

*Press Release: 6-20-2018*

Hello, and thank you for coming. My name is David George, and I am the pastor here at Oakville Assembly of God. The events of last Sunday evening were tragic and shocking from all points of view. It was my request to remain unnamed and out of the media spotlight for the actions I performed. You need to know that it was not out of shame or regret that I wanted to maintain a small level of anonymity. My intention was and is to maintain the dignity and integrity of my ministry here in Oakville. I did not wish those actions to overshadow the ministry of the church and my service to the community that I love.

Secondly, I and my family needed time to process the events, ensure one another's well-being and just love each other. This was a traumatic experience for us and all of those involved.

Third, I felt it important to give the authorities the time they needed to investigate an already chaotic scene of events. They needed time to determine the truth as best as they are able without the hue of media fueled speculation and interpretation on the part of potential witnesses.

Fourth, the lives impacted by this event need to be considered, whether the gunshot victim and his family or the family and friends of the shooter whose lives will certainly be impacted by his choices that day. I want to thank those media outlets that respected my request to remain anonymous and give me the space needed to process things before responding publicly. I would also urge others to re-evaluate their position and procedures in approaching such events. Though I am not the first to say it, do not let the rush to be the first to report hinder the responsibility you all have to accurately report the news.

That being said, I have, in my understanding, been cleared of any wrong-doing in the matter with regards to my fatally shooting the man who instigated the violence on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Here is my brief account of the event:

My family and I were at Wal-mart on Sunday afternoon to make an exchange. I was speaking with an employee at the customer service desk while my wife, daughter, and grand-daughter were in a check-out line to purchase additional items. I heard shots fired near the back of the store. I am a concealed weapon carrier and permit holder, with significant training in the use of firearms and some of the legalities involved in a defensive encounter. As a volunteer firefighter I have also received active shooter training. In addition, I am also a credentialed Range Safety Officer. I train regularly to be proficient with the firearm I carry and to do so in a safe and responsible manner. All that to say, I was sure it was gunshots I heard and I was familiar with how I should respond, while considering mine and the public's safety in the setting of this large store. I was concerned for my own family and sought to find them and exit the building. My daughter, recognizing gunshots, also gathered her daughter and moved quickly to exit the building. I did not see my wife and so I continued to look for her as people began to realize the situation and run out of the building. At no time did I draw my firearm in the building.

While doing so, the gunman came past me waving and pointing his gun and exited the building. I followed carefully, along with another citizen carrying a firearm, unaware of what the shooter would do next or where he would do it. The gunman attempted to get a car and when he failed moved to another screaming at the driver. He then shot two times into the driver's side of the vehicle. When the driver did not or could not respond to his threats he began to travel in the direction that I thought my family to be. At this point I left cover and moved to intercept the gunman. When the gunman began threatening another person for the use of their car, I moved in order to have a safe shot at the gunman. He entered the vehicle, which I considered an even bigger threat and fired to stop the shooter. After being hit, the gunman tried to exit the vehicle and fell to the ground. I moved to clear the gunman yelling to him to drop the gun and show me his hands. I determined the gunman was incapacitated and unable to respond at this time.

It was then that I heard someone associated with the previous gunshot victim yelling for help that her friend/husband had been shot. I directed the other armed citizen to remain with the gunman and retrieved my jump bag/first aid bag from my nearby vehicle in order to render aid to the previous gunshot victim. I am an EMT with Oakville Fire Dept. and I responded as my duty and training instructed.

While, I am a pastor here at Oakville Assembly of God, I am also an EMT/Firefighter with Oakville Fire Dept. I am proficient with the use of the firearm I carry and trained appropriately to use it in a defensive setting. I carry a firearm for the same reason I carry a first aid bag, hoping never having to use them, but being prepared nonetheless. I acted on Sunday to protect my family and others from the gunman and his display of obvious deadly intent. This is in accordance with both by training as an emergency responder and calling as a pastor, husband, father and grandfather. I am grieved that the shooter's reckless actions endangered and hurt numerous individuals and demanded that he be stopped before doing more harm. My family, my congregation and I are praying for the gunshot victim's full recovery and for all those that are suffering as a result of Sunday night's tragic events, including the shooter's family.

Additionally, I would like to express my thanks to the other armed citizen for his concern and actions for the public's safety that day.

Thanks also to the two people who also responded to the need for aid to the injured victim. They moved to help, even when it was unclear if everybody was truly out of danger.

And finally, thank you to the media team that provided contact information between myself and the victim's family, as we were able to connect and share progress being made in his condition.

I will not be taking any questions or interviews at this time. I would ask that you respect that request and direct further inquiries regarding the event to the proper authorities.

Thank you.