

## RETAIL SECURITY

### Expert Investigates Shooting at National Retail Store

A store manager at a national retail chain was shot three times by the estranged boyfriend of the store's sales associate. The sales associate had a history of domestic violence incidents involving her boyfriend. The retailer utilized security cameras in the parking lot and retail area of the property. Also, they contracted with a third party security vendor to provide unarmed, uniformed security guards seven days a week. Robson Forensic premises security expert, Donald J. Decker, CPP, CPM, was retained to determine if the retailer provided reasonable security at the time of the incident.

The store manager arrived at work at 7:00 AM. The store's sales associate was already at work. A security guard was scheduled to work from 1:00 PM to 9:30 PM. The sales associate's estranged boyfriend entered the store and confronted the sales associate. As the sales associate fled from the estranged boyfriend, the store manager was shot. The shooting occurred at approximately 9:20 AM.

Mr. Decker stated that it was not reasonable for the retailer to design its security measures around the possibility of an incident like this. Mr. Decker successfully demonstrated that the retailer implemented reasonable security measures that complied with the standard of care for retail store security. Reasonable security measures were in place and could not have been expected to prevent this incident and that the retailer was not required to provide security based on an unforeseeable incident, such as this shooting.

This matter resolved favorably for the retail store.