

CBS Mornings

07/05/22

7:05:39 a.m.

38 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Person of Interest Arrested in Parade Shooting; Gunman Kills 6 People at Highland Park July 4th Celebration]

KRIS VAN CLEAVE: Police identified 21-year-old Robert "Bobby" Crimo III as a person of interest. They say he left the scene in a vehicle and was captured more than eight hours later after a brief pursuit. He was apparently an aspiring musician. Videos posted to YouTube, which have since been taken down, showed disturbing images alluding to gun violence.

PAUL CRIMO: I am so sorry from the bottom of my heart.

VAN CLEAVE: The 21-year-old lived with his uncle Paul Crimo. He told our Chicago station WBBM he's heartbroken for the victims.

CRIMO: There's no indication I've seen at all that would lead up to this.

(....)

7:07:31 a.m.

1 minute and 29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Mass Shooting Warnings; Homeland Security Bulletin Warned of High Threat Environment]

NATE BURLESON: President Biden reacted to the shooting by urging Americans to fight the gun violence epidemic. The person of interest in custody has a very similar profile to murder suspects in Uvalde and Buffalo, New York. Senior investigative correspondent Catherine Herridge has more. Catherine, good morning.

CATHERINE HERRIDGE: Good morning, Nate. The threat from individuals who act by themselves — so-called lone wolf attacks — is unfolding with disturbing frequency. The suspects have been young men, allegedly fueled by grievances with access to high-powered weapons. A homeland security bulletin from earlier this summer warned the heightened threatened environment will “become more dynamic” in the coming months and that lone offenders and groups could target “public gatherings, faith-based institutions, racial,” ethnic, “and religious minorities” as well as “the media.” From the May supermarket in Buffalo, New York to the elementary school attack in Uvalde, Texas and now the person of interest in Highland Park, all are young men aged 21 or under. Speaking to CBS News on Sunday, the Homeland Security secretary did warn that a growing number of issues divide Americans, and this, he says, adds to the already high threat environment. These so-called lone-wolf attacks can be among the hardest for law enforcement to disrupt because they can cross the threshold from

hateful speech online, which can have First Amendment protections to violence, very quickly, Vlad.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Catherine, you mentioned it: young men with access to high-powered weapons and they have grievances — perceived grievances. Catherine, thank you very much.

(....)

8:00:36 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE:

GAYLE KING: The mayor of Highland Park, Illinois, talks with us about the deadly shooting at her town's Fourth of July parade.

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8:02:57 a.m.

5 minutes and 40 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 6 Killed in Parade Shooting; Mayor of Highland Park Reacts to Deadly July 4th Shooting]

GAYLE KING: Police are holding a person of interest, they say, who posted violent videos and images on social media. They have also recovered the rifle allegedly used in the shootings. Joining us now is the longtime mayor of Highland Park. That's Nancy Rotering, who was leading yesterday's parade at the time. Mayor, good morning. I'm so sorry that you are a member of that club. Nobody wants to be involved in a mass shooting in your town and we keep hearing that, at first, people thought it was fireworks or firecrackers when they heard it. Take us there. What was the scene like for you?

NANCY ROTERING: We were in the middle of a joyful celebration, having not had this parade for two years due to pandemic. It was multi-families deep along the parade route with a lot of folks shouting out. It was really joyful and wonderful. I noticed the marching band racing down the sidewalk at one point and couldn't understand what they were doing. I thought maybe they were late for a performance. And then, suddenly, police cars were racing toward us. And, it was like, "well, maybe somebody's having a heart attack."

KING: Mmmm.

ROTERRING: It just didn't register somebody was committing a mass shooting in my city. My husband was there in the viewing stands. And he said it was just measured pop, pop, pop, pop. He said that's when they realized after about 15 of those it wasn't fireworks. It was gunshots.

BURLESON: Mmmm.

KING: Yeah. What can you tell us about the suspect? I've heard that you've — you've had some connection to him in the past.

ROTHERING: I was his Cub Scout leader. He was a little boy at the time. My heart breaks for everybody in this town. I'm not sure what happened to him to compel him to commit this evil in his hometown. But we have a city that is in deep mourning today and we're going to take a long time to heal from all of this.

KING: And when you heard it was him, mayor, what did you think? I heard from his uncle who described him as a shy kid. There was no indication that he would do this type of thing. Yet the imagery on social media tells a very different story. What's your recollection?

ROTHERING: I think it's important to note — my recollection of him was as a sweet little boy. You know, I'm — I'm sorry that — that we're glorifying what he put on social media. I don't want to encourage other people to think this is a way to, you know, lead into this kind of violence. We need to have a very real, national conversation about why we're okay with allowing weapons of war on our streets and why we're okay with weekly — having mass shootings. The mayors of Toledo — of Dayton, the mayor of Buffalo, several other mayors have reached out. And none of us think it will happen in their city. And we need to ask why it's becoming a weekly occurrence in our nation.

BURLESON: Mayor, we have an issue with these individuals that are filled with rage in our communities that are committing domestic terrorism. What do you believe needs to be done, given the fact as Gayle mentioned, you — you knew this individual when he was young? But he's not alone.

ROTHERING: Right.

BURLESON: There are thousands —

ROTHERING: Right.

BURLESON: — maybe millions of individuals just like him. What do we need to do to reach these kids at a young age so they don't commit these crimes?

ROTHERING: I think it's a couple of things. First, I think we obviously need to provide significantly greater resources in terms of mental health care. We've seen those scaled back dramatically in the last few decades. But let's ask the question of why enraged people in other civilized nations in our world are not committing these crimes?

BURLESON: Mmmm.

ROTHERING: We know that this is a unique American issue —

BURLESON: Right.

ROTHERING: — and that's why we need to take necessary steps. I mean, all of these weapons in these mass shootings have been legally obtained. That should tell us that the laws are doing their job. When you have a city coming together to celebrate freedom and independence, you shouldn't have to come fearing for your life. That's not what this nation is about —

BURLESON: Mmmm.

ROTHERING: — and we need to do something about it.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Mayor, on the flip side, we saw incredible acts of kindness and heroism from members of the community. Some of the images were heartbreaking, fathers putting their children in dumpsters to protect them, but also people reaching out to families and taking in kids, just to make sure that they were okay until the police could get to them. Describe to us how the community is faring this morning.

ROTHERING: I'm sorry. If you could repeat that. The train just went by.

KING: The train, yeah.

DUTHIERS: Yeah, there's a train. And I know how it feels when you're doing a liveshot.

ROTHERING: Sorry about that.

DUTHIERS: Describe how the community is faring.

ROTHERING: So, I think you were asking how — right. The community is absolutely in mourning, and the community is in shock. We come together and care for each other. We will be there for each other. The outpouring of love not just from within the community but from across the nation has been unbelievable. But let's ask why we got here. I — I'm appreciative of all that people are doing to try to provide care, but how many times do we need to go through this drill? There literally is a handbook that was sent to me by several mayors telling me, "oh, this is what you need to do in the wake of a mass shooting." We need to have a much stronger conversation about why these weapons of war are still permitted in our society.

BURLESON: Mayor Rotering, thank you so much. We appreciate you joining us. And collectively as a country, we need to share this pain because we are dealing with this on what seems like a —

KING: Weekly basis.

BURLESON: — weekly basis. We appreciate you joining us.

BURLESON: Thank you so much.