



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

Suspicious Man Has Inauspicious Ending

MassLive reported out of Worcester, Massachusetts, about a retired police officer whose old law-enforcement skills recently came in handy. Fifty-six-year-old Charles Jackson was at home on April 29 when he looked out his window and observed something out of the ordinary. Jackson saw what he described as a “suspicious man” looking into parked cars in his neighborhood. Jackson told MassLive in an exclusive interview that it was the stranger’s backpack and odd movements that alerted Jackson that criminal activity might be afoot. Jackson is also an Army veteran and is not one to shy away from confronting a criminal.

After calling 911 to report what was happening, Jackson retrieved his pistol and his old police badge and went outside his house to investigate further. Jackson approached the suspect, who would later be identified as 29-year-old Zachary Bailey. Some neighbors who lived nearby witnessed the entire event, and their statements corroborated Jackson’s story. Jackson asked Bailey what he was doing there, and Jackson said Bailey told him that he was just walking through the yard on his way to a different destination. Jackson still thought something was up, so he asked Bailey to leave and told him he would escort him off the property. Jackson then grabbed Bailey by his backpack and began trying to walk the stranger to the end of his yard. At that moment, Bailey began striking Jackson, and a full-fledged fight broke out. Jackson reached for his holstered pistol, and witnesses say Bailey made a threatening comment. The prosecutor in the case told MassLive that Bailey said to Jackson, “I have one of those too, don’t think I won’t shoot you.” Bailey proceeded to pull out his own gun and fire it at the homeowner.

Jackson returned fire and emptied the rounds in his gun, hitting Bailey in both the abdomen and the arm. The wounded suspect ran from the scene but didn’t go far before calling 911 to report his injuries. The injured Bailey was picked up and transported to a nearby medical facility. Investigators soon learned that Bailey had an outstanding warrant for breaking and entering in a different case, as well as a lengthy criminal record, which will only get longer with new charges pending.

Reflecting on what had transpired, Jackson recognized that it was Bailey who made things turn violent. Jackson credits his 25 years in the Army, as well as his years on the police force, for his actions that night. He told MassLive, “The last thing I wanted to do was use my firearm.... He escalated.... He brought it up to the next level.” Jackson suffered some minor injuries in the scuffle, including a dislocated shoulder and an injured wrist, but is expected to make a full recovery.

The reporter covering the story noted a comical sign that Jackson’s wife had posted outside their house last summer, which read, “Never mind the dog. Beware of owner!” She had hoped the sign would be a deterrent to any potential criminals.

Philly Grandma Shoots Burglar

FoxNews reported on May 6 about a 70-year-old grandmother who proved that firearms can be the great equalizer when dealing with criminals who prey on the elderly. Maxine Thompson told the local Fox affiliate that she was awakened early in the morning by the sounds of someone pounding on her front door. She went to the front of her house and yelled for whoever it was to stop. “First I thought I was dreaming, and then I looked out the window, outside. I was still hearing the banging, banging,



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banging, so I yelled to whoever, ‘Who’s that on my door? Get off my door, get off my door,’” Thompson told Fox 29. The stranger did not stop and kept pounding on the house, eventually smashing a dining-room window. The man outside climbed into the house through the shattered window.

Thompson realized she only had one option. She quickly grabbed a handgun nearby and fired multiple shots at the suspect. She later explained to FoxNews that her response was based purely on a survival instinct. “Kill him before he kills me. That’s what was going through my mind,” Thompson told Fox 29. The wounded burglar ran from the scene and called police from a carwash to report that he had been shot. Fox 29 reported that the burglar was arrested and taken to a hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound to his upper arm. Thompson was grateful to be armed because she said she realized she would have been at the mercy of that violent criminal if she didn’t have a handgun. “After everything was over, then I did get a little shaky. He could’ve killed me,” she said. Thompson was also angry at the fact that there are criminals in this society who act like this, and said she hoped they would learn a lesson based on her actions: “Stay the hell out of people’s houses.”

Pawn Shop Shootout

Fox 13 reported on May 6 out of Bountiful, Utah, about an attempted robbery at a pawn shop. The store, Bountiful Pawn, was just opening when an armed suspect marched in and demanded that the store-owner get down on the floor. The storeowner complied, and then a second suspect armed with a hammer began walking around the display cases with the obvious intention of smashing them and stealing the property within.

The owner had a firearm concealed on his body, which he pulled on the armed suspect. When the armed burglar pointed his gun at the owner, the owner fired at the suspect, who died at the scene. The hammer-wielding accomplice immediately fled at the sound of gunfire.

The owner called 911, and police soon arrived to find the body of the deceased suspect at the scene. Police said they do not believe the storeowner will be charged, as he was lawfully licensed to carry concealed and was “obviously defending himself.” The owner did not want to speak on camera with Fox 13 but did tell the news station, “Thank God for the Second Amendment!” Authorities are still searching for the second suspect, but the entire crime was caught on camera, and they are optimistic that the man will eventually be apprehended.



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