



Exercising the Right

Robber Tunnels Into Store and Gets Shot

The *New York Post* reported on April 26 about a criminal who literally tunneled into a store he intended to rob. The incident occurred at a smoke shop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the owner was sleeping inside the store overnight because his store had been broken into in the past and he was hoping to catch any potential criminals in the act. The owner's plan worked, as he was awakened early in the morning by strange scratching sounds coming from a wall. The scratching sound got louder, and the owner witnessed a burglar tunneling his way into the store. Apparently he dug a giant hole through the drywall and insulation using a large hammer and a chisel.

The store owner confronted the burglar and yelled for him to halt, but the intruder advanced, waving his tools in a menacing manner. The store owner was in fear for his life, so he pulled out a loaded handgun and shot the suspect, who then collapsed on the floor. The store owner quickly called 911 to report what occurred, and the Albuquerque Police Department soon arrived on the scene and found the deceased suspect.

The investigation is ongoing, but police are reportedly treating it as a justifiable homicide. The store owner doesn't plan to stop fighting back against would-be burglars, and told local news that he intends to immediately patch up the hole in his wall and to install cameras outside the store.

Lying in a Pool of Blood

Fox News reported on May 22 about a botched home invasion in Beaumont, Texas. The crime occurred right around midnight when, police say, 43-year-old Jason Omar Cruz allegedly broke in to a dwelling with the intent to steal property.

Police were called to the scene of a robbery in progress, and discovered the wounded Cruz lying in a pool of blood in the bathroom. Responding officers applied a tourniquet to stanch the bleeding, which police later claimed was instrumental in saving the suspect's life. Cruz was transported to a nearby medical facility, where he is currently being treated and is expected to survive. The Beaumont Police Department posted to its Facebook page that the suspect "is still in the hospital recovering from his injuries but once he is released, he will be relocated to the Jefferson County Jail. The bond has been set at \$100,000."

Neighbors were shocked by the news of the shooting because such violent crimes are unheard of in that community. "We have such friendly, nice people in this area, and so this must have been an intrusion as they say ... because we are just so settled and quiet here," neighbor Doug Taylor told 12 News Now.

Dollar General Clerk Cleared by Grand Jury

WTOC.com reported on May 19 out of Monroe, Louisiana, about a wild story showing that even if you do the right thing, you still might be prosecuted for it. Rafus Anderson was working as a store clerk for Dollar General this past January when an armed robber tried holding up the store. The robber was in the process of stealing cash from the store when Anderson pulled out his own gun and shot at the suspect. Anderson ended up hitting both the suspect and another person in the store. The other person who was shot sustained only minor injuries, and was later treated and released from a nearby hospital.



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The other suspect was mortally wounded, and was discovered lying just outside the store by responding officers. The suspect was taken for treatment, but later died from his injuries.

Anderson had panicked and fled the scene before police arrived, but later turned himself in. The police ended up charging him with manslaughter for the death of the armed burglary suspect, though it is not clear from the reporting of the story why they did this, considering that the burglary suspect was armed, which supports the contention that Anderson was acting in fear for his life. Anderson told police that the Dollar General was frequently burglarized, and that this incident was the sixth time since the prior August that the store was targeted for an armed robbery.

A grand jury rejected the charges of manslaughter against Anderson. It is good news that Anderson is not facing a trial at this time, but the fact that police even charged him at all is an alarming sign. It sometimes seems that the police and the courts are more interested in protecting criminals than law-abiding citizens who defend themselves.

Armed Robber Shot in the Chest

ClickonDetroit.com reported on March 16 about an incident in which a concealed-carry holder defended his friend from an armed robber.

The incident unfolded outside a deli in Detroit, when a suspect followed two men and demanded their money at gunpoint. One of the robbery victims, who was legally carrying concealed, actually complied with the robber's demands and gave him his wallet. The robber was not content with that, and warned the man that he would murder the man's friend if he didn't do what they wanted, and began to pat down the victim. The man, knowing that his concealed gun would be discovered and in fear for both his life and the life of his friend, pulled out his handgun and shot the robbery suspect in the chest. The suspect ran from the scene but collapsed nearby and died in the street.

The city of Detroit has a technology called "Shot-Spotter" that alerts police to the sound of gunshots, so they don't even need people to call 911. This alerted police to the shooting, and officers went to the scene, where they encountered the robbery victims. The men complied with the police and assisted them in their investigation. Police found the body of the deceased suspect and the loaded handgun he used in the robbery, as well as the victim's wallet.

Detroit police reviewed surveillance video from the area, which corroborated the robbery victims' story.

Police did say the deceased suspect had a criminal history that included earlier offenses for armed robbery. The investigation is not yet concluded, but all known evidence tends to support the view that the victim acted lawfully when he shot the suspect.



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