



Exercising the Right

Second Amendment Flip-flopping

In a story entitled “Anti-gun Grandstanding” in this column for the August 23 issue of TNA, this writer reported that then-New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order proclaiming that gun violence is a public-health crisis, even going so far as to declare a state of emergency to address it. Second Amendment supporters expressed concerns that Cuomo’s executive order could lead to more infringements on their rights but, as evidence of how fast things can change in the world of politics, Cuomo ended up resigning shortly after he issued the order when multiple allegations of sexual harassment became public. Though Cuomo is no longer governor, this doesn’t mean New York residents who have firearms have nothing to worry about: Governor Kathy Hochul, formerly lieutenant governor under Cuomo, also holds extreme anti-Second Amendment positions.

While an anti-gun Democrat is nothing new, what’s ironic is that Hochul was once endorsed by the National Rifle Association! Back in 2012, when Hochul was serving as a U.S. representative from New York, the NRA’s Chris Cox proclaimed, “Kathy Hochul has a proven record of defending the Second Amendment.... Because of her strong support of our rights, Hochul has earned an ‘A’ rating and endorsement from the NRA-[Political Victory Fund].” The Daily Beast reported on August 11 that when Hochul was a congresswoman in a very Republican district, she proudly boasted of her support for the Second Amendment. This would all change once Hochul ran for statewide office in 2014 — indeed, she morphed into a carbon copy of Cuomo on every issue. She even went so far as to embrace the idea of driving the NRA out of New York. As the Daily Beast noted, this isn’t the first time a Democrat lied to voters to win in a conservative area only to flip-flop when campaigning at the state level. The Daily Beast wrote that “such evolutions are far from unheard of in New York, given the schism between its fiercely conservative rural regions and deep-blue Democratic cities, and the nation’s increasingly polarized politics. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) served a term-and-a-half in the House of Representatives as a pro-gun, anti-sanctuary city, pro-English-only education Democrat, only to morph into a liberal paragon after former Gov. David Paterson appointed her to the Senate seat vacated by Hillary Clinton.”

Shooting Outside Movie Theater

Newson6.com reported on August 24 about a robbery outside a movie theater in Oklahoma City that turned deadly for the culprit. Master Sergeant Gary Knight of the Oklahoma City Police Department told Newson6, “It appeared there was a couple walking near the theatre when they were approached by a man who was armed with a gun.” The investigation revealed that the armed robber demanded cash and other personal belongings from the couple, but the male victim, who was also armed, pulled out his own handgun and shot the robbery suspect. “That’s when [the robber] was shot and killed right outside the Harkins Theatre,” Knight added. “They were interviewed by homicide detectives shortly after the case.... Because even though this appears on the surface to be a case of self-defense, it’s still a homicide.... If your life is in imminent peril, you have the right to defend yourself up to and including using deadly force.” Knight told Newson6.

Oklahoma News 4 KFOR reported on August 24 about what other moviegoers who were there that night witnessed. Bertoldo Berruete told KFOR that he “heard a bang and thought it was part of the movie.”



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on September 3, 2021

Published in the September 20, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 18

Next thing you know, the movie ended, and we came outside and seen all the [crime scene tape].”

Mary Jane Gonzalez told KFOR, “It’s actually scary. It was just an ordinary day. And that happens?”

Once the investigation is complete, the evidence will be presented to the Oklahoma County district attorney to review and decide whether the shooting was a justifiable homicide. All the known facts seem to indicate that it was a lawful shooting.

Active Shooter Stopped by an Armed Good Guy

The *Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette* reported about a shooting spree in Fort Smith that ended when an armed citizen halted an active-shooter situation. The incident unfolded on May 15 when 26-year-old Zachary Brian Arnold went on a shooting rampage at his apartment complex. Arnold armed himself with a semi-automatic rifle and began shooting at different apartments around 7:15 a.m. and yelling for his neighbors to exit their apartments. Sadly, an 87-year-old woman named Lois Hicks opened her apartment door to see what all the commotion was about and Arnold shot her multiple times, killing her. Another resident of the apartment complex, 58-year-old Wallace West, heard the shots, retrieved his own bolt-action rifle, and fired at Arnold from his balcony. West’s first shot missed the mark, because he was shaking so badly due to fear and the adrenaline coursing through his veins. Arnold returned fire at West, but then Arnold went back into his apartment, apparently to reload his rifle. Arnold came back out and continued shooting at West, but this time West was able to shoot Arnold in the head, killing him. Arnold’s mother later told investigators that her son was a veteran from the Afghanistan War and was suffering with mental-health issues, including dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sebastian County Prosecutor Dan Shue announced on July 29 that Wallace’s heroic actions were justified under Arkansas state law: “Mr. West acted lawfully when he shot Mr. Arnold and likely saved a number of lives in the process.... At last count, Mr. Arnold had fired 93 rounds from his semiautomatic rifle before Mr. West was able to stop him..... Had West not acted in a swift and decisive manner, my office could just as easily be dealing with multiple homicides rather than the homicide of Lois Hicks and the justified shooting of Zachary Arnold.”



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