
Injustice Everywhere

The National Police Misconduct Statistics and Reporting Project

Candidates for Ownership of the NPMSRP

By David, on April 11th, 2012

As discussed this weekend, I've decided that the best way to hand this project over to some other person or group would be to let the readers, who have supported this project so much through the years, make the decision on who they feel most comfortable with running it from now on. Accordingly, the list of candidates who have expressed an interest in taking over the site and their submitted their proposals are listed below. Underneath this list is the poll where each reader will be able to cast one vote for the candidate they want to take over the site.

The poll will close at **8:00am Pacific Time, Friday morning** when I will contact the winning candidate and begin the handover process before posting my final post on Friday evening at midnight. There are currently 5 candidates who have decided to put their names in the running after 8 people/organizations expressed an interest. (Note: *the offer to allow late entries has been retracted due to an objection from one of the candidates.*)

With that said, here is the current list of parties interested in taking over the NPMSRP (also known as InjusticeEverywhere.com and [@InjusticeNews](https://twitter.com/InjusticeNews)) :

Candidate: *Patrick Nolan*

Proposal:

Hi. My name is Patrick Nolan. Although my background is as a reporter, photographer, editor and publisher, I am currently attending law school with a keen interest in criminal defense work. I would like to maintain the site as a free resource documenting this important issue.

My pitch:

My intention is to continue operation as a free resource for people to continue collecting and disseminating information regarding police misconduct. My background in news media (15 years as a reporter, editor and publisher), combined with my current progress in law school, places me in a position to not only acquire and share the information, but also to become a resource for national media and bring more attention to the problem of police misconduct. I can not only maintain the site, but bring the issue before key journalists, researchers, and legislators to make progress on stopping police violence and other crimes. And that is why you should choose me.

Candidate: *The CATO Institute*

Proposal:

On behalf of the Cato Institute, I am writing to express our interest in assuming David Packman's police misconduct reporting project. There are several reasons to support Cato in this matter. First, Cato has earned a reputation for independent, nonpartisan, quality research. Cato has an established track record on issues relating to police and prosecutorial misconduct. Second, Cato has the institutional capacity (researchers, web staff, computer technicians) to maintain this project. Third, Cato will be capable of drawing more attention to the problem of police misconduct and to meaningful reforms in laws and policies. I appreciate what David Packman has done here and do not want this project to fold now (or a year from now). Thank you for your consideration.

Candidate: *Randy Rhynes and Associates***Proposal:**

To The Steward and Readership,

I'm a libertarian by nature and an engineer by training. I'm all about personal freedom and the acceptance of one's fate without living under the delusion that anybody or anything will prevent our deaths or insure our comfort or security during the course of our lives. I'm also about public servants serving the public for the public's good, without unreasonable concern for their own safety or security. They are paid to do a job which they voluntarily chose and protection of their feelings or dismissals of their mistakes, through qualified immunity, are not part of that job. It's in all of our best interests to expose the failings of the current system of hidden agendas and subjective oversight so as to foster change. This can only be done via an informed public and it won't happen overnight as the corruption has taken more than a century to become "institutionalized". Having said that, I believe NPMSPR is a cornerstone of a movement to hold law enforcement accountable directly to the public it serves. It is objective, independent and cannot be legitimately construed as biased I am blessed with a small, like-minded team of individuals with experience in website development, public relations and fundraising arenas. Our goal would be to expand the online presence of this and like minded websites so as to increase awareness among the general public. Naturally, we're all volunteers, but we feel that is our greatest moral asset.

Candidate: *ACLEPD***Proposal:**

We have been publicizing crooked cops for five years. We have been doing so by giving crooked cops WEASEL AWARDS posted on YouTube. Youtube closed our account after just over 300,000 hits. We are now re-posting the WEASEL AWARD on our web site "aclepd.com".

Our goal is to revamp the criminal justice system. Step one is to draw attention to just how many crooked cops there are. Legislation then becomes much easier. We

would continue the INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE program as part of our effort to revamp our legal system. The first and most important part of this effort is to get, and keep, the public's attention- (aclepd.com/criminal). We are an all volunteer organization.

