Trust Your Gut

**The Tripwire**

*A Situational Report of events and research on security matters impacting the United States and its citizens today*

The Mackenzie Lueck Case

We’ve all been in uncomfortable situations. Maybe in a social situation during which someone makes a comment that seems inappropriate or asks you to do something that makes you feel awkward. We have all used the descriptor “creepy” a time or two. These are all signs. Signs that may mean nothing or may mean potential trouble. Trust your intuition. If it doesn’t feel right, don’t do it. Even if it is a false assessment on your part, your safety is more important.

When predicting behavior, among the numerous signs of which to be aware, are bizarre communications and inappropriate activity.

In the recent kidnapping and murder of Mackenzie Lueck in Salt Lake City, Utah, some bizarre and inappropriate activity caught the attention of a home renovation contractor. A contractor, who came into contact with murder suspect Ayoola Ajayi through a referral, says the man suspected of killing Lueck had asked him to build a secret soundproof room in his home.

In interviews, the contractor stated he met with Ajayi months earlier at his Salt Lake City home for consultation on constructing a new room in Ajayi’s home. The specifications on the room included a secret door, a thumb scanner on the room's entrance so he would be the only person allowed to enter, and it had to be soundproof with a few hooks installed high on the wall.

Ajayi claimed he wanted to listen to music as loud as he could and wanted to install a wine-rack on the hooks.

The contractor became nervous by Ajayi's requests saying, "People ask me to build all kind of stuff all the time, but nothing like this. This was just way too weird." The contractor declined the job. He further stated, "I just had a *gut* feeling it wasn't a job I wanted to do." "The pieces just didn't add up in my head. Obviously, I'm happy I had nothing to do with it."

Ajayi was arrested after police discovered he had been in the park where Lueck was last seen on June 17. Phone records showed her last communication was with Ajayi,

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/29/us/mackenzie-lueck-missing/index.html>

In cases involving pursuers, a violent act occurs when the pursuer finds himself in a situation where the conditions and opportunity are presented. In this case, the pursuer was attempting to create the condition and opportunity environment within his home. His goal was to lure his target (s) to his house and have a location within the home in which he would have complete control of the conditions to perform the act. A pursuer has the intent and is inclined toward violent behavior. The circumstances must be favorable and allow for the pursuer to effectively carry out his plans. He was designing those conditions when he met with the contractor.

The contractor trusted his "gut feeling," his intuition, that the suspect's request for such an environment within his home; ”was just too weird." This assessment was accurate and demonstrated the ability for him to recognize inappropriate behavior, understand situational awareness, and take action on it.

Stat of the Day:

* In a United States Secret Service study, in nearly half (48%) of mass shootings in 2018, the attacker had a history of criminal charges beyond traffic violations.