

Criminals Target Gun Store

The ABC affiliate based in Moline, Illinois, reported on January 8 about an attempted robbery at a gun store in Galesburg, Illinois, that went very badly for the suspects. The incident occurred at the Galesburg Guns, Gear & Ammo gun store around 10:00 p.m. on January 6 when, police investigators say, multiple male suspects broke in to the store to rob the place. The store owner was able to grab a loaded weapon and open fire on the burglars. One of the suspects was wounded in the shooting, and the burglars all fled from the scene. The store owner called police to report what happened, and police say a wounded 17-year-old was dropped off at a nearby medical facility. He eventually succumbed to his injuries.

The police investigation later determined that the mortally wounded teenager was the person shot at the gun store. Galesburg Police Chief Russell Idle told reporters, “Our belief at this point is the people involved drove to the hospital and fled the scene.” The police investigation later identified two other suspects who, they say, were involved in the burglary and are now facing felony murder charges for the death of their 17-year-old accomplice.

Knox County State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin told reporters, “If in the commission of a forcible felony, someone dies, the person committing the felony, in this case burglary, can be charged with murder.... To the best of my knowledge and the information I’ve seen thus far, we believe this is a situation of self-defense, a defense of property.... Under the law, Illinois law, an individual can use deadly force to prevent a forcible felony from occurring.”

Mother Defends Son

ABC13 KTRK-TV in Houston reported on January 22 about a burglar who tried breaking in to a home in Sugar Land, Texas, where a mother was at home with her eight-year-old child. The incident unfolded around 5 a.m. when the mother woke up to the sounds of glass breaking downstairs. She went downstairs and saw a man trying to climb into her house through

a broken window. The woman quickly retrieved a firearm and shot the suspect in the chest. The wounded suspect fled from the home, but left a trail of blood, which officers traced to find him. The Houston Police Department later identified the suspect as a 21-year-old man named Santana Hudson, who had a warrant out for his arrest for a vehicle burglary.

Neighbors in the area supported the woman for her brave actions. Brittany Spivey told KTRK, “I would have done the same thing. Absolutely.”

Police are still investigating and reviewing surveillance video from neighboring homes to see if other suspects were involved.

Wild Crime Spree

The City of Bellingham, Washington, posted on its government website on January 28 about a shooting in a local sporting-goods store. The post was written by Bellingham Public Information Officer Claudia Murphy, and in it she explained that police were initially called to a nearby food store for a burglary, where two suspects stole more than \$500 worth of liquor. An employee from the food store had followed the robbery suspects until one of the suspects warned the man that he was armed and would shoot him.

The two suspects then fled in a vehicle. At a local sporting-goods store, the same man who had warned the food store employee that he was armed entered the store. Once inside, the 37-year-old suspect began using a hammer to smash the glass on a gun case in an attempt to take firearms and ammunition within the case. Employees at the sporting-goods store yelled at the man to stop hitting the glass, but the man did not listen. At that moment, one of the employees, who was lawfully carrying a concealed pistol, pulled out his own gun and fired at the suspect. As Officer Murphy wrote, the “employee, fearing for his life as the suspect was gaining access to firearms and ammunition, pulled his concealed firearm and shot the suspect once in the chest.”

Authorities soon arrived on the scene, and the wounded suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

The police arrested the second suspect shortly afterward. Murphy said the wounded suspect was a convicted felon and that the charges being explored are robbery in the 1st degree and 2nd degree and theft of a firearm, as well as other charges.

Will Texas Be a Sanctuary State?

The Texan reported on January 15 about a statement by Texas Governor Greg Abbott that the Lone Star State will be a “Second Amendment sanctuary state.”

This column has previously reported about how gun-rights supporters have been getting local municipalities to pass ordinances declaring their jurisdictions to be protective of the Second Amendment, but this is the first time that a state-level official has taken it statewide.

Governor Abbott told supporters at the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s 2021 Policy Orientation, “I want to make sure that Texas becomes a Second Amendment sanctuary state so that no government official at any level can come and take your gun away from you, despite those people who said, ‘Heck yes, we’re going to take your gun....’ We’re gonna say, ‘Heck no, you cannot take people’s guns away in Texas.’”

When Governor Abbott was attorney general back in 2013, he wrote the Texas Firearm Protection Act, which, *The Texan* reported, was a law similar to the concept of a Second Amendment sanctuary. *The Texan* also reported that two existing bills in the legislature prohibit cops from enforcing any federal measure “that purports to regulate a firearm, a firearm accessory, or firearm ammunition if the statute, order, rule, or regulation imposes a prohibition, restriction, or other regulation, such as a capacity or size limitation, a registration requirement, or a background check, that does not exist under the laws of this state.”

State Representative Steve Toth, who filed the bill, explained that there are legitimate concerns that the Biden administration will quickly move to restrict gun rights. ■

— PATRICK KREY