, Somalians ripped off that state for billions of dollars, billions. Every year, billions of dollars. And they contribute nothing. The welfare is like 88%."*

*"I don't want them in our country."*

*The White House did not provide evidence for either the "billions" or "88%" figures when asked by FactCheck.org.*

### **The Reality of Fraud Figures:**

According to the [Star Tribune](#) (11 December 2025):

*"President Donald Trump's White House claims that 'Democrats allowed a \$1+ billion heist to take place' in Minnesota... The Minnesota Star Tribune reported in a Dec. 7 story that its review of court documents 'shows the alleged fraud uncovered to date is closer to \$152 million.'"*

#### **Phase 4: ICE Operations Begin (Early December 2025)**

*Following Trump's comments, Immigration and Customs Enforcement launched "**Operation Metro Surge**" targeting Minnesota's Somali community.*

*According to [PBS NewsHour](#) (5 December 2025):*

*"The stepped-up enforcement, dubbed Operation Metro Surge, follows President Trump's repeated attacks on Minnesota's Somali community."*

*"The state is home to about 80,000 people of Somali descent, the largest such population in the country. Most are citizens and many were born here."*

*According to [NPR](#):*

*"Only about 4,200 of the more than 80,000 Somalis living in Minnesota are not U.S. citizens, and many of those 4,200 have permanent residency green cards."*

#### **Phase 5: The Nick Shirley Video (26 December 2025)**

*On 26 December 2025, a typically quiet news day, YouTuber **Nick Shirley** posted a 42-minute video titled "I Investigated Minnesota's Billion Dollar Fraud Scandal."*

*According to [CNN](#):*

*"One week ago, 23-year-old Nick Shirley was relatively unknown in the public sphere. But in recent days, he has gained hundreds of thousands of followers and millions of views, amplified by Elon Musk, Vice President JD Vance and FBI Director Kash Patel."*

*"By 2025, Shirley was well-known in the MAGA universe and was invited to speak at the White House in October during a roundtable with President Donald Trump about Antifa."*

***The Amplification:***

*"The explosion in viewership came after a boost from other conservative figures, including Nick Sortor, Gunther Eagleman and Collin Rugg. But the views really took off when Vance and X owner Musk reposted Shirley's video on December 27."*

Vice President JD Vance stated: *"This dude has done far more useful journalism than any of the winners of the 2024 [Pulitzer] prizes."*

FBI Director Kash Patel announced: *"The FBI is aware of recent social media reports in Minnesota. However, even before the public conversation escalated online, the FBI had surged personnel and investigative resources to Minnesota."*

***The State's Response:***

According to [Fox 9](#) (29 December 2025):

*"Minnesota officials revealed Monday the state is taking a second look at several day care centers featured in a now viral YouTube fraud investigation but say past visits and investigations uncovered no hard evidence of fraud."*

*"Brown says each of the 10 facilities featured in the YouTube video has been visited at least once by the state over the last six months as part of standard licensing checks."*

*"Brown said the previous visits were unannounced and children were present at each of the sites during the checks."*

*The state questioned when Shirley filmed his video:*

*"'When were the videos taken,' Brown asked. 'Were they during times that the center was scheduled to be open? Were they during the weekend?'"*

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## **Part Three: The Melissa Hortman Conspiracy Theory**

### **The Assassination (14 June 2025)**

According to [Wikipedia](#):

*"On June 14, 2025, Minnesota state representative Melissa Hortman was assassinated in a shooting at her home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Hortman, the leader of the state House Democratic caucus, was killed alongside her husband, Mark."*

The [DOJ press release](#) (15 July 2025) states:

*"Vance Boelter, 57, has been indicted on six federal charges in connection with the stalking and murders of Minnesota House of Representatives Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark Hortman."*

According to [NPR](#):

*"Authorities in Minnesota said Monday that the man arrested in a Saturday attack that killed one state lawmaker and left another wounded had a 'hit list' of 45 elected officials, all Democrats."*

### **The Conspiracy Emerges**

As documented in Dave Weigel's Bluesky thread (29 December 2025), conservative influencers began suggesting Hortman's assassination was connected to the fraud scandal, implying she was killed to cover it up.

