

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 249

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Dear Subscriber,

Democratic presidential front-runner **HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON** said that she felt **igreat heartachei** over the shooting ambush that killed a TV news reporter and cameraman live on air in Virginia, pledging that **as president she would fight for more gun-control laws.**

"We have got to do something about gun violence in America - **and I will take it on.** Mrs. **CLINTON** said that there was evidence that tougher gun laws would stop the gun violence, but gun rights advocates dispute those claims, noting that the shooter had a legal gun.

"There is so much evidence that if guns were not so readily available, **if we had universal background checks ó maybe we could prevent this kind of carnage,**" Mrs. **CLINTON** said.

Shooter **VESTER FLANAGAN**, the black man who killed reporter **ALISON PARKER** and cameraman **ADAM WARD** as they were conducting a live interview at Smith Mountain Lake in southwest Virginia for the CBS affiliate **WDBJ7**, **sent a fax calling himself a "powder keg"** because of **the racial discrimination that got him fired** from the station in 2013. He fired 17 rounds from a .40 caliber Glock pistol **he had legally bought after passing a background check** despite his apparent emotional problems.

FLANAGAN shot himself during a police chase in northern Virginia and died.

Virginia Governor **TERRY MCAULIFFE**, a Democrat, **vowed to press ahead with legislation on background checks for gun buyers**, although he could not explain how that would have stopped **FLANAGAN**.

The **OBAMA Administration's State Department** proposed a revision of the **International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)** that would require government approval before making certain information about firearms publicly available, an unlawful prior restraint of First Amendment speech rights. Pro-gun Senator **STEVE DAINES (R-MT)** led 28 senators signing on to a letter to U.S. Secretary of State **JOHN KERRY** opposing the proposal. The signatories "urge the State Department to modify or delay these misguided changes to the ITAR in order to ensure they do not violate the First and Second Amendments."

Obama's Social Security Administration is planning to **eliminate Second Amendment rights of millions of Social Security recipients who get their benefits through** a representative payee because they need help managing their financial affairs. Anyone with such a helper, regardless of why, will have their information divulged to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System without due process, which will disqualify them from purchasing a firearm. Twenty-six U.S. senators wrote a letter to the SSA Acting Administrator stating "Old age or a disability does not make someone a threat to society. Having a representative payee should not be grounds to revoke constitutional rights."

U.S. Senator **JOHN CORNYN (R-TX)** has introduced **S. 2002**, a bill to protect **Second Amendment rights** in such situations. The bill clarifies that an "adjudication" under the Gun Control Act's (GCA) mental health provisions will require due process protections, including a full hearing in which an individual has notice, the opportunity to participate, and the right to counsel.

The **FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System for Federal Firearms License transactions** will be updated on January 12 next year in order to make it available online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as well as test the system and train employees to use it.

Also in this issue: ● Baltimore homicide rate soars ● New York gun rights group win lawsuit against Gov. Cuomo ● Church builds gun range behind chapel ● A Parent's Nightmare: the kids are home alone and robbers break in, in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

ALABAMA SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES CAR CARRY BILL

The Alabama Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee approved a bill related to guns in cars, and the vote came with little debate. However, the bill faces a steep uphill climb in the special session to deal with a budget shortfall. Any bill outside the governor's call for a special session requires a two-thirds vote to win approval. The committee approved the bill, by Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, which would allow the carrying of loaded handguns in cars without a concealed carry permit. Allen has argued that a person's vehicle is an extension of their home.

CALIFORNIA: GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS UNUSUAL BILL

Governor Jerry Brown (D) signed a bill which protects the guns of those subject to GVRs, a Gun Violence Restraining Order, which is a temporary ban on gun ownership for people believed to be a threat to themselves or others. The GVRO law requires a person subject to such an order to forfeit his guns by either turning them over to police or selling them. The bill Brown signed, AB 950, allows those subject to a GVRO to transfer their guns to a Federal Firearms License holder for safe-keeping until the GVRO expires.



LOS ANGELES HAS A NEW BAN AND A NEW RULE

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti signed into law a ban on the possession of large-capacity gun magazines with more than 10 rounds and called on national leaders to follow the Los Angeles example in adopting similar gun laws. State law prohibits importing, selling and manufacturing such devices but allows people to own or possess them. And the City Council unanimously backed new requirements to lock up or disable handguns in the home. Los Angeles is positioned for such measures because its liberal, heavily Democratic voter base and large minority populations favor gun restrictions.

CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE PERMIT POWER TO POLICE CHIEFS

California sheriffs soon may be able to legally pass the responsibility of issuing concealed handgun permits to city police chiefs, the latest salvo in a case of political hot potato for a state that gives local law enforcement agencies wide leeway in deciding who can carry a gun in public. The bill, introduced by Assemblyman Mark Stone, D-Santa Cruz, and supported by the California State Sheriffs' Association came in response to a lawsuit against former Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca that challenged his policy that gun owners from incorporated cities must first apply for a permit with their cities' police chiefs.

FLORIDA CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY BILL FAILS, WILL RETURN NEXT YEAR

State Rep. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, has filed a bill for the 2016 legislative session to allow concealed weapons on college campuses. "I feel very strongly about Americans and Floridians' Second Amendment rights, and that shouldn't stop at school," Steube said. "We've seen time and time again, these shootings on campuses where people can't protect themselves." He filed an identical bill last year that passed the House committees before dying in the Senate. Steube blamed the committee's chair, Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami, for not calling a vote. "It would've passed."

BALTIMORE HOMICIDE RECORD SOARS, MAYOR WANTS GUN CONTROL

The number of homicides in Baltimore reached 211 in August, matching the number for all of last year. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said the 211th homicide was in the Penn-North neighborhood of west Baltimore, the same gang-ruled area hit by riots in April. She suggested that it doesn't matter that Maryland has some of the toughest gun laws on the books when other states don't. "There are known entities who are battling it out on the streets like this is the wild, wild west, and we need help, she said." The mayor implored people with information to come forward - because her police and detectives can't control crime.

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MAINE GROUP SEEKS PETITION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK BALLOT QUESTION

A group hoping to require criminal background checks for all gun sales in Maine has taken the first step toward launching a petition drive for a statewide ballot question in 2016. Maine Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense Fund submitted an application for a petition to collect signatures to the Maine Secretary of State's Office. A news release from the group stated, "The Background Check Initiative would close a loophole in Maine by requiring that all sales and transfers be conducted through a licensed gun dealer, ensuring a background check is carried out each time." Bucksport police Chief Sean Geagan, who also supports the signature drive, said the intent is to keep criminals and the mentally ill from being able to get guns in Maine.

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR CHRISTIE VETOES GUN BILL

Gov. Chris Christie vetoed a bill that would have required people trying to erase their mental health records so they can purchase a firearm to first notify state and local police. He did not explain. The bill (S2360) had received overwhelming support from Democrats and Republicans in the state Legislature, with no lawmaker voting against it in either house. The legislation proposed requiring anyone seeking to have their mental health records expunged to purchase a firearm to notify the State Police, their county prosecutor and their local police department when petitioning the court. Current gun laws prevent people with certain mental health histories from purchasing firearms. "With the issues of the mass shootings throughout the United States with people with mental illnesses who acquire firearms through loopholes, this is a path to minimize that," said Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen), a sponsor of the bill.

IN THE STATES

SOUTH CAROLINA SENATOR PUSHES GUN CONTROL

Democrat State Senator Marlon Kimpson of Charleston says he will introduce gun-control legislation in January in response to recent gun violence in his home city. The slayings at Emanuel AME Church and more recent incidents of gun violence show the need for tighter restrictions on gun ownership. Kimpson's proposals would stop S.C. gun purchasers from buying a gun when NICS cannot complete a background check in three days, as federal law was written to prevent government from gun control by delay. Kimpson's proposed bill would require background checks to be conducted through the State Law Enforcement Division and the federal system before a gun sale could be completed. It would ban semi-automatic firearms with rapid fire, require reporting of lost or stolen guns and require state registration and permitting of all guns. The proposed bill is not considered likely to pass.

WASHINGTON STATE'S NEW GUN TAX CALLED ILLEGAL

Gun rights advocates are firing back after the Seattle City Council passed a gun and ammunition tax. They say the new tax violates state firearms laws and they're ready to file suit to get it overturned. Gun owner Paul Scherwin said Seattle's new gun tax will trickle down to consumers with store owners having to pay \$25 on each gun sold and a 5-cent tax on most rounds of ammunition. "I think it's very reasonable to expect a multibillion-dollar-a-year industry, the gun industry, to help offset the cost," Seattle City Council President Tim Burgess said. Seattle wants to raise money for research and programs aimed at preventing gun violence. City leaders say the gun tax could generate up to a half-million dollars a year. But gun rights advocates say it will cost the city business.

