

Written by <u>Patrick Krey</u> on December 26, 2023 Published in the January 15, 2024 issue of <u>the New American</u> magazine. Vol. 40, No. 01



## **Exercising the Right**

### "Messed With the Wrong Homeowner"

CBS Los Angeles reported on December 4 that a homeowner in Granada Hills, California, shot at multiple armed intruders who broke into his home wearing dark hoodies and masks in what police believe was a brazen home invasion. Authorities say the homeowner's grandmother and preschool-aged children were in the home at the time of the shooting.

Los Angeles Police Department Valley Bureau Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton told reporters that the homeowner shot one of the suspects multiple times. "During that burglary, multiple rounds were fired by the homeowner and the homeowner struck one of the burglary suspects," he said. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene. Hamilton said that police believe the deceased suspect was armed and had some of the homeowner's property in his possession at the time he was shot.

Police think there were multiple intruders, and that at least one other accomplice was injured but fled the scene after the shooting. "There was a blood trail and we trailed it to the end.... We believe there were at least one or two additional suspects involved in this burglary that left this scene, following the shooting by the homeowner," Hamilton explained. He added that police believe the suspects might have been involved in a series of burglaries in the area.

The media interviewed neighbors in the area who complained about a recent rash of home-invasion robberies, which they say have been increasing in frequency. CBS Los Angeles interviewed a neighbor about the shooting, and he said he was not surprised. "I'm not surprised at all that this has happened. It's been a real problem here. The residents here are fed up."

Another neighbor told the *New York Post* that the burglars "messed with the wrong homeowner" and that he hoped the brave homeowner's actions will deter future criminals.

Police recovered a vehicle they believe was used by the suspects to get to the home but was abandoned when they fled the scene. Hamilton said the district attorney's office still needs to do an investigation before a formal decision is made on whether to charge the homeowner for his actions. It's unlikely the homeowner will be charged because, as Hamilton stated, "Anyone inside their residence that is faced with a deadly threat ... has the right to protect themselves."

### "Exercising His Second Amendment Rights"

11Alive.com reported on December 4 about an event that occurred in Sandy Springs, Georgia, in which a homeowner shot and killed a home-invasion suspect. In this situation, the Sandy Springs Police Department issued a press release detailing what happened, explaining that "an unknown male unlawfully entered a residence on Spalding Drive and threatened to harm the homeowner." The press release further explained that the homeowner, "exercising his Second Amendment right to bear arms, defended himself and his family from bodily harm by shooting the suspect." The suspect was found deceased at the scene by arriving officers.

The Sandy Springs Police Department posted the press release on their Facebook page, and the comments ranged from mildly supportive to emphatically supportive. One commenter wrote, "The perfect outcome to a terrible situation. Spread the news broadly — do home invasions in Sandy Springs

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and the police are the last of your worries."

### **Gun Manufacturer Closes Its New York Operations**

The Associated Press reported on December 4 that gun manufacturer Remington Arms, which now goes by "RemArms," recently announced it will close its factory in Ilion, New York. The company sent a letter to union officials who represent the workers at the factory, explaining that it expects the facility to close by March 4, 2024. Remington is the oldest gun manufacturer in the United States, and can trace its beginnings to 1816. The New York factory site was established in 1828. RemArms had previously announced it was moving its headquarters to Georgia.

The Hill reported that RemArms explained in an auto-reply email from the company's press team that "RemArms is excited to expand our facilities in Georgia, a state that not only welcomes business but enthusiastically supports and welcomes companies in the firearms industry."

New York State Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblyman Brian Miller, and Assemblyman Robert Smullen released a joint statement blaming their state's policies for the closure: "Remington's reported decision to close its Ilion plant next year is concerning and unfortunate. This facility, which received investment from the state, employs many local residents. Unfortunately, like we have seen all too often in New York, burdensome regulations, crippling taxes and problematic energy and other policies continue to force businesses and companies to flee the state, taking jobs and livelihoods with them."

State Senator Mark Walczyk specifically blamed state Democrats for their "failed policies [that] are directly responsible for the closure of this facility and the unemployment of roughly 250-300 New Yorkers. Governors [Andrew] Cuomo and [Kathy] Hochul signed laws such as S7196-2021, the Gun Industry Liability Law ... that have pushed another good business out of New York State."

Larry Keane, writing for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, explained that this was a long time coming: "The decision by RemArms to formally and finally exit the Empire State, while sad, isn't all that surprising considering all the hostility coming from the state. The departure matches an ongoing trend of storied and historic firearm manufacturers leaving the Northeast and planting new roots in the South in more gun-friendly and welcoming states. Firearm manufacturers are showing state elected officials they're willing to invest their future in states that respect the firearm industry and the contributions it makes."



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