

A NEW LIMITED SERIES FROM BATTLEROCK COMICS

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

# TASK FORCE TWILIGHT



Issue 01  
2017





## Not All Holiday Events Are "Fun"!

### It's a FACT:

- ⇒ Even though they first appear in brightly-colored boxes, Winter Horde monsters are far from festive creatures.
- ⇒ Even when defeated, still-melting snow creatures have been known to cause havoc with the daily commute and have even caused power-outages.
- ⇒ While a “winter wonderland” is beautiful to view in Atlas Park, the mere threat by Lord and Lady Winter to make the rest of the world a frozen wasteland is still enough to shut down stores and schools.

### Why let holiday monsters ruin your holiday living?



**Green Pouch** survival kits are perfect year-round, providing enough food to feed a family of four without cooking or refrigeration. And they provide enough variety to ensure that you won't suffer winter blues from blandness.

Buy Green Pouch Survival Kits at any local store.

Don't wait until the next threat of a great freeze! Get prepared TODAY!

*In the City of Heroes, masked and caped heroes are seen as the tireless protectors of the helpless. In the eyes of law enforcement, though, they will always be seen as vigilantes and criminals, no different than the evil that they fight.*

*But when power corrupts the men and women of law enforcement, these vigilantes are all that prevent the city from falling into a fascist police state. Now they must stand together and fight for justice.*

# TASK FORCE 'TWILIGHT'

In Paragon City, the so-called “City of Heroes”, relations between the hero community and city police always been strained at best.

Under the direction of Deputy Chief Thomas Wield, the police have been quietly bringing back the aggressive and abusive divisions of old and shutting down the technology they once shared with the hero community.

The lines are being drawn between the two groups, and it is becoming clear that something needs to be done before the city suffers the consequences.

## "OPERATION 'TWILIGHT'"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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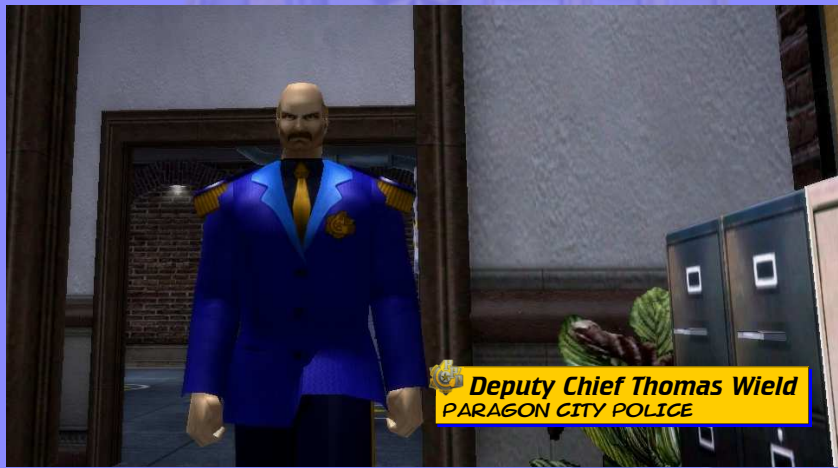
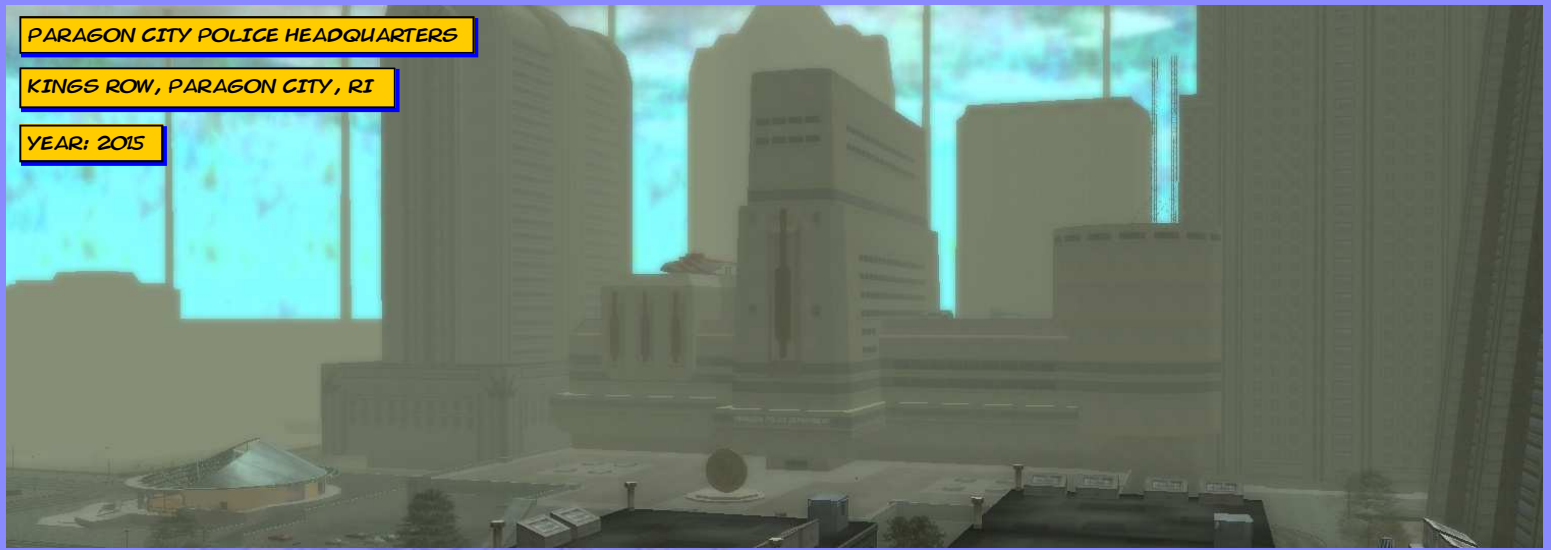




