

AFFIDAVIT OF JORDAN COOPER

I have been a political junkie since I was in high school. It didn't matter if the politics were local, state or federal. If there was a political aspect to something, I was there. I became worried over the years about the genuine lack of civil discourse that was taking place when political issues arose. Instead of rational debate about the issues, the right wing conservatives seemed to enjoy ad hominem attacks on whoever opposed them.

Shay Voss and Dakota McCudden are 2 examples of this idiot wing. I got to know both of them at a rally help last Fall. A local mayor had been pushing for anti-immigrant laws and was stoking up the right wing loonies to help in his re-election bid for mayor. I was shocked to see both McCudden and Voss at the rally carrying firearms. To me this was nothing more than an attempt to intimidate those of us who showed up to oppose the proposal. We got into quite a shouting match and eventually the police had to break things up. No charges were filed.

I decided it would be a good idea to keep my eye on McCudden and Voss. The best way to know your enemy is to read what they read. So, I began to monitor the Beck O'Reilly blog/website. The setup is similar to the Maddow Olberman site, where in addition to news and commentary, anyone with a screen name can add blog comments to stories reported upon. I never blogged on the Beck O'Reilly page, but did so on the Maddow Olberman site. My screen name is Freedom Writer.

The "Tea Bag" parties that were hosted by various right-wing political groups this past Spring and Summer were quite disturbing. No real attempt at

rational discussion; just a bunch of lunatics with libelous signs about the President. Toward the end of the Summer, I noticed more and more people were showing up at these events carrying guns. Unlike a lot of liberals, I am a firm believer in the 2nd Amendment. I belong to the Shiffer-Mark hunting camp and enjoy going out to try and bag a deer. I have a permit to carry a concealed weapon and have often done so. I believe in responsible firearm use.

When it was announced that the President was going to be holding a Town Hall meeting at the Young Center for the Performing Arts to discuss, among other things, health care reform, I was excited. My excitement was tempered by concern over the lunatic fringe appearing at the Town Hall and intimidating people. I was especially concerned about the safety of everyone there if these goofballs brought their guns with them again. The more I read on the Beck O'Reilly blog, the more concerned I got.

I therefore decided to fight fire with fire. I started posting on the Maddow Olberman blog that we should also attend carrying firearms to show that we will not be intimidated by right wing thugs. My postings were well received and on the day of the Town Hall there were quite a few of us. We had signs just like the other side had signs. And we had our guns just like they did. Even Steven as far as I was concerned.

As the time drew near for the arrival of the President, we decided to get closer to the nut cases to make sure nothing bad would happen. A loud argument ensued. The loudest person had to be Voss. Voss kept screaming at the top of his/her voice "Shut up, you fascist-socialist pig." That was it, again and

again. Some of the people with me began to shout back “We won’t be bullied by terrorists.” This was not the type of discussion I had hoped for.

While all of this was going on, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that McCudden was approaching the group. McCudden was waving a firearm. The gun was loaded. I knew what I had to do. I tackled McCudden and attempted to disarm him/her. In the scuffle I know I hit him/her in the face. I never took my firearm out of its shoulder holster. The only time it was removed from its holster was by the police officer when it was seized. I never kicked anyone, although it is possible that during the scuffle my foot came into contact with McCudden’s body.

I can’t believe criminal charges were filed against me. I was the one who called the police after McCudden was subdued. I was the one trying to maintain order. It seems like the right wing nuts can get away with anything, but when a liberal replies in kind, he/she gets prosecuted.

Jordan Cooper