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MASS SHOOTINGS ARE BECOMING ALL TOO REAL FOR THE CITY OF LUBBOCK

LUBBOCK, Texas - Hysteria struck the heart of Lubbock today as a mass shooting occurred in the panhandle of Texas on August 31, 2019 leaving eight dead and 25 injured, according to police.

Authorities identified the shooter as 36-year-old Seth Aaron Ator from Lorena, Texas, who drove up the highway towards Lubbock from the Midland area shooting cars and passerby's. Without police intervention, the shooter would have made it into the Lubbock area.

"It was scary, I was worried for my family," said Karen Fredrick, a Texas Tech senior majoring in Marketing from Lubbock, Texas. Karen had a family member who saw this shooting first hand. With such a close encounter, the situation became overwhelming for her as she frantically contacts the rest of her family to ensure their safety.

"I didn't think something like that could happen here, it made me want to be with my family," Hannah Metcalf said, a Texas Tech senior majoring in Hotel Management from Whitehouse, Texas.

Lubbock has always been a so called 'College-Town'. With many of its inhabitants far from their homes; these students are filled with even greater fear considering they are not with any relatives.

Considering this is the first incident of its kind to happen, Lubbock residents are wanting change to happen but with many differing options of how and what should change. When asked what the city of Lubbock should do differently, many students reacted with confusion as they don't know what can be done to stop or prevent such a random attack such as this.

"I want to feel safe, I would think a higher police presence would help me feel better," Metcalf said.

One of the biggest points being made is about gun laws and gun rights. The battle is between whether more, or less gun laws the best way to stop this in the future. For Lubbock being a mostly conservative city, the opinion swings most in favor of less gun restrictions but more mental health checkpoints.

"It's really hard to find the right balance of gun laws to fix this problem," Fredrick said.

There is a large dispute between politicians and citizens alike about what needs to come next in order to solve this issue. Some argue for a higher police presence or to take away all guns. However in this case, the shooter asked a private seller to make a gun for him, which is legal to do. The shooter was able to kill eight people including himself, along with injuring 25 others. One of those injured was a newborn child that was sent to an intensive care unit.

Many politicians such as presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke and Governor Greg Abbott sent their heartfelt apologies for the loved ones of those lost, and their position on what should happen next.

O'Rourke believes it's time to take all AR-15 and semi-automatic weapons while Governor Abbott firmly believes this isn't a gun issue, but a mental health issue.

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