PARAGON CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS

KINGS ROW, PARAGON CITY, RI

YEAR: 2015



**Deputy Chief Thomas Wield**  
PARAGON CITY POLICE



I HEARD YOU  
WERE LOOKING  
FOR ME,  
MORTON.  
WHAT'S UP?



I'VE BEEN GOING  
OVER THE BUDGET  
AND I WANTED TO  
HEAR WHAT YOU HAD  
TO SAY ABOUT A  
CERTAIN LINE ITEM  
I FOUND.

**Chief Morton Clayton**  
PARAGON CITY POLICE

WELL I'M NOT PRIVY TO  
EVERYTHING IN THE  
BUDGET, BUT IF  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
YOU WANT MORE INF--



"OPERATION  
TWILIGHT."



GODDAMNED  
HAPPERSTEIN...  
I TOLD HIM NOT  
TO LIST IT BY  
NAME.





SO WHAT I HEARD  
IS TRUE...

WHAT YOU'VE HEARD  
ARE PLANS TO TAKE  
BACK OUR CITY  
FROM A PERPETUAL  
STATE OF ANARCHY.



THIS POLICE FORCE  
HAS BEEN WORKING  
SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH  
HEROES FOR ALMOST  
EIGHTY YEARS.

IF NOT FOR  
STATESMAN AND THE  
FREEDOM PHALANX...



**STATESMAN IS DEAD!**  
AND SO ARE THE OTHER  
VIGILANTES OF THAT TIME!

HELL, THE ONLY REAL HERO  
THIS CITY HAS IS RIGHT  
OUTSIDE OUR FRONT DOOR,  
BEING USED AS A  
GLORIFIED MASCOT!

THIS CITY HAS CODDLED THE  
VIGILANTES FOR FAR TOO  
LONG, AND THEY HAVE NOT  
MADE THE CITY ANY SAFER.

EVERY DAY THAT WE LET  
THOSE ANARCHISTS RUN  
LOOSE, THIS CITY SUFFERS!



