



CHESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

TELEPHONE: 610-344-6801  
FAX: 610-344-5905

THOMAS P. HOGAN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

201 W. MARKET STREET, SUITE 4450  
POST OFFICE BOX 2746  
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380-0991

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Retired Police Officer Thwarts  
Armed Robbery of Gas Station**

A retired police officer was waiting to pick up a friend at a Turkey Hill gas station in Coatesville just before midnight on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. As the retired officer waited, a man entered the store and pointed a gun at the employees' heads, threatening to shoot them. The retired officer then entered the store and shot the armed robber, saving the people in the store. The suspect survived and has been arrested for robbery.

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "We got lucky. If not for this retired officer being in the right place at the right time, we certainly would have had a robbery, and might have seen a double murder. Instead, this defendant now will face justice."

Coatesville Police Chief John Laufer stated, "The defendant had a stolen gun and was a person disqualified from possessing guns. The retired officer had a permit to carry and acted quickly. We are all grateful that no innocent victim was killed.

The defendant is Lawrence Galloway. He is 33 years old. His last known address is in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

The facts alleged in the criminal complaint are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Just before midnight on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, a retired police officer was parked at the Turkey Hill located at 1014 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, Pennsylvania. The retired officer was armed and had a valid permit to carry his weapon. The retired officer was there to pick up a friend who was getting off work at midnight.

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

The retired officer then saw the defendant, later identified as Lawrence Galloway, enter the Turkey Hill. The defendant pointed a handgun at two employees, threatening to shoot them. Another witness reported that the defendant was pointing the gun at the employees' heads.

The defendant demanded money. He took money out of the cash register. The employees were afraid that the defendant was going to shoot them.

The retired officer saw what was happening and responded into the store. He engaged with the armed robber, shooting him multiple times in the lower portion of the body.

The defendant dropped his gun and fell to the floor. The police responded immediately and the defendant was taken to the hospital for surgery. All of the witnesses were fully cooperative. The defendant's gun was a loaded S&W 9mm semi-automatic handgun, reported as stolen out of Downingtown in 2016. The defendant is not permitted to possess any gun.

The entire incident was captured on video. The civilian witnesses credited the retired officer with saving their lives.

The defendant has been charged with armed robbery and related offenses. He is still in the hospital.

District Attorney Tom Hogan added, "Remarkably, we have not had a homicide in Chester County yet in 2019. Even as homicide rates are rising in Philadelphia, we remain a safe county. But this was too close for comfort. This retired police officer risked his own life to protect others."

This case was investigated by the Coatesville Police Department, with assistance from the Chester County Detectives. Anybody with any further information should contact Coatesville Detective Kirt Guyer at 610-384-2300.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan