



STREET SURVIVAL 101

■ AQUIL BASHEER

Robbery/Homicide

Mr. Williams hated working the late shift at the convenience store. Ever since his wife lost her means of employment due to downsizing, he had to take a second job to make ends meet. It was especially bad this night; he would be by himself for two hours before the second clerk arrived. It was a cold night out. Tuesdays always found very few customers coming into the store to conduct business.

I guess that was the reason why Mr. Williams had paid particular attention to the van that had pulled in the store parking lot then backed into a parking space very close to the entrance door. He watched as the two men, one White and the other Black (who looked to be in their late teens to early twenties) exited the vehicle with the single middle aged, white female and proceeded to enter the store. Once inside the location they traveled in opposite directions throughout the store.

There was only one other customer inside the convenience center (a single female who appeared to be in her early thirties who was accompanied by a young girl of about eleven or twelve, possibly her daughter). This allowed Mr. Williams to

focus his attention on the three patrons that had just entered. He did not have a good feeling about these individuals; it was not anything in particular that he could put his finger on, it was just a "mood" or "instinct" that told him to be careful and keep alert! He thought to himself "I have got to stop judging people so much." Anyway, if these chumps do have some evil intentions in mind, I have not been trained or provided any real tools by the company to do much of anything so I will do what I have to do! I will let them have whatever they want; I'm not going to die for \$8.50 an hour. Hopefully everything will be alright; he had not survived these streets this long to not realize, he had better put in place some survival measures. He reached under the counter and made sure his 38 Smith & Wesson was out of the holster and ready to go. As to hoping everything would be alright, well, that was another matter. It wasn't!

The three individuals who entered the store had made the commitment that whatever store they hit, they weren't going to leave any witnesses, whether those witnesses cooperated or not, they didn't give a damn, they came to do damage and whoever got caught in the crossfire, shame on

them. Somebody was probably going to die this night! Tragedy in the making.

Let's be clear on what a robbery really is. The definition according to Merriam Webster's Dictionary 11th edition is: "Taking or attempting to take something of value from the care, control, or custody of a person or persons by FORCE or threat of FORCE or VIOLENCE and by putting the victim in fear". For armed robbery, add a weapon to the above definition. Keep in mind, robbery is not limited to the taking of just physical possessions. The taking of something of value also pertains to your life! This would be a robbery homicide. There is no robbery unless force or fear is used to overcome resistance.

There is a robbery every 45 seconds. Most robberies take about 2 minutes! For the most part, robberies occur in three phases, they are: 1. The case (evaluation & selection of the target), 2. The contact (physical contact made & target defenses breached), 3. The escape (Everything, including murder, is done to assure the exiting of the scene and the robber's not getting apprehended). The average robbery nets only about \$900 per job, \$400 per convenience store, \$4,000 per bank. 42% of robberies occur in commercial establishments. Average cost of a robbery to the taxpayer is about \$20,000.

Let's create a "profile"; you must remember that a profile should never be based on physical descriptions alone. The best profile is a "Situational Profile" which concentrates

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on "Actions" & "Circumstances". What is the perpetrator doing and do his actions dictate a threat to you? In evaluating the average robber, certain aspects about them leap out, they are as follows:

Thirty-six percent knew their victims; 91% of robberies are committed by men. 39% are committed by men under the age of 25. Over 56% of robberies are committed by pairs of two, 20% committed by four persons or more! 52% are committed with firearms while 42% are committed with knives. On average Black men commit 51% while white men commit 44%.

The female who had accompanied the two men was the first to arrive at the counter. Mr. Williams slowly put one of his hands under the counter by his firearm. The female smiled at Mr. Williams and asked him how was his night going; she seemed to be very polite. Mr. Williams's response was "I'm having a good night". The young lady purchased a large ice tea, but was having trouble opening the can; she asked Mr. Williams could he help. He said sure (The contact). She gave him the can and just as he grabbed it the white robber came from around the corner aisle, pulled out a sawed

off shotgun from under his coat and told him to freeze or die, he commented "you were having a good night, not anymore." At the same time the young lady pulled out what appeared to be a small caliber automatic pistol and pointed it at Mr. Williams.

The Black guy was at the front door posting as a look out. We want everything and we want it quick! Mr. Williams knew he had only one chance and that was with his Smith & Wesson. He also knew he had to do something or the Mother and daughter, who were still in the store, might get hurt. If the opportunity presented itself he was determined to take it!

Just then in the parking lot, a couple who had been drinking pulled up to close to the robbers' van and struck the rear bumper hard, a loud bang sounded and for an instance the man holding the shotgun's attention was drawn away from Mr. Williams. Williams saw his chance, he grabbed his pistol and with no hesitation shot the man holding the shot gun three times mortally wounding him, he then instructed the female robber to lower her gun or she would get the same, she did. The guy at the door darted outside, ran towards the van

and jumped in (the getaway).

Mr. Williams felt relieved; he had saved his life as well as the mother and daughter. Just as he turned to make sure they were ok, he heard three large pops and felt pain to his temple. That was before he blacked out and collapsed, later passing away. He had failed to realize the Mother and daughter were part of the trio, they had arrived ten minutes early to "survey" the store (the case).

The Mother was actually the wife of the man he just shot and killed! He had underestimated the predators and not qualified everyone involved, also by not having and using a "survival plan" it, unfortunately, had cost him his life!

AQUIL BASHEER ■ IS AN AWARD WINNING, NATIONALLY RENOWNED VIOLENCE DETERRENCE AND THREAT ABATEMENT SPECIALIST WHO HAS TRAINED AND CONSULTED TO PRIVATE CORPORATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROFESSIONALS NATIONWIDE FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. A MARTIAL ARTS, STREET SURVIVAL GRANDMASTER AND A CERTIFIED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPERT, BASHEER IS CURRENTLY THE CEO OF MAXIMUM FORCE ENTERPRISES AND THE FOUNDER OF THE B.U.I.L.D. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY. HE CAN BE REACHED AT (323) 295-1904, OR BY EMAIL: TAKECHARGEINC@AOL.COM.