

Governor Christie: Who Are We Trying To Protect Here?

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Governor Christie: Who Are We Trying To Protect Here?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbqpl9i0VPY>

Transcript:

Governor Christie: On April 22nd—this is this year now, April 22nd. Nineteen-year old Cagney Roberts had a funeral service at Galilee Baptist Church on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Trenton. Roberts was murdered on April 9th in what was believed to be a gang-related shooting. He was nineteen years old. So let's start with tragedy number one, that we have a nineteen-year old young man who was murdered in a gang-related shooting in Trenton. As the sermon began, multiple shooters directly outside the church began firing at the attendees at the funeral. Three people who were attending this young man's funeral were shot and hospitalized, two of them being critically injured. Two other people were injured trying to avoid the gunfire and were also hospitalized. Within the next week four suspects were arrested, including a young man named Samuel Vincent, eighteen years old, who was arrested in connection with the shooting. Now he was arrested on April 28th and he was charged with possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon, defacing a firearm, and possession of hollow-point bullets which pierce bulletproof vests. At the time of his arrest for the church shooting, he was already out on a \$50,000 bail for a 2011 robbery, burglary, attempted theft, possession of a firearm for unlawful purposes. So he was already out on bail when he committed these crimes. He was given bail at the first time in 2011 for \$50,000, \$5,000 cash option, so he's out on \$5,000 bail. Church shooting, the judge sets bail at \$110,250, 10% cash option. But wait. He's going to have to come up with 11,000 to get out of jail. No he doesn't, because his bail bond was ultimately posted by a company called, and you'll love this, Bandit Bail Bonds. Bandit Bail Bonds advertises a low down payment, 1%, 1%, so he gets out of jail for the shooting at the church, which he committed when he was already out on bail on a firearms and burglary offense for \$1,100. Then what happens? Stay tuned, because on June 12th our guy Samuel Vincent then is observed by Trenton police operating what they know to be a stolen vehicle. So they go after him. He flees along the canal path. They block the canal path. They approach the vehicle with their weapons drawn, the officers, and ask him to exit the vehicle. He refuses. He places the stolen vehicle in reverse. He strikes the police car. He strikes another parked vehicle. Then he

gets out on foot and runs and eventually is apprehended by the police and now charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, receiving stolen property for the car, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, the vehicle, eluding and resisting arrest, and several motor vehicle offenses. Guess what? Bail's been set for him again. This is a guy who's committed three serious crimes in the last two months, so listen everybody. When you hear the debate about this, I'm not trying to put people behind bars pending trial who have committed some petty offense. This is a guy who's been arrested for shooting people at a funeral, and then when he's bailed he steals a car and assaults police officers, and by the way was already out on bail for having an unlawful firearm, burglary, robbery. I mean, who are we trying to protect here? So today is the 25th of June. They got five days to pass this. It's passed through both committees. All that needs to happen is have it posted on the floor of the Senate and the Assembly. If they pass it by June 30th I will sign it on July 1st. But if they don't, if they don't, remember who they're protecting. They're protecting the Samuel Vincents of the world, who by the way has a presumption of innocence. But when you've committed this many violent crimes, society in my opinion, also has an interest in keeping him off the street until he gets the trial that he deserves. He could have injured those police officers. He's been involved in shooting and critically injuring people, allegedly, at this funeral. We can't have this. We have enough violence in our cities already. Let's make our city streets safer for the people who live there and work there. And by the way, this is already what the federal government does. Under the federal system and the U.S. Constitution judges are allowed to take into account risk of flight and dangerousness to the community. Only here in New Jersey are they not allowed to take into account dangerousness to the community. It's wrong and it makes no sense.

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