WEST VIRGINIA NOW HAS RECIPROCITY WITH NEVADA

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a concealed carry agreement had been reached between the Mountain State and Nevada. According to the AG's Office, West Virginia now has full concealed carry handgun reciprocity with Nevada, ensuring citizens' concealed handgun licenses issued by either state will be recognized by the other. "As Attorney General, it has been a priority to protect the Second Amendment rights of West Virginians and those who visit here," Morrisey said in a news release. The agreement marks 32 states with which West Virginia has full reciprocity or recognition, including neighboring Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

JUDGE DENIES INJUNCTION IN 3D PRINTER GUN PIONEER'S SUIT

U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman denied 3D printed gun pioneer Cody Wilson's request for a preliminary injunction against the State Department after the agency forced him to remove gun designs from his company's website. Judge Pitman said the plaintiffs did not meet the requirements necessary to secure a preliminary injunction. Second Amendment Foundation founder Alan Gottlieb said he didn't like the ruling but was happy the case would now move through the court system faster. "This case now will move faster and we believe we will win it at the appeals court."

COURT MAKES CONTRADICTION RULING ON GUNS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Second Amendment applies to Mariano Meza-Rodriguez, illegally brought from Mexico when he was four years old, but federal law prohibits illegal immigrants from possessing guns or ammunition. Now an adult, he was arrested in 2013 after a bar fight in Milwaukee for having a .22-caliber bullet in his pocket. Meza-Rodriguez argued that the charges should be dismissed on Second Amendment grounds but he was convicted of a felony and deported. His attorney will appeal to the Supreme Court.

IN THE COURTS

FAR-LEFT GROUP AGREES WITH ILLOGICAL APPEALS COURT RULING

The Left-wing Center for American Progress (CAP) hopes the Meza-Rodriguez case gives constitutional protection to undocumented immigrants "when they have come within the territory of the United States and developed substantial connections with this country" (a Supreme Court doctrine). Meza-Rodriguez lived in the United States for years and "developed close relationships" in the United States and worked in this country. A CAP publication said the Seventh Circuit found Meza-Rodriguez to have the "substantial connections" necessary to bring him under the Constitution's umbrella and might help all illegals.

SAF SUES OVER SEATTLE'S ADOPTION OF 'GUN VIOLENCE TAX'

The Second Amendment Foundation and two other gun rights groups sued the city of Seattle over its adoption of a so-called "gun violence tax," a tax on firearms and ammunition to research "gun violence." The suit called the tax legally unenforceable because Washington state prohibits local governments from adopting firearms laws. SAF founder Alan Gottlieb said, "The city does not seem to understand that no matter how they wrap this package, it's still a gun control law and it violates Washington's long-standing pre-emption statute."

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS FELON-IN-POSSESSION LAW

The Missouri Supreme Court upheld a state law banning felons from possessing firearms, ruling that it does not violate a constitutional right to bear arms. The court decision was based on a version of the Missouri Constitution that existed before voters amended it in 2014 to enhance gun rights. But the court's majority opinion relied upon the same "strict scrutiny" standard of the new amendment while analyzing whether the felon-gun law infringes on people's rights. Several judges said they would not have used "strict scrutiny" but still agreed that the ban passes constitutional muster.

SAF, FLORIDA CARRY WANT TALLAHASSEE OFFICIALS FINED

Attorneys for the Second Amendment Foundation and Florida Carry have asked a circuit court judge to assess fines of \$5,000 against Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, former Mayor John Marks and city commissioners Nancy Miller and Gil Ziffer for failing to repeal local gun control ordinances that conflict with state law. "When public officials essentially ignore their responsibility to comply with the law," SAF founder Alan Gottlieb said, "then they should be penalized in a way that gets their attention. A hefty fine that they can't pass on to the taxpayers is a good way to do that."