**Julia Coleman**, a Minnesota Republican legislator, pushed back forcefully against this theory:

*"I am a Minnesota Republican legislator. I never agreed with Melissa. Not once. But I'm begging people to stop sharing this conspiracy theory."*

*"Tim Walz had nothing to do with the assassinations. The fraud had nothing to do with the assassinations. The assassin was deranged. Completely and utterly deranged."*

*"Please, unless you have evidence, stop trying to get social media clout off the death of a good person that you know nothing about."*

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## ***Part Four: Christopher Rufo, Profile and Methodology***

### ***Career and Institutional Affiliations***

According to [Wikipedia](#):

*"Christopher Ferguson Rufo (born August 26, 1984) is an American conservative activist, New College of Florida board member, and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research."*

*"He is a former documentary filmmaker and former fellow at the Discovery Institute, the Claremont Institute, The Heritage Foundation, and the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism."*

From the [Trans Data Library](#):

*"Rufo began writing for City Journal in June of 2018. His articles focused primarily on homelessness and anti-left wing politics, until 2020 when he began writing extensively in opposition to critical race theory."*

*"Rufo earned his Bachelor of Sciences degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service in 2006. In 2022, he earned a Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies from Harvard Extension School, an open-enrollment institution."*

### ***The CRT Strategy, In His Own Words***

On **15 March 2021**, Rufo [tweeted](#):

*"We have successfully frozen their brand, 'critical race theory', into the public conversation and are steadily driving up negative perceptions. We will eventually turn it toxic, as we put all of the various cultural insanities under that brand category."*

*He continued:*

*"The goal is to have the public read something crazy in the newspaper and immediately think 'critical race theory.' We have decoded the term and will recodify it to annex the entire range of cultural constructions that are unpopular with Americans."*

*According to Wikipedia:*

*"Rufo described his strategy to oppose critical race theory as intentionally using the term to conflate various race-related ideas in order to create a negative association."*

### ***The Fox News/Tucker Carlson Pipeline***

*According to [Media Matters](#):*

*"That September [2020], he appeared on Tucker Carlson Tonight to press then-President Donald Trump to prohibit any federal training programs geared toward racial sensitivity awareness, and he took credit when Trump followed his advice. Days later, Carlson launched his own attacks against CRT, praising Rufo in the process."*

*"Fox News completely embraced the anti-CRT panic, and by the end of 2021, had hosted Rufo at least 52 times and mentioned CRT nearly 4,000 times that year."*

### ***Expansion to "Groomer" Narrative***

*According to [NPR](#) (11 May 2022):*

*"The 'grooming' narrative has been actively promoted by conservative activist Christopher Rufo, who has also led the charge against teaching critical race theory."*

*"Now he has turned his attention to what he calls 'gender ideology.' This year, he asked for help from his Twitter followers: 'I'm looking for documents, PDFs, audio-video, and training materials related to gender, grooming, and trans ideology in schools,' he tweeted."*

*"In a speech at Hillsdale College in April titled 'Laying Siege to the Institutions,' Rufo explained his strategy for steering the narrative about gender and sexual identity. 'You have to be very aggressive,' he told the audience. 'You have to fight on terms that you define. You have to create your own frame, your own language. And you have to be ruthless and brutal in pursuit of something good.'"*

## ***Data Misrepresentation***

According to Wikipedia:

*"Citing a study by Charol Shakeshaft, Rufo has claimed that public school teachers are responsible for 100 times more child sexual abuse than Catholic priests. Shakeshaft termed this a misuse of her data, calling it 'completely invalid'."*

## ***The New College of Florida Takeover***

On 6 January 2023, [Governor DeSantis announced](#) Rufo's appointment to the New College of Florida Board of Trustees.

