



ABQ business CEO stops would-be carjacking

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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – We've been hearing it a lot lately: New Mexicans taking it upon themselves to stop crime.

It's happened yet again.

This time, an Albuquerque business owner stopped a would-be carjacker in his tracks.



Courtesy / Joseph Pitluck

The Owner of FreeRange, a business that provides spaces for startup companies and entrepreneurs located near Central and University, said he saw an interaction in his businesses' back parking lot via surveillance cameras Friday.

The video captured two people walking up to an SUV and opening the door. The driver in the SUV is seen throwing his hands in the air.

Immediately, Joseph Pitluck knew something was wrong and ran outside to stop it.

Armed with pepper spray, he aimed for the two people standing next to the driver's side door.

"The first thing I thought was, 'I've got to stop these guys from what they're doing,'" Pitluck said.

Pitluck said one of FreeRange's members was sitting in his car, when a man and woman came up demanding he get out.

"The only thought that was going through my head was I've got to get out there as quick as I can," he said. Without knowing if those people had a weapon, he ran outside. After spraying the suspects with pepper spray, he said one of them started chucking large rocks at him.

"I had to duck at the right moment in order to not get hit," he said.

After dodging the rocks, Pitluck ran after the man, and the two get into a scuffle before police arrived and arrested him.

Pitluck said, unfortunately, it's not the first time he's had problems.

"There will be a lot of people that do a lot of drugs in the area, on a daily basis," he said.

He even said some vandals spray graffiti concrete while others break windows. Now he just wants other businesses to band together.

"We are definitely concerned for safety," he said. "It would be nice to maybe partner with some other businesses and maybe hire some security."

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