

## Real World Graduation: Question 69: Defending Your Community

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### Question 69

A certain community has been plagued by many years of violence by criminal gangs. These gangsters have engaged in street battles in which innocent people, sometimes even small children, were killed in the cross-fire. They have burned peoples' houses down, ruined the schools and parks, and hold loud parties that reduce the quality of life in the neighborhood. Children are afraid to go to school, and people in general are afraid to go outside after dark. Over the past ten years, 92 innocent people (24 of them children under the age of 10) have been killed by the gangs, with 264 others injured seriously enough to warrant hospitalization. The local police force has done the best they could with limited resources. They do manage to arrest a few gangsters after especially infamous crimes, but overall the neighborhood is becoming increasingly dangerous. Criminal activity by the gangs shows no signs of abating, despite the fact that the members of the gangs are well-known to the police and residents alike. The residents have found that complaining to City Hall is a waste of time, as the politicians say they are doing the best they can.

A group of residents decides to act in their own interests. They hold a secret meeting and develop a plan to arm themselves, patrol the neighborhood, and attack and kill as many known gang members as they can find. A local informant finds out about the plan, and reports the residents to the police. What will happen next?

- a) The chief of police arranges a meeting with the residents, and offers to share all the information about the gangs possessed by the police, so that the gangs can be eliminated more efficiently.
- b) The chief of police orders his men to assist the residents in any way they can.
- c) The mayor intervenes and convinces the residents to abort the plan and also orders the police not to aid the residents. He arranges for representatives of the residents and the various gangs to sit down and discuss the issues in the neighborhood, with the idea that a negotiated settlement can be worked out.
- d) The mayor tries to convince the state to fund a jobs-training program for the gang members. At the same time, he convinces the residents to hold off on their plan until the jobs program takes effect.
- e) Some combination of the above.

### Answer to Question 69

This is a trick question. The correct answer is that the chief of police will notify the mayor of an impending action by the residents; the mayor and chief of police will agree henceforth to call the planned citizen action an "insurrection"; the mayor will notify the Governor, and the Governor will call out the National Guard to round up and arrest all the residents who were alleged to be involved in the plan. Those who resist arrest are to be executed on the spot. Those who are arrested are to be tried for terrorist conspiracy, and for hate crimes if any of the targeted gang members are either illegal aliens or belong to a racial group different than a majority of the residents involved in the plan. The mayor will then call a press conference and brag about the efficiency of his administration when it comes to dealing with "impending terrorist threats by crazed vigilantes", and reiterating his call for control of all weapons in the hands of citizens, especially guns, knives with blades longer than 2", baseball bats, tire irons, chains, bricks, rocks larger than 3" in diameter, and rope in lengths exceeding 4 feet. He will then declare a state of emergency and send the police door-to-door to confiscate all these items, excepting of course, from known members of organized crime syndicates.

Note that the city administration is not the least bit concerned about the deaths of the innocent people over the past ten years; it is greatly concerned about the armed conspiracy to eliminate the criminals. The child who is murdered on the way to kindergarten is not a problem for the city administration. After all, the parents can always make another one, right? But the prospect of professional criminals turning up dead is a serious matter indeed.

The fact that the residents are forced to hide in their homes after dark is acceptable, but the city government simply will not tolerate any situation in which criminals are impeded in their activities. The city will exert powers to regulate the ability of law-abiding residents to exercise self-defense at the community level, and will promptly prosecute all "extremists", defined as anyone who believes their life has value. Therefore, the amount of criminal violence in any given neighborhood is based on what the politicians and the police chief will tolerate. On the other hand, residents are required to tolerate an infinite amount of violence against themselves and their children. Politicians like any situation that keeps the people in fear because people in fear do what they are told.

The only remedy for this situation is to move out of the neighborhood, because politicians and police chief's are generally afraid of organized crime. There is little point in fighting back against criminals and being rewarded with life without parole in a maximum security facility. It is better to give up your home, change jobs if necessary, and move to a safer neighborhood until the gangs take that one over too.

Just don't forget to pay your local taxes to support your ever-efficient justice system and the politicians who are always bragging about their promises to protect you and your family.