



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on August 22, 2023

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Exercising the Right

Wait for the Cops or DIY?

KSAT.com reported out of San Antonio on July 27 about a vehicular theft that ended in a fatal shooting of the thief. The incident unfolded after a male vehicle thief and a female accomplice stole a truck at a San Antonio mall. Shortly after the vehicle was stolen, the truck's owner recognized his vehicle in a different part of the parking lot and saw the thieves sitting in it. The truck owner was armed, and pointed his handgun at both suspects, ordering them to exit the vehicle and get on the ground. The two suspects complied with his commands and sat on the ground while the truck owner dialed 911. The owner intended to detain them until the police arrived, but the male suspect pulled out his own firearm and shot at the truck owner, injuring him. The owner returned fire, mortally wounding the male suspect and critically injuring the female suspect.

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus held a public press conference in which he explained what happened, and though he expressed reservations over the truck owner confronting the thieves on his own, he was adamant that the man acted lawfully and that the shooting was justified. "It's certainly a case of self-defense," McManus said. The truck's owner was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment and is expected to be fine. Chief McManus did stress that, for their own safety, citizens should not directly confront thieves over stolen property. "We would prefer that [you] call the police before taking that into your own hands but he did what he felt that he needed to do" McManus explained.

The police chief's advice makes sense. You might find yourself in a life-or-death situation trying to recover stolen property, and it would be safer to allow the police to handle it. Still, many people praised the truck owner for not allowing himself to be a victim. The story went viral on social media, and one Facebook user commented, "Isn't this what we're supposed to do when a [criminal] is stealing our hard-earned property? No sympathy for a thief here." Another added, "[Two] less low life criminals to worry about on the streets."

Ken5.com featured an interview with a defense attorney and former Bexar County district attorney named Nico LaHood, who very succinctly explained the applicable law in Texas. "Citizens have a right to prevent the consequences of a theft.... In that prevention of consequences, you can use force to prevent a theft. You can use physical force, but the law also says you can display a weapon. That is considered force, but it's not considered deadly force." LaHood explained that this is why the truck owner's actions were lawful. He further explained that the use of lethal force was justified when the suspect opened fire on the truck owner: "What made this different ... was the suspect actually used deadly force against the vehicle owner. At that time, [the truck owner] had the right to use deadly force to prevent his own injury. He should not be facing any charges from this incident." LaHood added that engaging in this behavior is risky, and not something he would recommend, but he thought the reason more people are doing things like this is that they no longer have faith in the criminal justice system.

"All My Windows Closed and All My Guns Loaded"

In another wild story out of Texas, FoxNews4.com reported on August 7 that a woman who just moved from Dallas to Mesquite got quite the surprise when she saw a burglar reaching in through her window.



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The woman, who did not want to be named, was working from her home at the time. The burglary occurred in the mid-morning when the woman was home alone. She entered a room and saw that a masked man had opened a window and was removing items from the house.

The quick-thinking woman rushed to retrieve a loaded handgun. She then went to the rear door and opened it, only to see the same man in her backyard. She later told FoxNews4.com that she yelled at the man, "What are you doing in my yard?" but then he charged at her, and she fired her gun at him. The burglar ran from the yard, and the woman called 911, not sure if she hit him. Mesquite police soon arrived and quickly determined that the suspect was not hit and that the woman fired into the ground. The police searched a wooded area across the street and could not find the suspect, so they are still looking for him.

The woman said she had no choice but to arm herself and prepare for the worst. "I had to. I have seven kids to live for. I work hard for what I have," she told FoxNews4.com. She also added that what she learned from this entire incident is that she needs to keep "all my windows closed, and all my guns loaded."

Armed Burglar Shot by Homeowner

KGET.com reported on August 7 about an armed burglar with a long criminal record who was stopped in the act by an armed homeowner in Bakersfield, California. The suspect, 38-year-old Tanarri Stocker, allegedly entered the garage of the home around 8:00 p.m. and tried forcing his way into the residence through a side door. Fortunately, the homeowner was armed, and he fired at the suspect, wounding him. The homeowner called 911, and the suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment, where he is listed in critical condition.

"[The homeowner] protected his family. That was the only thing that was on his mind. We know that [the suspect] had evil intent. His intent was just to go in and take something.... He responded in a way that saved his family, and to potentially save my family," a neighbor told the local ABC affiliate.

The Bakersfield Police Department said this appears to be a random crime because the homeowner and the suspect did not know each other. They also made it clear that the suspect, Stocker, is a convicted felon who is prohibited from owning a firearm. He has been charged with suspicion of burglary, aggravated assault, and felon in possession of a firearm.



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