According to [Florida Politics](#):

*"Gov. Ron DeSantis has appointed conservative activist Christopher Rufo and five others to the New College of Florida Board of Trustees in his continuing move to eliminate 'political ideology' from public higher education."*

Rufo [tweeted](#):

*"I'm proud to announce that Gov. Ron DeSantis has appointed me to the Board of Trustees of the New College of Florida. My ambition is to help the new board majority transform New College into a classical liberal arts institution. We are recapturing higher education."*

According to [Florida Bulldog](#) (4 May 2025):

*"Militant anti-DEI activist Christopher Rufo is on the path to a trial in Florida state court over allegations he and other board members of New College of Florida illegally withheld records documenting their ideological takeover of the school in 2023."*

*From the Trans Data Library:*

*"Reporting on the fall session for 2023 has described a chaotic and uncertain environment for students after nearly 40 percent of the school's faculty resigned in response to Rufo's leadership."*

### ***The Claudine Gay Campaign***

*According to the [Harvard Crimson](#) (12 December 2023):*

*"In a post on X Sunday night, right-wing activist Christopher F. Rufo said he and journalist Christopher Brunet intentionally released the story amid calls for Gay's ouster as Harvard's governing boards met to discuss the controversy surrounding her testimony."*

*"@RealChrisBrunet and I sat on the Claudine Gay plagiarism materials for the past week, waiting for the precise moment of maximum impact,' Rufo wrote. 'The Harvard board is meeting tonight and there are rumors that the plagiarism scandal could be the final nail in Gay's coffin."*

*According to the [Harvard Crimson feature](#) (23 May 2024):*

*"Gay was pushed to resignation to the delight of Harvard's most outspoken antagonists, Rufo included. 'Today, we celebrate victory. Tomorrow, we get back to the fight,' Rufo posted to X the day of Gay's resignation. 'We must not stop until we have abolished DEI ideology from every institution in America.'"*

*According to [Inside Higher Ed](#) (1 April 2024):*

*"Since right-wing firebrand Christopher Rufo helped bring down Harvard's president, at least seven more scholars, most of them Black, have confronted accusations of plagiarism or research misconduct spread by conservative media."*

### ***His Stated Mission***

From [Rufo's Substack](#):

*"My work is organized around a simple mission: to challenge and then overthrow the left-wing ideological regime that has dominated American life for a generation."*

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## **Part Five: The "Attention Hacking" Infrastructure**

### **Dave Weigel's Analysis**

Journalist Dave Weigel (@daveweigel.bsky.social) posted a thread on **29 December 2025** analysing the Minnesota fraud story as an example of "attention hacking", his term for how political narratives are manufactured and amplified.

Key observations from his thread:

1. **The investigation began under Biden:** "In 2022, the Biden DOJ filed the first charges against dozens of fraudsters, many of them Somali-American, who'd fleeced a state food aid program."
2. **Conservatives correctly note media reluctance on race:** "I actually agree w conservatives who think this insane scandal didn't become a huge national story in 2022 because... there's been a long-running media conversation about how to cover race and crime, it's been debated publicly, conservatives are correct that many newsrooms held back facts about the race of suspects out of fear of 'inflaming' such-and-such."
3. **The NYT story that changed things:** "Trump wins; Trump draws more attention to the scandal. On Nov. 30, the NYT publishes a long, fair story about the scandal, noting that the group doing the fleecing hid behind 'racism' allegations to defend itself, and that it had become a huge embarrassment to Somali-Americans."
4. **The amplification machinery:** "Conservative influencer Nick Shirley, who in October joined a White House roundtable on Antifa, goes to one dodgy-looking daycare (the sign on the front misspells 'learning') and films panicky employees who won't let them in. He

*promotes this as having personally uncovered \$100 million of fraud."*

5. ***The White House/influencer coordination:*** *"The WH, House GOP, Elon etc circulate the video, often thanking Shirley for finally doing the work the media and Democrats refused to do. Video gets 100m+ views. Storyline set: Democrats, maybe Tim Walz personally, covered up this fraud. Maybe to steal elections?"*
6. ***The conspiracy escalation:*** *"This conversation goes to familiar territory. Soon, influencers ask whether Melissa Hortman, the Democrat assassinated earlier this year, was killed to cover up the fraud. This is an insane allegation. At least one MN GOP senator says: Knock this off."*
7. ***The true story losing to the false one:*** *"The true story (Fraudsters stole money and pushed off accountability for a while by saying it was racist to probe it) is losing market share to a wilder, less true story (citizen journalists uncovered the scheme that Dems covered up to steal elections)."*
8. ***The infrastructure advantage:*** *"But step back and look at the machinery and you see how sturdy this media/WH infrastructure is. If they want to make a humiliating Democratic scandal the biggest story in the country, they can do it. Dems who think it'll go away if they 'win' with local media are going to lose."*

