

It All Started at KFC

KFOR.com reported on January 11 about a wild incident in Chickasha, Oklahoma, that began when a man, for unknown reasons, backed his car into the front entrance of a Kentucky Fried Chicken, shattering the glass doors. The man then sped away from the store and began plowing through nearby yards, eventually crashing into the front porch of a house. He exited the vehicle and ran onto the porch, while the couple who lived at the house came out to see what happened.

The man then began physically assaulting the wife. The husband ran back into the house to retrieve a firearm, and the violent intruder pursued him. The dangerous encounter came to an end when the husband shot the suspect multiple times.

Police arrived on the scene after being alerted to all the chaos, and found the suspect's lifeless body in the house. Law enforcement is still investigating the background of the suspect and whether he had a criminal past or a history of mental-health issues, and the medical examiner will look into whether there were any drugs or alcohol in his system at the time of the incident. The couple are understandably distraught over what occurred, but don't have any major injuries.

Deputy Returning Home Shoots Burglar

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported on January 23 about a shooting outside a southeast Atlanta house that is proving to be quite controversial. A Fulton County sheriff's deputy was returning home from work around midnight when he received a notification from one of his home-security cameras that showed a man breaking in to his house by kicking in a back door.

The deputy drove home and saw the burglary suspect carrying items away from the house, and he began following the man as he walked down a gravel road. The suspect ran off the road into the woods, and the deputy exited his vehicle and ran after him. The deputy confronted the suspect in the woods and, investigators would later

say, the two men “had an altercation.”

During the ensuing scuffle, the deputy opened fire on the burglary suspect and shot him three times in the chest. Atlanta police arriving on the scene discovered the deputy performing CPR on the wounded suspect, who was taken to a nearby medical facility, where he died. Investigators identified the deceased burglary suspect as 59-year-old Bobby Lee Sutton, and they confirmed that the goods he was seen carrying from the home belonged to the deputy.

Sutton's surviving family members are questioning whether the deputy acted lawfully. 11alive.com interviewed Sutton's niece, Motanique “Monei” Sutton, on January 26. She told reporters, “Nobody's perfect, we know that. But I need to know, was his shooting justified for my uncle?” Motanique, who doesn't seem to be disputing that her uncle burglarized the house, seems more upset that the deputy followed the suspect and confronted him. “You get out of your car and you follow him in a wooded area and you shoot him down like he's nobody, like he has no family or nothing. That's not fair. That's not justice,” she told 11alive.com.

The investigation into the shooting is still ongoing, but there are some details in this situation that make it unique. The first major detail is the fact that it involved a police officer who is trained on when to use lethal force and should know whether a shooting is or is not justified. Second, since he is a police officer, it is among his occupational duties to stop crimes in progress and arrest a fleeing suspect. Even though the deputy was not on duty, his actions were consistent with that of a police officer trying to detain a burglary suspect. If the forensic evidence corroborates the deputy's testimony that the shooting was defensive in nature, it seems likely that he will be cleared of any wrongdoing. This might not be the case if the homeowner was a civilian who followed a burglar into the woods to confront him and retrieve stolen personal property.

While it might be frustrating for some gun owners to admit, the safer course of action for non-deputized civilians is to just

report the burglary to police and allow the suspect to flee the scene, instead of engaging in a direct confrontation. No personal property is worth the risk of being prosecuted for murder in today's flawed court system, which seems to favor criminals over law-abiding citizens.

San Jose Votes to Force Gun Owners to Carry Insurance

If you needed more evidence that the anti-gun crowd will try anything to ban guns, look no further than San Jose, California, where the City Council voted unanimously to require gun owners to carry liability insurance. The Associated Press reported on January 26 that the San Jose City Council approved a measure that mandates gun owners in the city to carry insurance to “cover losses or damages resulting from any accidental use of the firearm, including death, injury, or property damage, according to the ordinance.”

The mayor of San Jose said the law wouldn't result in gun owners facing criminal penalties or having their guns confiscated for not having the insurance, but the National Rifle Association reported things differently. The NRA posted on February 9 that the bill requires gun owners to fill out documentation attesting that they have the required insurance coverage which, along with proof of payment of an annual tax, must be shown to police upon request. The NRA stated that if gun owners don't comply with these requirements, their firearms may be impounded.

The council also voted to charge gun owners an annual \$25 fee, which will ostensibly be used to fund measures for government efforts to combat so-called gun violence. The mayor admitted that it “won't stop mass shootings and keep bad people from committing violent crime,” but he's still going to sign it into law. The mayor admitted that the law will face legal challenges from gun-rights groups, but said he has anti-gun attorneys lining up to provide legal defense for free. ■

— PATRICK KREY