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Exercising the Right

Homeless Crisis in Long Beach

[FOXLA.com](#) reported on June 24 about a woman in Long Beach, California, whose aggressive behavior got her killed.

Forty-four-year-old Andrea Powell allegedly was causing trouble throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors didn't recognize the woman, and her behavior led to many 911 calls. Police received reports of a crazy woman yelling nonsense at people, trying to force her way into houses, and cornering people in a menacing manner. Investigators are reviewing all the evidence of Powell's rampage that night, including video from Ring doorbell cameras that show her actions at multiple homes in the area. One video showed her trying to enter someone's backyard while brandishing a large stick before being chased away by a dog.

According to the Long Beach Police Department, a female homeowner was outside her house when Powell allegedly came up from behind her and started attacking her. The victim's neighbor intervened to try to stop the assault, and Powell began attacking him. In fear for his life, the neighbor shot Powell, who died at the scene.

While neighbors were shocked by this violence, it is part of an alarming trend in the area that many say is related to the growing homeless population. [FOXLA.com](#) reported that just a few weeks earlier, a homeless man was shot by police after attacking several people with a screwdriver. It was not clear from the reporting if Powell was homeless, but her behavior that night and the fact that none of the residents in the area recognized her might indicate that she was. The Long Beach City Council even declared a state of emergency earlier this year due to the large numbers of homeless people gravitating to the area. According to the *Long Beach Post*, the homeless population "grew by 62% from 2020 to 2022." Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson said, "The pandemic has exacerbated that crisis, and when you add that on top of skyrocketing housing costs, inflation and the mental health crisis manifesting itself on our streets, we are in a state of emergency."

Sadly, the increase in the homeless population appears to have led to an increase in violent crime. In February, the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* cited statements by public officials that substance abuse and mental-health issues among the homeless contribute to the violent-crime problem. Homeless Services Bureau Director Paul Duncan told the *Press Telegram*, "I've personally seen a drastic increase in the last six months.... There have been multiple shootings in addition to the homicides."

The investigation into the Powell shooting is still ongoing, but from the known facts so far, it appears the resident who shot her acted lawfully.

"Stupidest Thing" Ever Said by a Politician?

Joe Biden has made some laughable statements during his presidency, but his most recent gaffe got quite a reaction from nationally syndicated radio host and former NRA spokesperson Dana Loesch.

Biden was giving a speech in which he boasted of his administration's efforts to push gun control, which included additional restrictions on the purchase of guns with pistol stabilizing braces. Biden stammered when trying to pronounce "braces," and said Democrats had "made it harder for people buy stabilized



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brief — braces,” which he claimed are dangerous because they can change the caliber of a gun. “Put a pistol on a brace, it turns into a gun, makes it more, you can have a higher-caliber weapon, higher-caliber bullet coming out of that gun,” Biden said.

Loesch took to Twitter, where she mocked Biden for getting his facts plain wrong. “This is the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard a politician say about guns. A plastic brace on a gun does not change the CALIBER OF THE GUN or the rate of fire,” Loesch tweeted.

Many others agreed with her assessment, including one Twitter user who asked, “Where are the fact checkers now?”

Defund the ATF

The Washington Times reported on June 26 that Representatives Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) announced a new measure for the House Appropriations Committee that would defund the salary of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Director Steve Dettelbach.

Gaetz conducted a field hearing in Florida involving multiple witnesses speaking about the ATF’s overreach and heavy-handed tactics that have infringed on Americans’ gun rights. Gaetz explained that the measure would eliminate the ATF director’s salary to “constrain resources that would otherwise be used to put people out of business and to harm our fellow Americans.” The measure doesn’t have a high likelihood of being enacted, but it at least sheds more light on the threats posed to gun rights by the ATF.

Pro-Second Amendment Rapper

The Blaze reported on June 22 about a rapper who recognized the importance of the Second Amendment. The rapper, who goes by the name Killer Mike, stated that he is opposed to any new gun laws, and he actually wants to see increased gun ownership among the black community. Killer Mike made the remarks while being interviewed by TMZ, where he explained that he’s “a strong proponent for [the] Second Amendment, people know that.... I think that there are enough laws on the books to take care of what’s already out there. Criminals are not going to follow a law anyway.”

Killer Mike told TMZ, “I’m simply going by the rules that were given to me in the Constitution. Nothing more, nothing less.”

While Killer Mike seems to have the right perspective on the Second Amendment, he was apparently an ardent supporter of Bernie Sanders, even though Sanders was stridently pro-gun control.

— *Patrick Krey*



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