Thank you,
Robert Evan Howard
aclepd.com
aclepd@aclepd.com

Candidate: *Jesse Strauss*

Proposal:

In order to maintain Injustice Everywhere as an important resource for journalists, legal workers, activists, and anyone who is interested, I would be excited to take over responsibility for coordinating the site, in any capacity, but especially according to the model described below. As a journalist now working for Al Jazeera English, I have extensive experience doing online research and investigative work as well as social media outreach. I will be leaving Al Jazeera in about a month to return to my hometown of Oakland, California, where local police misconduct seems to make the international headlines every year – and that's besides the smaller-scaled police misconduct that occurs on a pretty regular basis. Because of that, my work in Oakland has included membership in the Coalition for Justice for Oscar Grant, co-coordination of Oakland's People's Hearing on Racism and Police Violence, and working with the local chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild to offer legal support to people who were unjustly arrested or brutalized. To be clear, my own orientation is around community-based anti-brutality and anti-misconduct work, but I am confident that my journalistic skills will allow/encourage coordination of this site to be focused around real stories/experiences that are verifiable based on the criteria that the site has been using.

I envision developing the site into a collective model, whereby volunteers with varying capacities (in terms of time commitments, etc) will be able to share tasks in order to coordinate the site as efficiently as possible (while maintaining strong standards!). The collective model will help to decentralize the work so that we can make sure the site can function if something comes up with any members (as has happened with David). It also allows people to get training and experiment with different tasks that require a varied amount of time commitment, so that not everyone has to be working at 110% capacity at all times, and so that it can work with people who are able to commit to different amounts of time. For the first few months, much of the responsibility will lie heavily with me, and I can commit to developing the process and coordinating the collectivization transition during that period and until volunteers/collective members are able to step up in responsible ways (I'm able to do this based on my own savings, the transition away from Al Jazeera, being covered by health insurance elsewhere, etc). A preliminary list of the collective member roles follows (although of course there's a lot of room for change and development):

a. Researcher/newsfeed updater member: Will take on research and contributions (rotating*).

b. Editor: Will review each newsfeed update before it goes live, including a read-through of each article to check that it follows the site's standards and a read-through of the short descriptions (rotating*).

c. Social media coordinator: Will make sure updates are posted to Twitter and Facebook (and maybe more) in a timely and appropriate fashion, and will interact with followers in order to help the project to seem both professional and engaged (potentially rotating*).

d. Communications coordinator: Will draft press releases and coordinate with victims of police misconduct – specifically people who's cases are substantiated in the news feed – to help publicize the site and the individual stories.

e. Statistical coordinator: Will produce quarterly and annual reports, following the model already done on the site (and potentially new types of reports).

f. Administrative coordinator: Will essentially make sure that people who've volunteered for the above tasks carry out their commitments, and will help to coordinate volunteer scheduling and internal communications with volunteers (potentially rotating*)

g. (potential) Fundraiser: Will work to bring in funds primarily to maintain the site, and secondarily, if larger funding comes in, to compensate for work being done.

*Note on rotating tasks: Depending on the amount of volunteers, people can take on these tasks for a designated amount of time. For example, someone could commit to being a Researcher/Newsfeed updater for one week per month, and to be Editor for another week in the month (ideally the amount of time needed from people will be distributed as equally as possible within the confines of people's communicated ability for time commitment. Coordinating this will be the task of the Administrative Coordinator).

I have a lot of other specific ideas that would probably be too much to list here, like mapping the data with Google Fusion Tables or using a separate part of the site as a resource for CopWatchers (how-to guides, etc.; potentially with a separate section besides the newsfeed that would allow people to contribute their own videos of alleged misconduct). In terms of fielding volunteers, I have a relatively extensive network of folks who would likely be interested on some level through universities and anti-brutality groups from Oakland to New York.

As an alternative, I would like to volunteer myself as a communications coordinator for whoever is chosen to run the site. This would include the tasks listed in (c) and (d) above. In terms of coverage, I'd seek to publicize data and statistics collected, and to connect interested journalists to people who had (or allegedly had) been victimized by police misconduct (rather than trying to take the spotlight myself). I'd also work to support a testimonial section of the site, where people's stories, in their words, would be linked to the substantiated news articles posted on the news feeds (there's potential for this in multiple formats, including events like the People's Hearing I mentioned earlier).

Who is the best candidate to take over the NPMSRP?