



Date: 10/25/2023

Time: 10AM until 12PM

Location: 1750 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street Chicago IL, 60643

Virtual info below:

Meeting ID: 83457129193

Password: 553998

Phone Number: 312-626-6799

## ROSC OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

Community Topic/ Training: Safety and You: Trainer Sgt. Warren Avery **CADC**

### **Your Right to be safe and secure.**

- All American citizens including ex-felons, and formerly addicted Substance Users
- The right to bear arms (if it is legal in the in the state you reside)
- The right to vote (if you are not convicted of a felony)

### **Beware, Be Prepared:**

**Survival Mindset:** Must include all aspects of your life which include home, auto, etc.

- 1<sup>st</sup>: learn and practice how to protect yourself.
- Beware of your surroundings and be alert
- Have a plan and strategy in place for safety.
- If you have a family practice and plan safety for emergency **Code Word or phrase.**

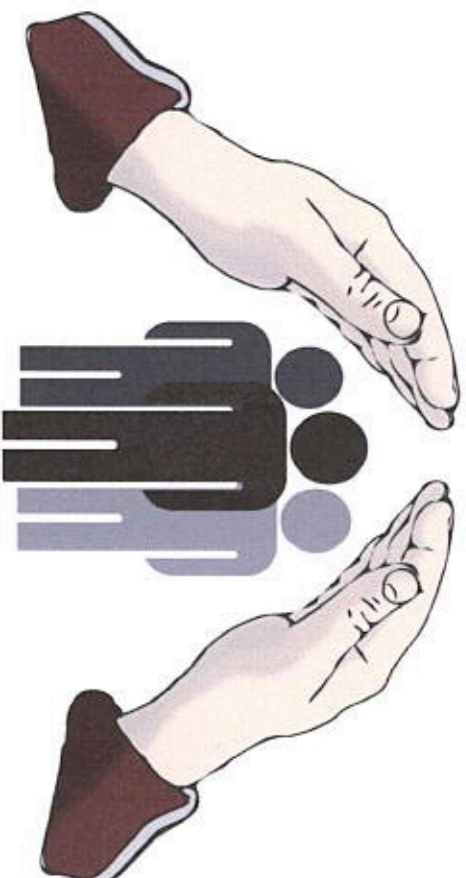
### **Protecting yourself and your home:**

- Consider escapes routes in your house- tie a rope or toss ladder to a window.
- Use what you have around the house.
- Firearm: FOID card holder only

### **Facing a Shooter or a shootout:**

- Stay low to the ground.
- Take cover.
- Make distance between you- the threat.
- Run, call for help.
- Utilize the element of surprise.
- If you have a weapon aim, it is at the center mask of the body.

**Think like the police Lets make it home just as we came.**



# Safety And you

Presenter

Sgt. Warren Avery CADC

# YOUR RIGHT TO BE SAFE AND SECURE

For all American citizens, including **ex-felons** and **formerly addicted substance users'** access to your total package of citizen rights and constitutional protection are essential, and intricate in your parcel of rights. But for this aforementioned population these rights esp. **the right to bear arms and to vote** are often denied or restricted, and this, essentially, often permanently. But there is regress and systems in place, though little known and arduous, to reclaim these constitutional rights.



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# **BE AWARE BE PREPARED**

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The SURVIVAL MINDSET and practice must incorporate all aspects of your life: Your Home, Your Auto and when Out and Bout, etc.

You must recognize, that at any moment, or any occasion is the idea time for a threat to appear.



[illegible]

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- But all, esp. city dwellers, need to imagine scenarios in their heads. Not just once, but to practice this play, for as long as it takes – until one feels comfortable that they can respond appropriately to several levels of imagined threats
- You need to imagine scenarios and how you might protect yourself, not when it happens – that's too late for a plan, at that point!
- Now, I don't mean to be over dramatic or scary, but in essence, if you've elected to **Conceal Carry**, you've already opinionated that things are serious out here.
- For your safety and freedom, be prepared and planned! (When you leave the house, and even at home)
- All must have a **Survival Mindset – and a plan in place**
- Imagining, How am I going to survive a possible attack or grab?
- Meaning, what is my plan, How will I escape – the best intact.