FEDERAL COURT STRIKES DOWN NEW YORK COUNTY CONFISCATED GUN POLICY

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York ruled that the Nassau County Sheriff's Department could not rely on its "retention policy" to keep guns seized from Christine Panzella without providing her with a due process hearing. Nassau County police officers confiscated her guns in a family dispute and would not return them when the dispute was over and required a court order to release the guns, making Panzella bear litigation costs. Nassau County was directed to hold a due process hearing regarding the confiscated guns within 30 days.

GUN RIGHTS ADVOCATES SUE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A group of open carry advocates has filed suit against 14 troopers and Texas Department of Public Safety director Steven McCraw for arresting members on five different occasions outside the State Capitol. The civil lawsuit, filed in a U.S. district court in Austin, seeks unspecified damages for lost wages, legal fees and other damages. Temple resident C.J. Grisham, former leader of Open Carry Texas and a candidate for Texas Senate District 24, is among the plaintiffs, which include Carry leader Terry Holcomb Sr., Scott Smith, Amos James Postell and Jacob Cordova.

GUN RIGHTS GROUP WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST GOVERNOR CUOMO

A gun rights group has won an open records lawsuit against New York State. SCOPE, or Shooters Committee On Political Education, sued Governor Andrew Cuomo after his office failed to turn over documents related to a gun rights rally that took place in front of the state capitol in April 2014. SCOPE contends Governor Cuomo made regulations to disrupt their demonstration. "I was there, and it was total intimidation," said New York State Assemblyman David DiPietro of East Aurora. "That was done by the governor on purpose."

IN THE COURTS

SCHOOL FIGHTS COURT RULE ALLOWING DAD'S OPEN CARRY IN SCHOOL

A Genesee County, Michigan school district voted to appeal a judge's ruling that says a father can carry his pistol openly inside his daughter's elementary school. Circuit Judge Archie Hayman ruled in favor of Kenneth Herman and the gun-rights advocacy group Michigan Open Carry. The district superintendent said the Legislature needs to take action to remove ambiguity in the law. State law allows people with concealed-pistol licenses to carry their firearms openly in schools. Tim Mullins, attorney for the Clio district, said state law allows school districts to make rules for the "safety and protection of students."

APPEAL OF WOMAN CAUGHT DRIVING WITH GUN REJECTED

Ohio's 9th District Court of Appeals has ruled that a woman's conviction on concealed weapons charges did not limit her right to bear arms. The defendant, Christina Glover, appealed from the judgment of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas where she pleaded no contest to carrying a concealed weapon in violation of Ohio state law. Glover claimed she was unconstitutionally charged after an officer found a loaded and operable handgun under her purse during a traffic stop. "We do not agree," Judge Carla Moore wrote on behalf of the court of appeals.

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS GUN BAN ON MADISON BUSES

A state appeals court agreed with a Dane County judge who ruled last year that a Madison city policy banning guns on city buses does not violate Wisconsin's concealed carry law. Wisconsin Carry, a gun rights group, contended that state law preempted the policy. But the state 4th District Court of Appeals said that, as written, state law doesn't bar the rule, which prohibits guns on Metro Transit buses. "Applying the language of the statute as written, we agree with the circuit court and the city that the statute plainly preempts only 'ordinances' and 'resolutions,'" Judge Paul Lundsten wrote for the panel.

LAWSUIT HITS ILLOGICAL STATE GUN LAWS

The Erie County Libertarian Party has filed a federal lawsuit against New York gun laws, said their attorney James Ostrowski. If they prevail, Ostrowski said, the court could toss any or all parts of New York's law and replace state background checks and convoluted rules with a simpler, faster process, such as an FBI criminal background check and a mental health review. Ostrowski said most previous lawsuits were heard in state courts, under judges appointed by New York's generally liberal politicians. Federal judges are more likely to be sensible.

DISTRICT JUDGE WONT PERMANENTLY STOP NO-GUN POLICY AT MUSIC FESTIVAL

Oklahoma Judge Thad Balkman said he won't make permanent his temporary order that barred organizers of a music festival from enforcing a weapons ban, saying the Legislature would be the proper forum to permanently prohibit enforcement of no-gun policies at public events. Earlier this year, the Cleveland County District judge granted a temporary injunction sought by a gun advocacy group to prohibit the Norman Music Festival from enforcing a no-guns policy on public areas. Licensed handgun carriers were allowed to bring firearms, but not on private property.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Washington, D.C.:** National rates of gun homicide and other violent gun crimes are strikingly lower now than during their peak in the mid-1990s, paralleling a general decline in violent crime, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data. Beneath the long-term trend, though, are big differences by decade: Violence plunged through the 1990s, but has declined less dramatically since 2000. Despite national attention to the issue of firearm violence, most Americans are unaware that gun crime is lower today than it was two decades ago. According to a new Pew Research Center survey, today 56% of Americans believe gun crime is higher than 20 years ago and only 12% think it is lower.