## ***The Amplification Network***

*The network that amplified the Shirley video included:*

- ***Elon Musk*** (X owner, who has "long commented about allegations of fraud in the immigrant community, including the Somali community")
- ***Vice President JD Vance*** (who called Shirley's work superior to Pulitzer Prize winners)
- ***FBI Director Kash Patel*** (who announced FBI resources would be surged to Minnesota)
- ***Conservative influencers:*** Nick Sortor, Gunther Eagleman, Collin Rugg
- ***House Majority Whip Tom Emmer*** (who demanded answers from Walz)

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## **Part Six: The Political Context, Somali Community Relations**

### **Trump's 2024 Campaign Outreach**

According to the [Star Tribune](#) (13 November 2024):

*"Once a reliable Democratic voting bloc, Somali Americans increasingly turned away from the party in last week's presidential election. Support for Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, who won Minnesota but much more narrowly than President Joe Biden did in 2020, dropped in three Minneapolis precincts with large East African populations."*

*"In the Somali American hub of Cedar-Riverside, support for Harris dropped 14 percentage points."*

According to [CBS Minnesota](#):

*"In July of last year, Salman Fiqy stood front row behind President Trump during a campaign rally in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Fiqy, who first immigrated to the United States from Somalia in 2009, said he got the call from Mr. Trump's campaign team to help drum up support for the Republican ahead of the general election."*

### **The Betrayal**

*The same Somali supporters Trump courted now feel betrayed:*

According to [CBS Minnesota](#):

*"We felt betrayal by the president, the one we organized for and did an outreach for," Fiqy said.*

According to [Axios Twin Cities](#):

*"Sixteen months after standing behind Donald Trump at a campaign rally in St. Cloud, Salman Fiqy is disappointed by the president's comments calling Somalis 'garbage' that he doesn't want in the country."*

*"Asked if he should have seen this coming, given the things Trump said about immigrants in his first term, Fiqy noted that Hispanics and African Americans had also been vilified by Trump and increased their support for him in 2024 due to issues like inflation, education and the economy. 'We were giving him the benefit of the doubt,' he said."*

*"There's no way I can go to my Somali community and say I'm running as a Republican."*

## ***The Demographics***

*According to various sources:*

- *Approximately 80,000 people of Somali descent live in Minnesota (the largest such population in the country)*
- *52% were born in the United States*
- *42% of those born abroad are naturalised citizens*
- *Only about 4,200 are not U.S. citizens, and many of those have permanent residency green cards*
- *Only approximately 700 Somalis in Minnesota are covered by Temporary Protected Status*

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## ***Part Seven: Media Dynamics***

### ***The Corporate Media Role***

*According to the [American Prospect](#) (29 December 2025):*

*"CBS, under its new owners, the Ellison family, along with the Murdoch trinity of Fox News, the New York Post and Wall Street Journal, have covered the story aggressively, at times picking up unconfirmed accounts from conservative influencers that have spun into wild charges about vote-buying and cover-ups."*

### ***The "Both Sides" Problem***

As Weigel noted, even accurate reporting on the fraud, absent context about the coordinated campaign weaponising it, advances the narrative. The NYT's 30 November story, which Weigel describes as "long" and "fair," still functions within an ecosystem where the framing was set by ideological actors.