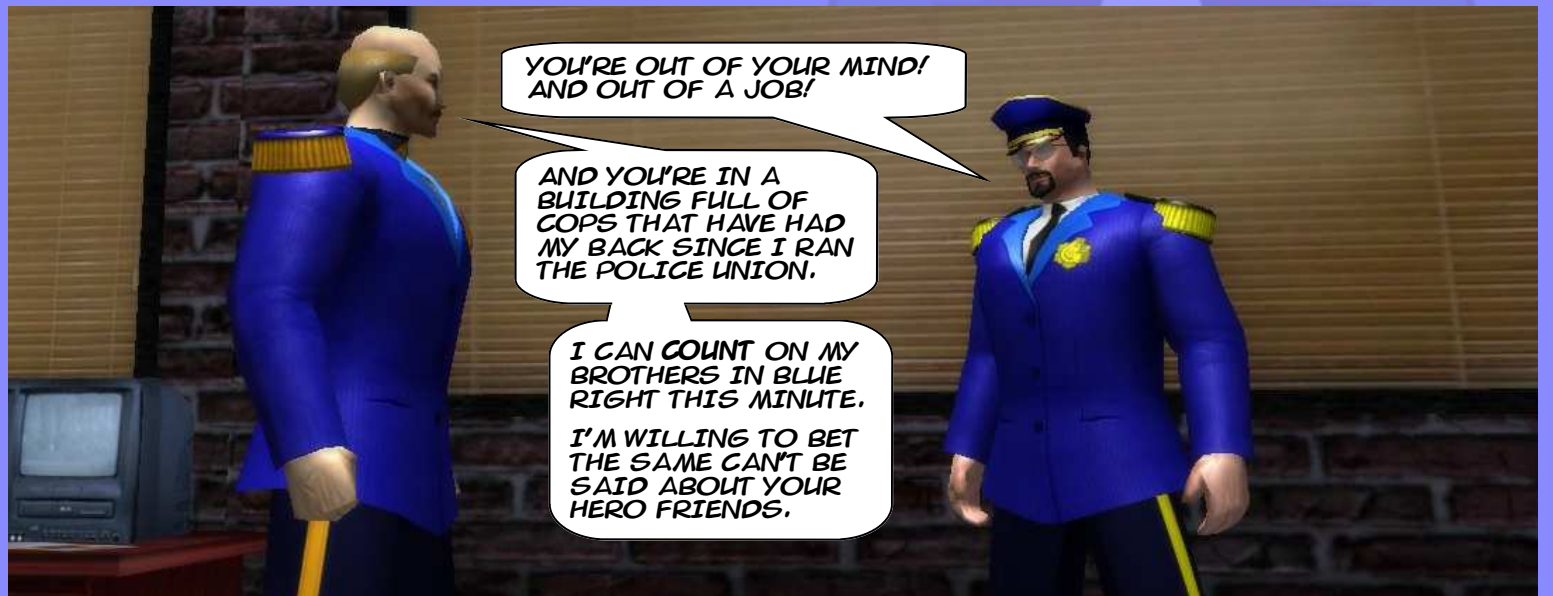
MY GOD... GLENN  
MCMILLIAN\* WAS  
RIGHT ABOUT YOU.  
YOU DO HAVE IT IN  
FOR THE HEROES.  
WELL YOU CAN  
KISS THAT  
PROJECT GOODBYE.

\* MCMILLIAN WAS THE  
PREVIOUS DEPUTY CHIEF.>



MCMILLIAN WAS  
WEAK... AND BLIND.  
HE DIDN'T KNOW THE  
TRUTH UNTIL IT WAS  
TOO LATE.

I'VE HAD YEARS TO  
PUT THIS TO  
MOTION, AND IT  
CAN'T BE STOPPED  
SIMPLY BECAUSE OF  
YOUR WEAKNESS.



YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!  
AND OUT OF A JOB!

AND YOU'RE IN A  
BUILDING FULL OF  
COPS THAT HAVE HAD  
MY BACK SINCE I RAN  
THE POLICE UNION.

I CAN COUNT ON MY  
BROTHERS IN BLUE  
RIGHT THIS MINUTE.

I'M WILLING TO BET  
THE SAME CAN'T BE  
SAID ABOUT YOUR  
HERO FRIENDS.



