



Exercising the Right

Caught in the Act!

KMOV.com reported out of North St. Louis, Missouri, on August 30 about a homeowner who caught an armed burglar stealing from his house. Homeowner Willie Thornton was not home at the time the break-in began, but the security company he hired to monitor his property notified him of what was happening. "The alarm company called me about 10:20 pm saying my alarm was going off," Thornton told KMOV. He rushed home and discovered an armed man climbing out of one of his windows. Thornton could see the burglar was armed so he grabbed his own firearm and shot at the suspect in self-defense. "I jumped out the car, walked up to the front door, and I hear somebody jumping out of the window." Thornton also said he saw an accomplice flee from the scene once the shooting began.

Authorities soon arrived on the scene and an EMT treated the wounded suspect before transporting him to a nearby medical facility. The suspect is expected to survive, and police are still looking for the other suspect. Thornton said that the other suspect made off with a few of his possessions and that he plans to beef up his security for the future. "I'm going to try and put some cameras up.... Hopefully that'll work, also get a different alarm."

Targeting an Off-duty Cop

CBS reported on August 30 out of Hazel Crest, Illinois, about two robbers who tried to victimize an off-duty Chicago cop. The two suspects claimed to be selling a computer online, and set up a place to meet the officer to make the purchase. The officer, who is trained in self-defense and tactical shooting, had his firearm with him and was prepared for any foul play when he met the suspects. As the officer approached the suspects to further discuss the sale of the computer, one of the men pulled a gun on him and started trying to take his personal belongings. The thugs' attempted robbery almost immediately turned bad when one of the suspects allegedly began searching the victim's pockets for his wallet and discovered a police officer's badge. As the two robbers reacted in surprise, the off-duty cop used the confusion and disarray to grab his firearm and immediately fire at both robbers. One of the suspects turned to run away, but did not make it far before he collapsed, owing to the severity of his injuries. The other suspect successfully fled the scene and is still being sought by authorities. Arriving authorities found the off-duty cop with his hands in the air, his weapon on the hood of his car, and his badge on the ground. He identified himself as a Chicago police officer and explained what had occurred. The officers checked the vital signs of the injured suspect and called for paramedics, but they were unable to revive the man. The incident is still under investigation.

In a tragic twist to this story, it would later be revealed that the deceased suspect, identified by authorities as 17-year-old Aaron Brandon, was related to three homicide victims who were killed the prior year. Brandon's father and two younger sisters were all killed in a triple homicide that police believe was related to a drug debt. Authorities never charged anyone in the murder. Sadly, it appears that the cycle of crime and violence that so tragically afflicted his family ultimately ended up taking his life as well.



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on October 9, 2017

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Taxing Guns and Ammo

An editorial in Nevada's *Elko Daily Free Press* on August 14 warned readers about "a dangerous new threat to gun ownership: 'Gun Violence Taxes.'" The author of the op-ed was Alan Gottlieb, who is the founder and executive vice president of the Second Amendment Foundation. Gottlieb cited a recent ruling by the Washington State Supreme Court that approved of a "gun violence tax" that was adopted by the City of Seattle in 2015. Gottlieb argued the tax is a trick by anti-gun liberals designed to "slither around the 34-year-old state preemption law that placed exclusive authority for regulating firearms in the hands of the State Legislature." The tax itself affects both gun owners and gun retailers by placing a \$25 tax on every firearm sold and "two to five cents for each round of ammunition sold." Gottlieb warns about the incremental nature of these initiatives, and while it may now only be \$25 per gun, there is nothing to stop anti-gun politicians from steadily increasing it until the overall cost of gun ownership becomes prohibitively high. Gottlieb issued a clarion call to proponents of the Second Amendment to wake up and recognize this dire threat before it's too late. Gottlieb warned, "Essentially, Washington's Supreme Court just handed the gun prohibition lobby and its allies in government a new strategy: If they can't ban or regulate gun ownership out of existence, they will simply tax it into oblivion."

Gottlieb predicts that this will become the next battlefield: Anti-gun liberals will begin taxing firearms at the municipality level with the explanation that such taxes will be used "for 'gun violence research or prevention' programs, but in reality this is to finance gun control." Citing Daniel Webster's famous quote, Gottlieb reminded the reader that "the power to tax is the power to destroy." These current tax laws are only on the books in Seattle and Cook County, Illinois. Gottlieb warns gun owners that this anti-gun strategy could spread across the nation like wildfire.

Intruder Shoots Dog

WCJB.com reported out of Gainesville, Florida, on August 16 about an intruder who injured a pet dog in the commission of his crime. The suspect broke in to a house in Marion County but was attacked by the homeowner's dog, a pit bull terrier named Zeus. The intruder fired at the pit bull, seriously injuring the dog. The homeowner locked himself in his bedroom, but the intruder kicked the door in. Fortunately for the homeowner, he was armed with a pistol, and he fired at the suspect, fatally wounding him. Marion County Sheriff's Deputy Spokeswoman Lauren Lettelier told WCJB that "the suspect was taken to the Summerfield [emergency room] and was pronounced dead there."

Neighbors supported the homeowner's actions. "Someone breaking in my house and got a gun, I ain't waiting for him to shoot first, if I see a gun I will shoot," Summerfield resident Larry Snyder told WCJB. The investigation into the event is ongoing, but Zeus is expected to make a full recovery.

— Patrick Krey



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