



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on April 23, 2024

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## Exercising the Right

### Pro-gun Sheriff Goes Viral — Again

The *Toronto Sun* reported on March 25 about Santa Rosa County, Florida, Sheriff Bob Johnson, whose humorous remarks once again caused a stir. Johnson's original remarks were made in April 2022 during a press conference, when he said, "If someone is breaking into your house, you're more than welcome to shoot. We prefer you to do that, actually." Sheriff Johnson later added that those who lawfully defend themselves and shoot criminals will "save taxpayers money."

Second Amendment enthusiasts, including this column, applauded Johnson's statements, and they recently went viral on social media for a second time.

A police officer in Toronto, Canada, was caught on video encouraging residents to leave their car keys by their front door as a tactic for dealing with a recent spike in home invasions. The reasoning was that police believe most of the home invasions are for the purpose of stealing automobiles, and if the criminals can easily get the keys to a car, they might exit the house without committing any further crimes.

A social-media user compared those remarks to Sheriff Johnson's, contrasting the absurd Canadian advice to essentially give criminals what they want, hoping they will go away, and the American advice to stand your ground and use lethal force if necessary.

As could be expected, the social-media post went viral. The Toronto police department later distanced itself from their officer's advice, and the police chief acknowledged public backlash at a press conference.

Fox News Digital interviewed Sheriff Johnson on March 27 about his comments going viral a second time, and he once again made humorous remarks: "I said if you shoot accurately, and you kill the guy, you save taxpayers money. And I also said that if somebody gets killed during a home invasion, the odds of them re-offending are zero. And we like those odds, which we do." Johnson added,

In Santa Rosa County, we have a very high percentage of the population that have weapons, and I promote the use of them if you're in your house. And somebody kicks your door in because they're not coming in to give you a hug or to give you cookies, they're coming in to commit felonies.... And it's kind of ironic that, since that press conference, we haven't had any home invasions, and it's been over a year, so it's kind of odd.

Johnson also strongly endorsed Florida's "stand your ground" law:

You don't have to retreat. You don't have to give them warning. You don't have to go barricade yourself in a room. You can shoot and kill them. And in the state of Florida, that's perfectly legal.... And in these other states where they don't have that, people are afraid to own guns, and they're afraid to protect themselves. That's why you have the crime rate in New York, in California.

Johnson then addressed death threats that he received from leftists who were infuriated by his statements: "I was getting death threats by the hundreds every day. And, I had another interviewer ask



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me, 'Are you worried about that?' And I said, 'No, because all the death threats are coming from states where you can't buy a gun anyway, so I really don't care.'

Sheriff Johnson concluded the interview by admitting that he doesn't sound like most other elected officials, and told Fox News Digital that the voters of Santa Rosa County "elected a cop here as sheriff, and I speak like a cop. I don't care about political correctness. I'm going to tell it like it is. If you don't like it, I'm sorry, but it's the way it is.... I say what people want to hear. They want to hear that their rights are going to be protected and that they'll be protected in their own home."

Johnson also praised Florida Governor Ron DeSantis: "We have a very pro-law enforcement governor — DeSantis. He loves the citizens of Florida, and the criminals, they get a tough time in the state, and it's because of him and his leadership."

He concluded the interview by expressing his admiration for the armed citizens of his county: "As an elected official, like I said, my number one fundamental responsibility is the protection of the citizens of Santa Rosa County. And I think letting them protect themselves, especially in their homes, is a smart thing to do.... I think we have a great bunch of citizens out there that love guns. And, hey, I'm proud of them."

## **Good Guy With a Gun Stops Cop-killer**

KOAT.com reported on April 4 about a tragic incident in Las Cruces, New Mexico, involving the death of a police officer. The entire scene was recorded by a security camera.

A friend of the owner of the property where the crime occurred saw a stranger trespassing on the property and called 911. Officer Jonah Hernandez responded to the 911 call and encountered the trespasser who, unbeknownst to the officer, was armed with a knife. After Officer Hernandez and the suspect exchanged a few words, the man pulled his knife and lunged at Hernandez. Officer Hernandez tried to step away from the attack, but tripped and fell to the ground. The man then jumped on top of him and stabbed him in the neck, severing a major artery. As the attacker was stabbing Officer Hernandez, the man who originally called 911 intervened. The man, who was armed, approached the attacker and yelled for him to stop. The attacker then charged toward the armed witness who, in fear for his life, fired four rounds at the man, mortally wounding him.

The armed witness administered first aid to the wounded officer, but he succumbed to his wounds. While this story is definitely heartbreaking due to the death of a police officer, it is also inspiring due to the courageous actions of the armed witness who stopped the killer before he could harm anyone else.



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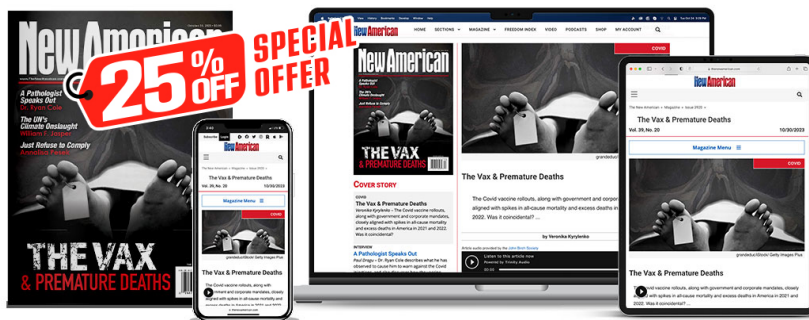
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