

Starbucks Gets Out

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Though not a fan of Starbucks's often obtrusive lefty politics, I sure like its beverages, such as the glorious Flat White. I'll take a venti.

Thankfully, it appears that trendy politics has limits. Despite the company's support for a Marxist organization that riots and rampages in the name of racial justice (I won't name names, but the initials are BLM), CEO Howard Schultz is reluctant to tolerate crime that makes it unsafe to sell lattes.

More shutdowns are to come, Schultz said, adding that "governments across the country and leaders, mayors and governors, city councils have abdicated their responsibility in fighting crime."

In leaked video of an internal meeting, Schultz says he's shocked "that one of the primary concerns that our retail partners [employees] have is their own personal safety."

One way Starbucks will cope is by giving managers authority to do things like limit seating and close bathrooms. Employees will also be trained in



conflict de-escalation and dealing with "active shooter scenarios."

And Starbucks will close "not unprofitable" shops in areas where risks to employees and customers are most severe. This means closing 16 stores in which people feel unsafe because of crime and open drug use. The closures are taking place in such bastions of crime nurturing as Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington DC.

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Starbucks has — *all* companies have — every right to escape the resulting lawless conditions.

Were they also to abstain from doing anything to promote such conditions, that would be whipped cream on top.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.