## HAVING A PLAN

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- Sadly, the Bad guys have a **Survival Mindset** – Yes, the bad guys have a plan – against you, to get the jump, and keep the jump.
- So, you're having a **Plan for Survival** is a must!
- Again, For a **Survival Mindset**, You need to imagine (unpleasant) scenarios And Practice, Practice, Practice – how to survive / escape these threats
- It must include all your resources: fighting, yelling, running, etc. Also, specific actions: ie strike to eyes, stomp to shin - And to strike early!
- **If you have a family**, All need to practice drills together, fire drills, House Intruder drills, car intruder drills. Also, you (the parent practice drills individually) with each member.
- And families need a non-sensible emergency family **code word** or phrase. This is especially needed with aging populations and children.

# PROTECTING YOURSELF AT HOME

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- Consider escape routes in your house – a rope or toss ladder to climb out a window.
- And what other non-traditional weapons do you have around your house
- Or may want to place around your house – my golf clubs
- What do you have around your house, that can make noise when a door is opened or window??? Bells, chimes, one dollar window alarm, from dollar store.
- The noise is two-fold, it can possibly scare an intruder off, But also, be a warning for you, to prepare a defense or escape move.



# FACING A SHOOTER OR SHOOTOUT

- What if the opposition also has a firearm?
- Number one is avoid being a good target - Depending on your options
- Find cover: A tree, a car, a fence, a building
- Make distance between you - Run, zig-zag
- Utilize the element of a surprise in your counter move,
- Fall to ground, and roll, and end up headfirst, towards perpetrator, removing your weapon going down. And aim at perpetrator from ground position and fire. And he'll shockingly find out you aren't the everyday Joe of Jane!
- If you have a weapon also, and have decided to utilize it, always aim at center mast (that's the waist to the neck) not the head!

## Why aim at the center mast?

- Two reasons, it's the biggest lethal target, And also a firearm tends to recoil, up
- Remember, Be wise, use your firearm to escape, not for street justice. So, once, you neutralize the threat (and his weapon) run, escape!







- **GAS STATIONS** – a breeding ground for petty crimes.
- It's highly public, visible and transient. And busy and distracted persons unknowingly are displaying where their money and credit cards are.
- And often, right on its perimeters, there are perpetrators with ill intent, staking out these stations. Often with multiple cars, binoculars, window breaking tools, etc. And sometimes, an accomplice may be already inside the station, even often to the (bullet proof glass protected) employee's knowledge but helplessness.
- In a daze, many drivers leave their cars running, especially in cold weather. And many leave their doors unlocked. But the crooks also have unlocking devices.
- Often, left in danger are purses, pets and other valuable left in the car. And inside the station there are often pick-pocketers, purse snatchers, gold chain grabbers, etc.

# **How Can Drivers Be Safer at Gas Stations**

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## **How Can Drivers Be Safer at Gas Stations**

- Before approaching gas station, have money or credit card in hand, and purse or other objects of value out of sight.
- Never keep vehicle running at gas station, while entering.
- Never allow valuables to be visible - Never leave children or pets in vehicle
- Limit your trips to gas stations by waiting till your vehicle is about quarter full, and filling your car up every trip
- Also utilize gas stations in what you deemed that are in safer neighborhoods and Get your gas early morning, but especially do not stop at gas stations after dark



- Intersections, Parking lots, Your Driveway
- And be mindful, often perpetrators work in pairs, while you entertain one, the second one is sneaking around stealing your car or robbing it
- **Bumper Tappers**
- My Safety First, Your Feelings second Leave the scene, immediately if you feel a possible threat
- **Highway Hunters**
- Groups that travel the highway to find stranded motorists If you are stranded, it may be best to leave your car – for a safe lookout point till your real help arrive
- So, Keep on hand Emergency clothes, coats and food, flashlights, a window breaking tool, (if you land in water or if the doors jam) etc.
- Also, Possible in your Survival Planning could be
- The idea of if accosted, to toss your purse or wallet, a distance away, to give you possible between you and the perpetrators, as he hopefully goes for your goods.
- Also, women consider in your planning, not running in High heel shoes – so, consider to toss any restrictive shoes or clothing, so you can flee!