● **Newtown, Connecticut:** The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms industry, obtained records from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission showing lobbyist expenditures through June where the public policy issue before the state was universal background checks for all firearms transfers. The Michael Bloomberg-funded Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund spent \$764,232.35 in the reporting period covered, eclipsing even the Oregon teachers lobbying arm by \$484,055. How much did all the pro-Second Amendment groups spend? A grand total of \$88,000.

● **Washington, D.C.:** On August 26 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) spokesman Thomas Faison confirmed that Virginia gunman Vester Lee Flanagan bought his gun "weeks ago" and that "he apparently passed a background check" to get the gun, a Glock 19 9mm. Confirmation that Flanagan passed a background check means he joins numerous other attackers and alleged attackers who have passed background checks for their guns. The fact that Flanagan passed a background also calls into question Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe's (D) call for background check legislation.

● **Minneapolis, Minnesota:** A record 200,000 Minnesotans now have permits to carry handguns, an increasingly diverse group that includes two men who recently made split-second, life-altering decisions to fire their weapons. In 2003, the year Minnesota passed its permit-to-carry law, 15,000 five-year permits were issued. The number issued annually then decreased for several years. But by 2014, 184,985 Minnesotans held permits. Today, one in 20 Minnesotans has a permit, 19 percent of them women. Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension data show that fatalities involving permit holders are rare. From 2013 to 2014, gun crimes reported to the BCA involving permit owners dropped in half. While the numbers may not tell the full story – law enforcement can't track all gun owners who flash weapons only if needed for self-defense – gun rights advocates say they're telling.

● **Detroit, Michigan:** In a city plagued by chronic unemployment and crime and guarded by a dwindling police force, residents of Detroit are increasingly taking protection of themselves, their families and property into their own hands. Those who do so responsibly have the blessing and backing of Detroit Police Chief James Craig. "When you look at the city of Detroit, we're kind of leading the way in terms of urban areas with law-abiding citizens carrying guns," Craig said recently. The chief's call to arms, which first came in December, 2013, has been answered by thousands of men and women tired of being victims and eager to reclaim their beleaguered city. In 2014, some 1,169 handgun permits were issued, while 8,102 guns were registered with Detroit's police department – many to prior permit holders who bought new firearms. So far in 2015, nearly 500 permits have been issued by the department and more than 5,000 guns have been registered.

● **Burlington, Vermont:** Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is in many ways the dream presidential candidate for the resurgent progressive wing of the Democratic Party, staking out unapologetically liberal policy positions in nearly every arena throughout his career. But on one issue, Sanders could disappoint the party's base voters, gun control. Sander's voting record on gun control is mixed and he has doubts about its effectiveness. In 1993, then Rep. Sanders voted against the landmark Brady Background Check bill, which instituted the federal background check system.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **New York City:** A new study, which claims that more police were feloniously killed in states with more guns, mistakenly concludes that private gun ownership causes police deaths. Between 1996 and 2013, 991 police officers have been killed in the line of duty. But researchers' dislike of guns may be clouding their judgment, and a new study, which claims that more police were feloniously killed in states with more guns, mistakenly concludes that private gun ownership causes police deaths. But if the researchers hadn't left out controls used by everyone else for this type of empirical work, they would have gotten the opposite results from what they claimed. Previous research has done just that. And it has found that concealed handgun permits lead to fewer police deaths. The authors offered no explanation for the new study's unorthodox approach.

● **Stockholm, Sweden:** The response of Swedish authorities to 'stabbings' by Eritrean asylum seekers which killed a Swedish mother and son shopping in the Våsterås branch of IKEA has mystified some international observers. Police officials will not say whether it was actually a beheading or confirm whether the killers shouted "Allah Akbar" as they struck. IKEA stopped selling kitchen knives in-store, and the government has stepped up its policing at asylum-lodgings to defend against a revenge backlash to kill Eritrean immigrants.

