



Exercising The Right

Image Matters

While many of us are passionate about our God-given rights, there are times where actions can be taken too far and become counterproductive. KFOR reported on November 6 about one such incident in Oklahoma City, where a man decided to act as a self-appointed “Second Amendment Auditor.” KFOR reported that Timothy Harper began recording himself open carrying at different private businesses to capture how they reacted to him being armed.

Harper also did this in public parks and claimed in the videos, which he publicly posted to his social media, that he was conducting “Second Amendment Audits.” In one particular incident, nervous citizens called police to Hafer Park, where Harper was conducting one of his so-called audits. Harper ended up interacting with the Edmond police officers who were called to the area, and the entire incident was recorded. Body cam footage from one of the officers show the police asking Harper, “Are you video recording this to see what type of rise you get out of people when they call?”

Harper replies, “Yes this is an audit.... We are going to see if you guys respect the Second Amendment and how you respond to someone carrying a pistol.” To Harper’s credit, the interaction with the police did not escalate, and there weren’t any arrests made, but he continued doing similar things, recently carrying a rifle into a restaurant in Oklahoma City. That apparently was the last straw for fellow gun-rights proponents in the region: The Oklahoma Second Amendment Association (OK2A) publicly disavowed Harper’s behavior.

“While we support a person’s right to keep and bear arms, we acknowledge the right may stop at the discretion of the private property business owner. Mr. Harper is NOT a member of OK2A and has never had any authority to use or represent OK2A at any time. His actions to draw attention to himself while escalating tensions for profit of a social media platform is uncalled for, unwise, and does not hold to the values of the Board of Directors of OK2A or the majority of Oklahomans. His claim to any such authority with OK2A is FALSE,” the organization wrote in a press release. OK2A also stated that they’ve asked him to stop engaging in this behavior. “OK2A explained in its press release that ... Mr. Harper’s continued antics and disregard for private property rights, as well as his needless escalation of concerns and tensions with citizens and law enforcement, continue to draw a negative response to the protection of our rights to keep and bear arms.” OK2A also banned Harper from joining the organization.

While Harper may be a well-meaning supporter of the Second Amendment, his story is a reminder that we need to be careful about the image we present to the public. Our political enemies are desperate to paint us as dangerous and mentally unstable threats to public safety, and we shouldn’t do anything that appears to reinforce those claims.

Scam Artist Returns and Gets Shot

WKWB reported out of western New York on November 6 about a home invasion in Genesee County that resulted in a shooting. Police say a masked gunman forced his way into an elderly couple’s house and demanded money at gunpoint. The 76-year-old husband heard knocking at the door and opened it, only to have a man wearing a ski mask shove his way into the house.



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The armed suspect ordered the elderly couple into the back of the first floor of the residence, and the homeowner complied, knowing that he stored a double-barrel shotgun back there. "I hurried up and went down, he didn't follow me right away. I backed up against the wall, reached up and got the shotgun. I put it behind me. He couldn't see it. He turned around, dropped his money and he reached down and I shot from the hip. He went down," the homeowner later told WKBW. The elderly man's wife immediately called 911 and police soon arrived. The injured suspect was airlifted to a nearby medical facility for treatment and was later identified as 36-year-old Charles Cooper.

In an interesting twist, it would later become known that Cooper, along with his brother, had done some paving work at the elderly couple's house two years previously and allegedly tried scamming them out of money. The *Batavia Daily News* reported on November 6 that the Cooper brothers allegedly had scammed numerous people out of money with a fraudulent paving business. When told that the suspect was the same man and shown his picture, the wife responded to the *Batavia Daily News*, "Oh my goodness that is him.... He did work here two summers ago and never came back to finish it. I was going to call the Better Business Bureau but I never did." The wife stated that the men kept trying to raise the price on the couple by telling them "that we needed this and that.... The price they gave us was atrocious.... I remember we were on our way to the dentist and it was kind of a last-second decision. They did the work while we were gone." The *Batavia Daily News* reported that the Cooper brothers, as well as other family members, have a long record of similar scams throughout the area, as well as other states.

Uber Eats Standoff

The *Austin American-Statesmen* reported on November 18 about an Austin-based Uber Eats driver who is probably grateful he defied his company's policy that prohibits drivers from carrying firearms. The newspaper reported that the driver went to an apartment complex in southeastern Austin for a food delivery, and as he was returning to his vehicle, he was approached by a man with a bandanna partially covering his face who pointed a gun at him. Before the would-be robber could make any demands, the driver pulled out his own handgun. The two men had a standoff where they both pointed their guns at each other for many seconds without saying a word. The suspect then backed off, and the driver quickly called 911. Police soon arrived in the area and arrested the suspect after he was identified by the Uber Eats driver. The suspect was charged with aggravated robbery and booked into the Travis County Correctional Complex.

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