- A Caution when leaving the Bank – another high target
- When leaving the bank, or currency (God forbid) and you're driving (hopefully)
- Go a circuitous route, do not drive straight home,
- Looking out for any cars tailing you.
- (Even if you didn't get any money out, they don't know that)
- Any area is vulnerable, if you are not at your peak of awareness, so walking down the street, be observant of your surroundings.
- If someone is behind you, cross the street, change your directions,
- Females, especially, should utilize the buddy plan.



## SAFETY WHILE OUT AND ABOUT

What if a pedestrian or otherwise, a perpetrator gets the jump on you!

- Consider what Security expert, SANFORD STRONG, said on Oprah, years back:
- Don't let the perpetrator take you to a second crime scene – your odds worsen
- So, freely, Give up everything you have, all valuables, but make it go down there!
- (But, to each his own, here!) You must use your gut and own intuition here.
- But if they're trying to displace you and you choose to fight their bad intention You need to counter soon as possible and with wild reckless abandon And strike him in a vulnerable spot – so you must learn ahead human vulnerable body area. And this should have already been in your Survival Planning.
- Slice kick him in the shin
- Chop him in the throat- Keep a hat pin with you, to gouge his eyes.



Stay  
Alert!

## SAFETY IN YOUR AUTO

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- What do you do if the car behind you roughly taps your car's rear bumper?
- As soon as able, always make two quick calls one to police and the second to trusted help
- Should you have any concern or fear, especially at night, or on a deserted area, try to ascertain as many facts about the second vehicle and its driver as you can, and just drive to the nearest police station, alone, and report the accident.
- And consider this, even if it's a female behind the second, wheel. They often have a female do the deed, then they emerge from the passenger side or from a third vehicle to accost you. They have also been known to hide and lie in wait, in the second vehicle's trunk, or on the floor of the back seat.
- And consider ahead in your SURVIVAL PLANNING, What do you do if you're stranded on the highway with a car breakdown.
- Do you keep extra warm clothes, jackets in the trunk, snacks? You may want to hide in some bushes until your real help arrive, because highway Hunters – those that prey on stranded highway motorists for their crimes and often pleasure.
- But, if you can't or choose not to play the hiding game, and you are approached - Put the helper / perpetrator on Face Book live and his car and license plate



*You Know Your Rights*  
RIGHT?

## PERTINENT LEGAL STANDINGS

(Firearms Ownership for Felons and Those in Recovery)

- In the state of Illinois, you are permitted to own firearms, but only after you have received your firearm owner's identification (FOID) card. The requirements for getting a FOID card include being at least 21 years old, not being a convicted felon, and not being addicted to narcotics, among other requirements.
- The Illinois Supreme Court ruled that if a convicted felon can establish the requirements of Section 10(c) (1)-(3), they have their civil rights restored and may be granted a FOID. However, the Supreme Court of Illinois went further and held that a petitioner must establish the FOID Act's Section 10 factors "to the courts or Director's satisfaction."
- The Illinois Supreme Court recently ruled (2023) in Evans against the State of Illinois decision, that the right to bear arms was a **civil right issue**. And if a felon's other civil rights are restored the right to bear arms, must be considered for restoration as well, but it must not offend any Federal laws and the decision still rest with the State Police Director and Courts

