



## **Exercising the Right**

### **Chinese Food Fight**

The Associated Press reported out of Atlanta on September 20 about an attempted robbery that ended in gunfire. A driver working for a local Chinese food restaurant was delivering food when he was the victim of an elaborate robbery attempt by four suspects. Atlanta police say the driver was stopped by two women who stood in front of his vehicle. As he parked his vehicle, two men approached him from behind. The would-be robbers fired at the driver, hitting him in his back. Fortunately, the driver was armed and was able to return fire at the two men. The driver shot one of the suspects in the leg, while the other suspects all fled the scene. Authorities were called to the scene where they discovered both the driver and the robber with gunshot wounds. Both men were treated for what were described as “not life-threatening injuries,” and the suspect was arrested for robbery. Authorities are still looking for the other suspects.

### **Store Employee Gets Suspended**

WBTV.com reported out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, on September 20 about a female employee who was penalized by her employer for defending her life. Jennifer Wertz, who works as a clerk at a Circle K convenience store, began bringing her lawfully licensed gun with her to work, owing to the fact that there had been a recent spate of robberies in the area, and a nearby 7-Eleven convenience store had just been robbed earlier that week. The woman knew her employer had a strict policy prohibiting bringing firearms into the workplace, even though she could legally carry, but she did it anyway because she didn't feel safe. Her instincts proved right when an armed man ran into the store on September 20 and pointed his gun at her. The woman grabbed her pistol and fired at the suspect, hitting him in the torso. The wounded suspect collapsed nearby and was apprehended by authorities who were called to the scene. The suspect was later identified as 23-year-old Ferron Mendez, who is expected to survive his injuries. Police strongly believe Mendez was responsible for the earlier robbery at the 7-Eleven.

Wertz explained to KOAT/CNN that the whole incident happened very quickly. “He like stepped into the door and pointed the gun at me. I reacted.... I grabbed my gun from my pocket, I cocked it, and I shot.” Wertz expressed frustration over her employer's policy, explaining that the area has become much more violent and dangerous and she obviously needed to be able to protect herself. “I'm sick and tired of being a sitting duck.... Robberies have been going on like this for the past few weeks. They have done nothing to protect me. And I felt the need to protect myself.” Wertz was suspended for two weeks after the incident for violating company policy, but she said she was likely going to quit because she didn't care for the strict policy prohibiting employees from carrying lawfully licensed firearms.

Wertz later spoke with KOB4 about the ordeal and explained that she was thinking of making it home alive to her children: “All I wanted to do was make sure I went home to my kids.... I have three children. I'm all they have.”

Wertz explained that she knew the potential was there that she might get in trouble with her employer for bringing her gun to work, but she felt that her safety was more important. “I'd rather be alive and have to find another job.... So I was thinking about it and I realized it was either shoot or be shot so I



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decided to protect myself.” Wertz added, “I will continue to protect myself and my family.... I understand the cops can’t always be there. They’re not always right around the corner. And we have to do something because these criminals are running our town. I’ve lived here 9 years and they’re literally running our town.”

## **Taco Bell Employees Shoot Robber**

Cleveland.com reported on September 6 about a shooting at a Taco Bell that claimed the life of a robbery suspect. Police say the incident occurred in the early morning hours when two armed robbers with bandannas on their faces walked into the store. The thugs ordered the employees to open the cash registers. Unbeknownst to the robbers, three of the store employees were armed. They opened fire on the suspects. One of the robbers was shot six times and collapsed on the floor of the restaurant, while the other robber fled the scene on foot. Authorities who arrived on the scene discovered the wounded suspect, still holding his gun. Police say he had a faint pulse, so they had him transported to a nearby medical facility, where he was pronounced dead. The restaurant owner told the news that the shooting was in self-defense.

## **Motel Burglary Ends With Two Dead Suspects**

WPSA.com reported on September 12 about a self-defense shooting that claimed the lives of two burglary suspects in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Local law enforcement told WPSA.com that three suspects entered a Days Inn motel seeking to rob a man inside. The three suspects forced their way inside the victim’s motel room and began viciously assaulting him. Fortunately, the victim was able to grab his own firearm and shoot at the suspects, fatally wounding two of the men. The Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office issued a press release, wherein Lieutenant Kevin Bobo explained that “the (victim), in fear for his life, was able to retrieve his handgun and defend himself, which resulted in the unfortunate loss of life of two of the individuals.” The two deceased suspects were later identified as 18-year-old Bryson Miller and 19-year-old Kejuante Clarke. Police have identified the third suspect, who fled from the motel, as Ja-Quill Walik Tabbar Morgan, and police are looking for him, as well as the driver who drove the suspects to the motel. Morgan is wanted on charges of first-degree burglary, attempted armed robbery, and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

— Patrick Krey



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