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Exercising the Right

Man Shot Forcing His Way Into Apartment

Click2Houston.com reported on December 8 about a shooting in southeast Houston in which a mother who was home with her 11-month-old baby was forced to defend herself. Houston Police Department Lieutenant Larry Crowson told Click2Houston.com that “somebody started beating on her door very heavily. She opened the door and a male that she didn’t know started forcing his way into the apartment.”

Police say the man tried shoving the door open and entering the apartment while rambling incoherent gibberish. Thankfully, the fast-acting woman was able to retrieve a loaded firearm and shoot the deranged man before he got into the apartment. Police say she only shot him once; the mortally wounded intruder tried to flee but did not get far. He was found deceased on the scene.

Law enforcement is still investigating, and they have not yet determined a motive, but there are suspicions he was either under the influence of drugs or had mental problems. Houston Police Department homicide investigator Bobby Smith told Click2Houston.com that the suspect had been seen wandering around the apartment complex in the days prior to the shooting. “People have seen him around in the apartments before, just kind of walking around, wandering around.... But nobody really knows him, nobody knows whether or not he actually lives in the apartments,” Smith said.

Police are still reviewing the case, and they said the woman’s actions were most likely justified.

Number Carrying Guns Doubled in Four Years

The Blaze reported on November 27 about a study published by the *American Journal of Public Health*, which reported that the number of Americans who carry a loaded handgun doubled between 2015 and 2019.

According to the study, three million people carried a gun every day in 2015, but by 2019, that number had grown to six million. The study’s author, Dr. Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, who is a professor of epidemiology at the University of Washington, wrote that between “increases in the number of people who own handguns and the number of people who carry every day, there has been a striking increase in handgun carrying in the U.S.”

The study contained some interesting statistics about the carrying of weapons. “Of handgun owners who carried, 4 in 5 carried primarily for protection, 4 in 5 had a concealed carry permit, 2 in 3 always carried concealed, and 1 in 10 always carried openly.... The prevalence of handgun carrying was similar in states with permitless carry laws and states with shall issue carry laws. By contrast, the prevalence of carrying was notably lower in states with may issue carry laws.”

The study’s author appeared to favor more gun control, and expressed concerns about the sharp increase in gun ownership. Based on these trends, however, it appears that gun ownership and the carrying of guns will continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

California DOJ Publishes Gun Owners’ Private Data

Supporters of the Second Amendment have long warned about the government collecting the personal



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information of gun owners. These warnings usually revolve around fears of outright gun confiscation, but a news story out of California highlighted another danger of entrusting government authorities with the private information of gun owners.

The Associated Press reported on December 1 about a data breach at the California Department of Justice in which the personal information of 200,000 gun owners was “accidentally” posted to their public website. The information was made public in June, and ended up getting downloaded thousands of times before it was taken down.

The DOJ claimed that it was done in error, although some critics are concerned it was done out of spite after a court struck down a California gun-control law. A law firm retained by the California DOJ claimed the release was not due to “nefarious intent” nor was it “politically motivated in any way,” but instead was done out of sheer incompetence. The DOJ claimed that it intended to publish anonymous data about gun ownership but inadvertently published the data containing personal information.

The investigation into the data breach revealed a staggering amount of incompetence at the California DOJ, which led to the information getting posted and then not taken down even after staff were tipped off by people who discovered the data on the website. Two state employees who were tasked with researching the breach after the DOJ received reports mistakenly assured everyone that no personal information was publicly available. In reality, the site had crashed because so many people were trying to download the data. The DOJ actually got the site back up and running again before realizing the information was public. The information was finally taken down, but the damage was done.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta was apologetic in his remarks about the breach and did not mince words when talking about what happened. “This was more than an exposure of data, it was a breach of trust that falls far short of my expectations and the expectations Californians have of our department.... I remain deeply angered that this incident occurred and extend my deepest apologies on behalf of the department of justice to those who were affected,” he said in prepared remarks.

The California Rifle & Pistol Association is preparing a lawsuit against the DOJ over the breach and is encouraging any gun owners who were impacted to pursue their own legal action. Chuck Michel, president of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, was skeptical over the explanation for the breach and said the group is still pursuing more information to get to the bottom of it. “There are a lot of gaps and unanswered questions, perhaps deliberately so, and some spin on this whole notion of whether this was an intentional release or not.... This is not the end of the inquiry,” he told the Associated Press.



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