

## Smash-and-grab Robbery Attempt Thwarted

KTVU.com reported on January 26 about a robbery at a jewelry store based in a mall in San Bruno, California, that was stopped cold by an armed store owner. The incident began when a man armed with a crowbar rushed into the store and began smashing a display case in an apparent attempt to steal jewelry. The store's owner, Usman Bhatti, grabbed the crowbar-wielding man and tried pulling him away. The suspect raised the crowbar in a threatening manner as if preparing to strike Bhatti. Fortunately, Bhatti was armed; he quickly pulled out a gun he was lawfully carrying, pointed it at the suspect, and yelled for the robber to halt. As soon as the burglar with the crowbar saw Bhatti was packing heat, he ran from the store in a hurry. Bhatti later spoke to the news about what happened and said that his actions were purely reactive in nature. “I’m not trying to be a hero or a macho man.... It just happened very quick and I had no choice,” he told KTVU. Police are still trying to identify the suspect, but they’re hopeful that the security camera from the jewelry store will aid them in bringing the perpetrator to justice.

## Man’s Best Friend

In another story proving that store owners in high-crime areas often need to be armed to survive, Fox29 reported on a shootout between armed robbers and a clerk in a Philadelphia store. Surveillance video showed two armed suspects rush into the store and point guns at the owner, who was standing behind the counter, and demand money. The store owner’s dog quickly jumped up and started barking in the face of the first gunman, which provided enough of a distraction for a female store clerk seated nearby to pull out a handgun and start shooting at the suspects, hitting one of them. The suspects returned fire, injuring the woman before fleeing from the store. The female clerk was treated at a nearby medical facility for gunshot wounds to her hip and upper waist and was later released. Police did

apprehend the wounded robbery suspect after he was dropped off near Temple University with gunshot wounds, but are still searching for the second suspect. The store owner told Fox29 that he credits his fast-acting clerk, her gun, and his dog for saving their lives.

## Bolstering Self-defense

The *Seattle Times* reported on February 2 about a proposed bill in Missouri that shifts the burden of proof from a person who uses deadly force to prosecutors to present clear and convincing evidence that the shooter was acting for a reason other than self-defense before any charges can be brought. According to the *Times*, supporters of the potential legal change say this is a long-overdue protection for people “who exercise their Second Amendment rights and are protected by existing state self-defense laws, from unfair prosecution.”

The Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys is opposed to the law because of the burden-shifting requirement, but why should someone who was a victim of a crime and who was forced to defend his life have the onerous burden of proving he acted in self-defense? Why shouldn’t the burden be on the state? This proposed law in Missouri is very similar to self-defense laws in Florida, where people are presumed to have acted in self-defense unless prosecutors can prove otherwise.

Some critics of the proposed bill claim that it will unjustly protect white people who have shot black people. Nimrod Chapel, Jr., president of the Missouri NAACP, decried the measure and said that it would unfairly impact people of color. Chapel is representing the family of a black man from rural Missouri who was shot by a white neighbor after forcing his way into his home. Even though the prosecutors in that case decided to not press charges and felt the shooting was justified, Chapel is lobbying for the case to be investigated by the state attorney general and may even petition the governor to ask for a federal investigation.

The bill is sponsored by Republican state Senator Eric Burlison, who stated in

his Senate remarks that it protects “law-abiding Missourians whose only quote-unquote crime is that they were trying to defend themselves and/or their family members.”

St. Louis attorney Mark McCloskey, who gained national prominence after standing up to Black Lives Matter rioters who were trespassing on private property and threatening violence, lauded the bill, “arguing that it shields people from overzealous prosecution and protects their Second Amendment rights,” according to the *Seattle Times*.

The political chances of the law being passed are actually quite good, considering that the state Legislature just passed another pro-Second Amendment gun law last year that forbids local law-enforcement agencies from assisting the federal government with enforcing unconstitutional gun control.

## Feds Sue Missouri Over Pro-Second Amendment Law

CBS News reported on February 17 that the U.S. Justice Department is suing Missouri over the pro-Second Amendment law mentioned at the end of the previous story. The Second Amendment Preservation Act is similar to laws passed by open-borders leftists who declared their states and/or municipalities were “sanctuary states” or “sanctuary cities” for illegal aliens, prohibiting local law enforcement from complying with federal immigration authorities. *60 Minutes* ran a hit piece critical of the law, which was actually cited by Attorney General Merrick Garland when he announced his lawsuit.

*Politico* reported that Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt was not too worried about the lawsuit. In a statement released to the media, Schmitt wrote, “Time and again, the Biden Administration has put partisan politics ahead of public safety.... Make no mistake, the law is on our side in this case, and I intend to beat the Biden Administration in court once again.” ■

— PATRICK KREY