



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on March 4, 2019

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EXERCISING THE RIGHT

“Hood Politician” Killed Burglarizing Home

A story out of Boone County, Missouri, in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* for January 23 about a shooting of a burglar has several unusual aspects.

First, after 26-year-old Ahmonta Harris illegally entered a house in November for the purpose of stealing money from its occupants and was shot and killed by a man staying at the house, it came out that Harris, was a well-known community activist who was popularly referred to as a “hood politician.”

Second, Harris, who was also an aspiring rapper and went by the name of “monnie man,” was most well known for orchestrating an event known as “Firework Wars,” where people in the community engaged in a competitive display of setting off fireworks, mostly with the intention of shooting the fireworks at other participants. Harris told the *Columbia Daily Tribune* that in July of last year, “Everybody out here just has a good time and gets along.... The community gets together, puts their differences aside and just has fun shooting fireworks. Don’t get me wrong, they do shoot at each other, but that’s the point of the war.”

Making the Firework Wars more notable is the fact that despite their illegality, since fireworks are illegal within Columbus city limits, it had grown so big that city police simply accepted they couldn’t stop it. Columbia Police Sergeant Michael Hestir told the *Columbia Daily Tribune* police attempts to stop the “Wars” were ultimately futile. “Imagine pulling onto a street and there being a hundred people out there breaking the law, and they all run.... Which one do you chase?”

Third, owing to all the publicity surrounding the shooting, Prosecutor Dan Knight released a statement that said 20-year-old Deonte Gainwell, who was the man in the home who shot Harris, acted lawfully in defending himself, going so far as to explain the evidence.

Knight stated in his letter that evidence taken at the scene was consistent with Gainwell’s explanation of what occurred. Police investigators discovered wet shoe prints on the side of the home which indicated that a person had climbed the side of the house. There was also a bent gutter on the roof which could have been where Harris grabbed it to pull himself onto the roof to gain access to a the window that was open. The blood splatter from the shooting was also consistent with the window being opened and corroborated Gainwell’s statements. Witnesses in the area never saw Harris enter the home through the main entrance, either.

Knight wrote that the evidence “that Harris entered the residence through Gainwell’s bedroom window is highly probative of Harris’s intent to rob Gainwell.” Knight also pointed out that Harris’ vehicle was parked 235 feet away from the home and out of sight, which means a “very strong inference can be drawn that Harris parked the vehicle he was using in a manner to avoid detection.... Harris’s choice of this parking spot is highly probative of Harris’s intent to rob Gainwell.” Gainwell denied having any prior relationship with Harris and the police investigation into the contents of both Gainwell and Harris’ phones and social media did not reveal any communication between the two men.

And the most damning evidence that Knight noted might have been that Harris was wearing a mask and gloves at the time of the shooting.

Fourth, after Harris’ family and friends disputed the findings of the investigations — although some



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friends did admit that Harris was “no saint” — Gainwell was found shot to death on January 17. The murder is currently unsolved, and police are investigating whether Gainwell’s killing was in retaliation for the death of Harris. Retaliation is likely because friends and family were adamant about Harris’ innocence, and shots were fired at the memorial service for Harris: John K. Cosey was arrested by Columbus police for discharging his firearm outside the church during Harris’ funeral.

Without a Shot

Fox8 reported out of Asheboro, North Carolina, on February 4 about one homeowner’s brave actions to stop burglars. The story involved Stephen Routh, who regularly checks in on his parents’ house for them. The house is located in a neighborhood that is experiencing a drastic increase in crime. Neither Routh nor his parents were at the residence at the time suspects targeted it for a burglary, but he was notified by neighbors, who told him strange men were on the property.

The burglars rummaged through the house, smashing things as they looked for any valuables. Routh grabbed his pistol and rushed to the scene, just in time to witness the men leaving the house through a back door. He pulled out his handgun and aimed it at the men, and verbally ordered them to the ground.

Routh said the men did not resist once they realized he was armed, and he was able to call 911. “I had the gun and they were coming out, and as soon as they saw the big gun pointed at them, their hands went up,” he told Fox8. Authorities soon arrived and took the three suspects into custody. Routh surveyed his parents’ home as criminal investigators reviewed the crime scene. Routh expressed anger at what the men had done to the house of his elderly parents. “It is a terrible mess — all the drawers are screwed, cabinets drawers have been open, stuff thrown out, papers everywhere.”

He talked about how the men had randomly chosen the house and appeared to have no regard for the property of others as they ransacked it looking for anything they could. “They know this is not their home. They know they had no business in here, and they mentioned they just thought they would just go in there and look around.”

Routh was grateful both that he got there when he did and that, since he was armed, the criminals complied with his lawful commands, and deadly force was not required. “There have been too many instances lately of home invasions and these like this where they get caught. And some people have been shot and killed especially those home invasions.... People are not taking this mess anymore,” Routh explained to Fox8.

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