## ***The Asymmetry***

*The challenge identified throughout this analysis is structural:*

1. **Speed asymmetry:** Simple narratives spread faster than complex corrections
2. **Infrastructure asymmetry:** The left lacks equivalent coordinated amplification capacity
3. **Discovery asymmetry:** Viral videos allow audiences to feel they're "finding" truth rather than receiving propaganda
4. **Accountability asymmetry:** Transparency about manipulation (as with Rufo) doesn't prevent its success

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## ***Part Eight: The Rufo Method, A Summary***

*Based on documented evidence, Christopher Rufo's methodology follows a consistent pattern:*

### ***Phase 1: Academic/Think Tank Seeding***

*Publish in outlets like City Journal (where Rufo is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute) that carry establishment credibility but have ideological purpose. These pieces establish the "source material" that can be cited later.*

### ***Phase 2: Influencer Amplification***

*Feed the narrative to figures with large platforms. With CRT, this meant Tucker Carlson's nightly audience. With Minnesota fraud, it meant Trump's Truth Social and then the broader MAGA influencer network.*

### ***Phase 3: Grassroots "Discovery"***

*Create conditions for ordinary people to "find" the evidence themselves. School board meetings became the venue for CRT; Shirley's daycare videos serve this function for Minnesota. The audience feels they are uncovering truth rather than receiving propaganda.*

## **Phase 4: Policy Capture**

*Use the manufactured outrage to justify institutional changes that were the actual goal from the start. With education, this meant vouchers, curriculum control, and defunding public schools. With Minnesota, it appears to be ICE operations, attacks on Walz, and broader anti-immigrant policy.*

### **The Key Distinction**

*As Rufo himself stated in his Hillsdale College speech: "You have to fight on terms that you define. You have to create your own frame, your own language."*

*This is not advocacy journalism that argues for a position. It is deliberate semantic manipulation acknowledged as such by its practitioner. Advocacy journalism argues for a position; Rufo manufactures the epistemic conditions under which a position appears self-evident.*

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## **Appendix A: Complete Reference List**

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- 2. Vance Boelter Indicted for the Murders of Melissa and Mark Hortman**  
Date: 15 July 2025

URL: <https://www.justice.gov/usa-mn/pr/vance-boelter-indicted-murders-melissa-and-mark-hortman-shootings-john-and-yvette-0>

3. **After Two-Day Manhunt, Suspect Charged with Shooting Two Minnesota Lawmakers**

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*URL: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/minnesota-fraud-nick-shirley-video-day-care-investigation/>*

10. ***CBS Minnesota: Somali-American who supported Trump in 2024 election calls president's comments a "betrayal"***

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*Date: December 2025*

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*Date: 4 December 2025*

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*Date: 29 December 2025*

*URL: <https://prospect.org/2025/12/29/corporate-media-advances-conservative-narrative-minnesota-fraud-somalis/>*

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*Date: 26 December 2025*

*URL: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/minnesota-video-shows-alleged-multimillion-daycare-fraud-walz>*

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*Date: December 2025*

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Date: 11 December 2023

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**70. Reason: If you ignore Claudine Gay's plagiarism, shame on you**

Date: 22 December 2023

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**Appendix B: Key Dates Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
20 Sep 2022	<i>Biden DOJ announces charges against 47 defendants in Feeding Our Future case</i>
15 Mar 2021	<i>Rufo tweets about "turning CRT toxic"</i>

6 Jan 2023                    *DeSantis appoints Rufo to New College of Florida board*

11 Dec 2023                    *Rufo publishes Claudine Gay plagiarism allegations*

2 Jan 2024                    *Claudine Gay resigns as Harvard president*

14 Jun 2025                    *Melissa Hortman assassinated*

8 Oct 2025                    *Nick Shirley speaks at White House Antifa roundtable*

19 Nov 2025                    *City Journal publishes Rufo's Minnesota/Al-Shabaab article*

21 Nov 2025                    *Trump posts about Minnesota fraud on Truth Social*

30 Nov 2025                    *NYT publishes article on Minnesota fraud*

2 Dec 2025                    *Trump calls Somalis "garbage" at Cabinet meeting*

3 Dec 2025                    *ICE "Operation Metro Surge" begins*

26 Dec 2025                    *Nick Shirley posts daycare investigation video*

27 Dec 2025                    *Musk and Vance amplify Shirley video*

29 Dec 2025                    *Dave Weigel posts analysis thread; State officials respond to video*

30 Dec 2025                    *This document compiled*

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*Document compiled 30 December 2025*