



Exercising the Right

It's a Small World After All

The *Tampa Bay Times* reported on January 26 about a masked man who was shot while trying to rob a convenience store. The paper reported that 30-year-old Christopher Lilly walked into a convenience store in Lutz, Florida, wearing a black mask and holding a gun. He demanded money from the store clerk. Lilly then forced both the clerk and a customer who was in the store at the time at gunpoint to enter the walk-in cooler. Once the two men were in the cooler, Lilly returned to the store to rummage through the cash register. While in the cooler, the customer, who had a permit to carry a concealed weapon, revealed to the clerk that he had a gun on him and offered to let the clerk use it to deal with the armed robber. The clerk took the weapon and snuck out of the cooler, and he confronted Lilly. The clerk fired a warning shot at Lilly, who was so startled that he dropped his gun. Once Lilly was unarmed, both the clerk and the customer rushed him and began wrestling with him in an effort to subdue him. As the men struggled on the floor of the scene, Lilly made an effort to grab his dropped gun. The customer witnessed this and retrieved the firearm that he had lent to the clerk. When the assailant refused to stop his struggle, the customer fired at Lilly, hitting him in the thigh.

Police were called to the scene by a passerby who heard the shots, and Lilly was apprehended as he tried running from the store. The biggest surprise of the whole ordeal was when Lilly was unmasked; the convenience store customer recognized him as a former employee of a landscaping business that the customer owns. Lilly was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment for non-life threatening wounds to his leg. Once he was released, Lilly was charged with armed robbery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Pasco County Sheriff's spokesman Kevin Doll told the *Tampa Bay Times* that the customer expressed remorse over being forced to shoot a former employee. "[He] feels bad he had to shoot somebody he knew," Doll said. "[The customer] definitely stopped the crime from being committed and may have saved someone's life.... Preliminary information indicates he exercised his right with a concealed weapons permit — he was in accordance with the law in what happened."

Authorities say the customer's actions were most likely justified, and they have no plans to charge him with anything related to his actions in the case.

Retired FBI Agent Shoots Intruder

WBAL-TV 11 News reported on February 2 about an intruder who picked the wrong home for a break-in. The incident unfolded around 8 a.m. in Lothian, Maryland, where an intruder broke in to a house and was confronted by the homeowners. The husband and his wife ordered the intruder to halt. The husband, who was later revealed to be a retired FBI agent, was armed and told the suspect to comply with his orders or be shot. The suspect allegedly refused, and the homeowner shot him. Despite his serious wounds, the suspect grabbed some metal that was lying nearby and began fighting with the homeowner. The intruder's attack came to an end when the homeowner shot him in the head. Despite suffering a head wound, the injured suspect fled the scene, but collapsed 300 yards away in a neighbor's yard. The suspect, who was known to local authorities for being involved with similar break-ins in the area, was airlifted to a nearby hospital for treatment and is expected to survive.



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on March 6, 2017

Published in the March 6, 2017 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 33, No. 05

Anne Arundel County police spokesman Mark Limansky told WBAL-TV 11 News, “The last thing you’d expect at eight o’clock in the morning is somebody to be barging into your home, forcing you into a situation where you have to protect yourself.” Limansky said that the intruder violently resisted after being shot once, which resulted in him being shot a second time. “He resisted, at which time the male homeowner shot the individual. That didn’t do the trick, and the individual obtained a piece of metal and came at the homeowner a second time, who then shot him in the head with his handgun.”

Neighbor David Lane expressed gratitude for his neighbor’s brave actions in confronting the burglar. “He defended his home. Apparently, the person broke into the home and was threatening, and he was able to defend himself.... I’m glad that my neighbor’s OK.”

Off-duty Cop Shoots Burglar

In a similar story, KRON4.com reported out of San Francisco on February 1 about an intruder who also chose poorly when he selected his planned victim. In that case, a would-be burglar tried breaking in to the house of an off-duty Contra Costa County sheriff’s deputy in Alameda, California. The deputy was asleep when the man tried breaking in but was alerted by the sound of breaking glass. The deputy, who kept his service revolver nearby, quickly jumped out of bed and armed himself. The incident ended as quickly as it began when the deputy fired at the burglar, hitting him several times. The wounded suspect tried to flee, but collapsed outside the house, where his lifeless body was discovered by authorities who soon arrived on the scene.

Owing to the fact that it was an officer-involved shooting, witnesses say the police converged on the scene. Details of the shooting were still being released as of the time of this writing, but police believe the actions taken by the deputy were justified.

ABC7 News interviewed a neighbor, who said that he “heard a series of gunshots, and then there was a pause and more gunshots and yelling.” Other neighbors told ABC7 News about the actions taken by emergency medical technicians who tried reviving the suspect to no avail. “He wasn’t moving at all. Next thing we knew they were taking him away in an ambulance,” neighbor David Hoie said.

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