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January 2019 **FINAL** Essay



Fear

It's almost midnight. The pounding on the walls shakes the entire building. The person causing the disturbance is a 30 year old schizophrenic/meth drug addict whose mother purchased a townhome in our building for the purpose of putting a roof over his head. Most recently, he has been homeless. For the last several years he has been in and out of prison. Tonight police come in response to a disturbance complaint. The occupant does not come to the door, but when the police look into the window, they see chaos. Holes punched in the walls, graffiti all over, furniture overturned. I'm scared!

The wall pounding and the screaming continue. The police come. The man either does not open the door when the police arrive, or ceases his disturbance/leaves the house just before they appear. This goes on at various hours of the day and night week after week with no relief in sight.

This past weekend, the young man was apprehended and taken to jail on issues unrelated to our HOA problems. It turns out that he had 3 pet ferrets in the townhome. Apparently, he asked the authorities to pick up the ferrets while he was detained. Animal Control arrived on the scene early Sunday morning and entered the unit. What they saw was horrific. Fragments of broken glass covered the floor. Furniture was overturned. Chairs were torn apart. Furniture cushions were punctured. Huge holes as well as Satanic symbols covered the walls. Filth enveloped the unit. Immediately, they took it upon themselves to contact the owner in Wyoming and inform her of their findings. Imagine. It is Animal Control that has the good sense to reach out to the homeowner. Not the HOA, not the police – but Animal Control.

It's rather interesting that after major homicides in Florida, Texas and even here in Colorado, the authorities immediately encourage people to reach out when they see something abnormal. I consider a trashed townhome occupied by the homeowner's son who is screaming obscenities, pounding on walls, and more recently, threatening to hurt his neighbors – sort of abnormal! Yet, everyone shrugs! They can't do anything about it! The HOA says call the police. The police assert that they can't intervene unless he's caught in a criminal act. The property manager hired by the HOA regards my concerns as "tiresome". None of these parties have even tried reaching out to the Wyoming homeowner and seeking her intervention.

This is becoming a topsy turvy world! What frightens me is that the institutions we depend on for protection, are either impotent or indifferent. Meanwhile, some of the most insightful actions, come from some of the most unexpected sources. I would have expected the HOA

and/or the police to investigate this individual as soon as he got on their radar screen. Was he a mere nuisance or a possible threat to the people in this community? The next step would have involved contacting the out of state owner, and trying to get her involvement. But this never happened.

And so the cycle may continue. Ultimately, the offender may remain free to instill fear and disruption in the lives of the people around him. But, perhaps more tragic, there exists a tortured soul in this man's body – a soul that may find itself trapped in the revolving door of our justice system. Unless.... his mother, the mental health community or some angel of mercy step up to the plate. The days are passing. What will happen?

I'm scared!

The sequel:

Two days after his arrest, the young man was released on a bond. Immediately, he went to the Humane Society of Boulder Valley to recover his 3 ferrets. What happened, is described in the following Boulder Camera article dated 1/17/19:

Man steals back his confiscated ferrets from Humane Society, Boulder police say

By Mitchell Byars

Staff Writer

Boulder police are looking for a man who reportedly stole back his own confiscated ferrets from the Humane Society of Boulder Valley.

The man went to the Humane Society, 2323 55th St., at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and tried to claim his two ferrets, which were confiscated during the man's arrest earlier in the week. The suspect became upset and started screaming and hitting things when he did not have the money to pay a fee to reclaim the animals, so staff allowed him to see the ferrets.

But the man then took the two ferrets and fled the building, shoving an employee to the ground in the process.

Boulder police spokeswoman Laurie Ogden said the man, whose name has not been released at this time, was still at large, as were the ferrets

The suspect could be facing robbery charges, Ogden said.

On Thursday, he returned to his townhome and once again began shouting and pounding on walls. At 1:15 AM on Friday the cavalry arrived – at least 6 cops. They arrested him once again (within 1 week of his earlier arrest) on ferret robbery charges. This time bail was not offered. I notified his mother in Wyoming about the latest happening. She decided to bring in a service during her son's absence to clean up and repair the unit. In the course of the cleanup, the hazmat crew discovered in the carport closet associated with the man's unit, a homeless man sound asleep. The man was subsequently arrested. At this writing, the son is in an isolation unit at the jail. In a couple of days, a court hearing will determine his fate – and ours, those of us who may have to coexist with him. How will this story unfold? To be continued....

