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Exercising The Right

Armed Couple Defends Home & Goes Viral

Until late June, Mark and Patty McCloskey of *St. Louis, Missouri*, lived a relatively peaceful life as successful personal-injury attorneys who spent decades restoring a famous mansion in the city. St. Louis Magazine reported on the restoration of the mansion in 2018, and the McCloskeys' hard work and attention to detail was praised as an admirable act of historic preservation. But on June 28, the McCloskeys became household names across the nation when their brave reaction to a dangerous mob of trespassing leftists went viral. The McCloskeys certainly did not want this newfound fame, but it was thrust upon them when Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters decided to break down the steel gated entrance to their community and illegally enter onto their private property. Some of the BLM protesters were armed and made violent threats as they forced their way into the gated community, and the McCloskeys knew there was no time for hesitation. The McCloskeys quickly retrieved their personal firearms, with Mark carrying an AR-15 and Patty carrying a handgun. The couple rushed out on their front patio to tell the trespassers to leave. The entire confrontation was livestreamed on Twitter by the intruders who intentionally mischaracterized the situation as "racist gun-owners" threatening "peaceful protesters."

A duplicitous media that is all too willing to spread lies and disinformation if it furthers a leftist agenda then parroted this false narrative. Fortunately for the McClos-keys, in addition to being well equipped to defend their homes, they also had the cognitive ability to verbally defend themselves in the court of public opinion. Mark McCloskey immediately began giving media interviews where he explained what actually transpired and refuted the false narrative propagated by the mainstream media and left-wing activists on Twitter.

In an appearance on Tucker Carlson's Fox News program, Mark explained what he and his wife witnessed and their mindset at the time of the horrifying ordeal. "By the time we looked up and we saw the marchers coming down Kings Highway and getting loud, we looked over the gate, and there's no police there. Our private security wasn't there. Nobody's there." Mark said the protesters then broke the steel gate and forced their way onto their private property, while making violent threats to the McCloskeys. "People start coming in. And then a flood of people start coming in.... They are angry, they're screaming, they've got spittle coming out of their mouth they're coming toward the house.... I turned to my wife and I said, 'Oh my God, we're absolutely alone. There is nobody here to protect us.' ... When I saw that mob coming through the gate with their rage and their anger, I thought that we would be overrun in a second.... By the time I was out there with my rifle, the people were 20 or 30 feet from my front wall.... I was literally afraid that within seconds they would surmount the wall and come into the house, kill us, burn the house down and everything that I had worked for and struggled for the last 32 years.... I saw it all going up in flames and my life destroyed in an instant, and I did what I thought I had to do to protect my hearth, my home, and my family."

Police investigators corroborated what Mark told Tucker Carlson, and stated that the intruding protesters yelled violent threats at the couple and that the incident is being investigated by police as "a case of trespassing and assault by intimidation against the couple by protesters." This infuriated the media and left-wing activists, who were clamoring for the McCloskeys to be charged for brandishing their weapons. St. Louis Prosecutor Kimberly Gardner, a leftist radical who received campaign





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donations from George Soros and has been throwing out charges brought by police against people arrested for rioting, is pressing charges against the McCloskeys for exhibiting "in the presence of one or more persons, any weapon readily capable of lethal use in an angry or threatening manner," a felony. She proclaimed, "We must protect the right to peacefully protest," though, again, the mob was threatening the McCloskeys, and her credibility has already been ruined because she also protected violent protesters with her actions. With the couple being very aware of the repeated looting, killing, beatings, and arson that have been committed by so-called protesters — added to the fact that threats were being made to the McCloskeys and that the crowd didn't move past the house for nearly 15 minutes — the couple should prevail in this case.

Before the charges were issued, the McCloskeys' attorney, Albert Watkins, told Fox News that under Missouri law, a person has "the absolute unmitigated right to protect his or her castle or family while on their property." Watkins added that the protesters were the ones who broke the law by forcing open the gate and trespassing, and "damaging and destroying private property and acting in a threatening and hostile fashion.... If Kimberly Gardner wants to press charges against two attorneys who are protecting their home and their family and themselves on their own property, I will tell you that it will be nothing short of the proverbial clusterf*** with the ensuing assertions that she's doing this for political purposes." Watkins added that he doesn't think Gardner is smart enough to know the law. "I just believe she probably has a difficult time reading the English language," Watkins derisively said to Fox News.

The Left has continued with its attacks, including organizing a protest outside the McCloskeys' home on the day before the Fourth of July. The *Daily Mail* reported on July 5 that the McCloskeys retained a private security firm to protect their home while protesters lined up outside their gated community. The protest ended without incident as the McCloskeys watched from their balcony. It's not clear if protesters will continue to harass these people or if the mob will move on to tormenting others, but we can hope that the worst is over for the McCloskeys. Finally, we should realize the alarming truth that if the current alliance of left-wing mobs and journalists could do something like this to people who are wealthy enough to own a mansion, imagine how much easier it would be for them to destroy middle-class gun-owners who don't have the same means and resources to fight back.



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