



Exercising The Right

Houston Shootout With an AK-47

The British *Daily Mail* reported on January 22 about a shootout in Houston that showed that a firearm can make all the difference when it comes to evening the odds, which were lopsided indeed — five to one. The story involved a 20-year-old homeowner who was the victim of a home invasion wherein two of the miscreants, wearing ski masks, forced their way into his house in the early hours of the morning. The homeowner had expensive jewelry at the house, and the suspects made it clear that they were there to rob him of it. The situation quickly turned violent when the homeowner said he would retrieve the jewelry but instead grabbed a “fully-loaded AK-47” and started firing at the suspects, who returned fire. (The commercially available AK-47 semi-automatic rifle is similar to the AR-15 in that it is a rapid fire rifle that is extremely useful in a high pressure self-defense situation.)

The suspects and the homeowner exchanged gunfire, resulting in a hail of bullets both inside and outside the house as the suspects fled to a getaway vehicle parked outside. Other suspects were already in the getaway vehicle when their accomplices came fleeing from the house with guns blazing, as they traded shots with the homeowner. The homeowner apparently was the better shot; he sustained no injuries in the shooting, but the suspects certainly did. One injured suspect collapsed outside the house and was later pronounced dead. The getaway vehicle drove off, but did not get far before crashing into a pole. Authorities responding to the 911 call discovered the dead body of a suspect in the crashed SUV. A third injured suspect, who fled from the SUV, collapsed nearby, where his body was found by responding officers. The two remaining suspects were seriously injured and taken to a medical facility for treatment. The homeowner later confirmed that he knew some of the deceased suspects, once they were unmasked. Houston Police Department homicide detective Travis Miller told the news, “The homeowner it appears ... defended himself... We have multiple, multiple shell casings from several different types of guns.”

Uproar in Alaska

The Associated Press reported on March 15 about an incident that illustrates how quick leftists are to smear people when they disagree with them, and this particular smear job had to do with gun rights. Marti Buscaglia, executive director of the Alaska Commission for Human Rights, saw a bumper sticker on the back of a truck in the parking lot outside the commission’s building that she considered “hate speech.” The sticker that got her worked up had the words “Black Rifles Matter” written on it with a silhouette of a black long gun. Buscaglia immediately took it upon herself to lead a crusade against the truck’s owner.

Buscaglia wrote a note on her business card, which she placed on the windshield under one of the wiper blades, that instructed the driver to not park his truck in the lot anymore. Buscaglia did not just stop there, though, and she proceeded to e-mail the owner of the building to complain about the truck and demand that the truck owner be banned from the property and not be allowed to conduct business there anymore. Going even one step further, Buscaglia also posted an image of the bumper sticker to the state’s Human Rights Commission official Facebook page and asked the rhetorical question, “In what world is this OK?” The question wasn’t meant to be answered, and instead was simply Buscaglia’s way of further maligning both the sticker owner and anyone who dared to defend it.



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But this is Alaska, and not some college campus where crybaby progressives get the final say, so the story didn't end with Buscaglia's unwarranted attack. Instead the truck's owner, Brent Linegar, who has his own plumbing and heating company and was performing work at the site, made his own social-media post wherein he asked friends to explain to him this woman's outrage. Linegar was shocked by the woman's behavior, especially the posting on the state commission's official Facebook page that used a state-run account to unfairly smear him as a racist.

Linegar has the same sticker on many of his trucks and says they're about gun safety and "Second Amendment awareness." "I was like, man, I can't let that slide," Linegar told the Associated Press. Linegar posted the picture of the Human Rights Commissioner's note on social media, and supporters of both him and the Second Amendment rallied to his defense. The Facebook page for the Human Rights Commission was inundated with comments from his supporters, which led to Buscaglia's original post being taken down. Linegar was outraged by the reckless actions of the high-ranking state official, who seemed all too willing to slander a private citizen and business owner who employs multiple employees. "To be blasted on Facebook, that myself or any of my employees are racist, coming from that commission specifically is extremely concerning.... We feed 12 families out of this company," Linegard told Alaskan news station KTUU.

Buscaglia tried to defend her initial actions, and her rationale gives us a good insight into the totalitarian mind-set of leftists who view dissenting opinions as amorphous "hate." "I think the line between being protected by the First Amendment and hate speech is very fine.... And frankly [referring to the bumper sticker] I wasn't sure which one this was," Buscaglia told the Associated Press. So she admits to being confused by the sticker, with its comedic aspects going over her head, yet she rushed to publicly condemn the vehicle's owner as a racist and immediately sought to cause harm to both him and his business.

We can take comfort, though, in that it appears Buscaglia might be the one facing a comeuppance over her actions, as Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy has called for an investigation into the commission's handling of the incident. The governor's office released a statement that the Alaska Department of Law is actively investigating the post made by the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights Facebook page to ascertain whether her actions broke any state laws.

— Patrick Krey



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