● **Jemison, Alabama:** The Rocky Mount United Methodist Church, aware of church invasions by shooters, turned an unused, overgrown hole behind the church property into a gun range. Originally, the idea was to teach parishioners how to use guns, but the gun range has since grown into a unique ministry, says Pastor Phillip Guin. After several parishioners said they had purchased guns but didn't know how to use them, the church decided to create a gun range. "We are in the south, people own guns, they love guns, but many do not have a place where they can safely practice their use," Guin explained. Now cleared of kudzu and snakes, the fenced-in property behind the church has the trappings of a proper gun range, including an area for cardboard or paper targets, an area for metal targets, yardage signs, and a shooting table. Guin says guns are a great way to bring people to God.

● **Chicago, Illinois:** Cook County Officials were pushing a gun and ammo "violence tax" to offset the cost of gun violence in Chicago. The tax was implemented in 2013, homicides rose in 2014, and they are higher now than they were a year ago. The Seattle City Council passed a similar tax-\$25 for every gun and five cents for every bullet sold in the city-under the same premise; that a punitive tax will somehow punish those behind gun crime, perhaps reducing it. In all, *USA Today* reported the homicide rate in Chicago jumped "19 percent" and "shooting incidents" rose "21 percent." Seattle is likely to see the same thing.

● **New York City:** Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump regularly calls for getting rid of gun-free zones. However, if the real estate magnate is to succeed in his quest, he'll have to start with places like Trump-branded hotels and golf courses. Getting rid of gun-free zones has also been a regular talking point for Trump on the campaign trail. "We have to get rid of that whole gun-free zone nonsense and just stop it," Trump declared during a speech in Charleston, South Carolina on July 21. "We gotta stick up for the Second Amendment." However, a manager at Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago said, "No, we don't allow any firearms in the hotel." Same on Trump golf courses.

● **Albany, New York:** Following the shooting of Tamir Rice (who, at the time, was holding a toy gun that looked real), there has been a push by the usual suspects to ban toy guns. Instead of teaching kids that walking around outside with something that looks like a deadly weapon is a bad idea, the Attorney General of New York, Eric Schneiderman, has decided that the way to "fix" this "problem" is to try and crack down on the sale of these inanimate objects. Schneiderman said there have been 63 shootings in New York since 1994 as a result of someone holding a toy weapon. The toy companies agreed to pay \$300,000 in penalties and stop selling toy guns in New York.

Parting Shot

A PARENT'S NIGHTMARE ñ THE CHILDREN ARE HOME ALONE AND ROBBERS BREAK IN

Kieawa Mason lives in a nice North Las Vegas residential neighborhood with double garage, two story, single family homes and hard-working families that keep them attractive.

He and his wife were at work one day while the children - a 14-year-old son, Andrew, and his younger twin siblings - were home alone.

About 1:30 in the afternoon there was an insistent knocking at the front door.

Andrew and the twins were trained not to answer when anyone knocked, but, as Andrew said,

"Eventually I heard a thud on the door so I assumed, he's breaking in."

The kids ran upstairs and followed what their dad had told them to do in this scenario.

They hid in a closet.

Andrew said, "Dad taught me what to do. I had a rifle, I had a cell phone, called 911, I was just prepared for it."

Two thieves, 18-year-old Various McNeal and a boy of 16, started packing up a silver sports car with stolen goods.

Andrew was still hidden in the closet with his brother, rifle in hand.

McNeal found them, saw the gun and both thieves ran.

Surveillance cameras caught the pair getting in the car and speeding off.

Kieawa Mason was proud of his son's quick thinking and furious that someone would rattle their peace of mind.

"It truly angers you," he said.

"My wife and I work very hard. We don't bother anyone, and for someone to come violate our family our household, it really is upsetting."

Kieawa Mason took to social media and posted photos of the criminals online.

It worked so well the thugs couldn't go anywhere without being recognized and chased, so they turned themselves in.

McNeal was charged with counts of home invasion with a deadly weapon, burglary with a firearm, grand larceny firearm and grand larceny, and is being held on \$100,000 bail at the Clark County Detention Center.

The minor was booked into Clark County Juvenile Hall, police said.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Tartaro

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