# CONCEAL CARRY LEGALLY

- Keep your Conceal and FOID card, on you, ALWAYS!
- Check your wallet, periodically, to make sure it hasn't slipped out And for you females, that change purses, you need to be extra careful, on that!
- And a safety thing you can do, is write down your FOID number and expiration date, and hide it in your glove compartment
- **Revealing your weapon Or even Acknowledging that you are carrying,** to someone, is a NO, NO
- And if someone perceives it as a threat! You could lose your license to carry and possibly get some serious charges.
- Even, if someone, **Accidentally sees your weapon**, you are out of bound and if you think it's any chance of someone reporting you, you need to drive straight to the police station and ask them to file an Incident Report.
- Anywhere that says no weapon upon entry even if you are conceal and carry you cannot bring establishment.
- And in Chicago, a new law, many weapons must be registered with the Police



# CONCEAL CARRY LEGALLY-CONT'

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- **When is it legal to use?** In defense of YOUR LIFE, or from perceived imminent severe bodily harm
- Or in defense of another, under same guideline???
- The closer the other individual is related to you the greater this holds up
- **How about when you're getting carjacked???**
- And they have weapons is it legal to use your weapon?
- **How about you're shopping and are threatened with physical harm?**
- Would you be justified if you pulled out your weapon, just to stop them?
- And what if you're outside and fired a warning shot?
- **If you do, here are some of the possible charges you could be up against**
- Unlawful Use of a Weapon! Firing a weapon in the city limits!  
endangerment of other!





## THINK LIKE THE POLICE

(Let's make it home, just as we came)

- If you do have to use your Concealed Carry, you need to borrow a page from the police, no matter what the primary reasoning was, and even if you were defending a family member or choose to defend a stranger, which is legally (quasi) permissible, under the Conceal act. (and I still add a note of caution here, which I'll elaborate later)
- Your statement of fact, should be, "I discharged my weapon in defense of **my** life or a perceived imminent threat to **my** life, from the perpetrator. There is no greater right (or leeway provided) than when acting in defense of your own life!



# AWARENESS HELPS PUT THE ODDS IN YOUR FAVOR

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- On a public street, and as a pedestrians, we can't completely control our surroundings or pick of characters. But a keen awareness can help us navigate, therein, more safely. So, as a pedestrians, you should walk on the side of the street, that's facing approaching cars - against traffic. But, not in the street, except if you're avoiding some bushes or other vision blocking obstacles
- This is for all. Please don't listen to headphones or such or concentrate on your phone to the extent, that you make yourself an easy target! Wisdom says one should not be on a cell phone for an entire block, especially at night where your visibility is already limited. I've even seen groups, where all are pre-occupied on their phones—and no one is taking stock of their surroundings or sinister eyes.
- As, a seasoned officer, I've seen too many of these easy – and too late - regretful crime victims. And it's my opinion, that regarding the streets, your cell, should principally be an emergency device or a tool for essential communications. And while the cell phone user, often, don't know what hit them, I've heard more than one perp boast “it's like taking candy from a baby!”

# CONCLUSION

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- Again, the main rule is to listen to your gut, right? But to do that, you need to exercise a bit of awareness of the moment and your surroundings.
- Now, I'm not inferring that by being extra aware one can prevent all occurrences of attacks against you, because nothing can. But if a hyper level of awareness and planning can prevent just one attack - just that one, avoidance, may save you from needless grief or even help extend your days, on this good green Earth.



## REFERENCES

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- A couple of reference books on Safety (of Home and Persons)
- 'Strong on Defense' By Sergeant Sanford Strong (book and a video - on You Tube)
- Survival Signals that Protect Us from Violence'
- Protecting the Gift' books by: Gavin de Becker

## ASSISTANCE CENTERS

- Chicago Urban League - 4510 South Michigan Ave, Chicago
- FOID Offices – [WWW.isp.state.il.us](http://WWW.isp.state.il.us)

**THANK you**  
*Warren Avery*

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QUESTIONS