YEAR: 2017

# PNN

Paragon News Network

THIS IS P-N-N... THE EPIC  
ARCHETYPE FOR NEWS!

WELCOME BACK.  
THIS IS THE PNN  
AFTERNOON  
NEWS, AND I'M  
ROBIN STEED.

THE INVESTIGATION  
CONTINUES ON THE  
SECRET BATTLE IN  
THE RIKTI WAR ZONE  
THAT WAS LEAKED  
TO THE INTERNET.

AFTERNOON NEWS WITH ROBIN STEED



\*THE FOOTAGE SHOWS A  
CLEARLY BATTERED FURIA  
POWERS ENGAGED IN A  
KNOCK-DOWN BRAWL WITH THE  
SUPERVILLAIN DESTITUTION.\*\*

\*WHILE THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY GROUP VANGUARD  
DOES NOT DENY THE EXISTENCE  
OF THE VIDEO, THEY REFUSE TO  
GIVE DETAILS AS TO HOW A  
VILLAIN BELIEVED TO BE DEAD  
CAME BACK TO LIFE TO  
THREATEN THE CITY AGAIN.\*

INTERNET FOOTAGE

\*MEMBERS OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
SENATE ARE  
PRESSING FOR A  
FULL HEARING ON  
THE MATTER.\*

(\* SEE \*FURIA AND THE  
GUARDIANS\* #25 IF YOU  
MISSED OUT ON IT.)

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,  
WE WILL GET THE  
ANSWERS THAT THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE  
DESERVE ON THIS.

LADY GREY CANNOT  
HIDE FROM US LIKE SHE  
DID REPEATEDLY UNDER  
PRESIDENT OBAMA.

SENATOR THON STRONGHOLD [R] · RI



IN RELATED NEWS...  
SOURCES CLOSE TO  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
SAY THAT PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP IS  
ANNOYED AT THE  
ONGOING DISPUTE  
IN PARAGON CITY  
BETWEEN HEROES  
AND THE POLICE.

AFTERNOON NEWS WITH ROBIN STEED



IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE  
THE SENATE CONFIRMED FORMER  
GREY CFO DARRIN BURGESS AS  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEWLY-  
FORMED DEPARTMENT OF HERO  
AFFAIRS, AND IN THOSE THREE  
MONTHS, VERY LITTLE HAS COME  
FROM EITHER DIRECTOR  
BURGESS OR HIS DEPARTMENT  
REGARDING THE RIFT BETWEEN  
SUPERHEROES AND THE POLICE.

WHEN ASKED BY P-N-N FOR A  
COMMENT, A SPOKESMAN  
FOR DIRECTOR BURGESS  
REPEATED A COMMENT  
POSTED THREE MONTHS AGO  
BY PRESIDENT TRUMP.

DIRECTOR OF HERO AFFAIRS INEPT? CRITICS SAY SO.





"WE WILL TRANSFORM THE FAILED SYSTEM OF REGULATING HERO ACTIVITY INTO ONE THAT WILL KEEP NOT JUST PARAGON CITY SAFE, BUT THE NATION AS WELL. AND, IN DOING SO, WE WILL ONCE AGAIN MAKE PARAGON CITY THE SHINING EXAMPLE OF AMERICA."

• PRES D. TRUMP • SEPT. 12, 2017

US HERO ADMIN REPEATS TRUMP POST



MEANWHILE, CRIME CONTINUES TO SKYROCKET AS MORE AND MORE HEROES STOP ARRESTING CRIMINALS.



CRIME CONTINUES TO RISE



AT ISSUE IS THE "TELEPORT ARREST PROTOCOL" OR T.A.P., WHICH BOTH HEROES AND POLICE HAVE BEEN USING SINCE 2004 TO TELEPORT ARRESTED CRIMINALS TO JAIL.

THE POLICE HAD SHUT OFF ALL HERO USE OF THE T.A.P. BACK IN SEPTEMBER.

HEROES STOP ARRESTING CRIMINALS



FACED WITH THE UNREALISTIC PROSPECT OF PHYSICALLY TRANSPORTING CRIMINALS DIRECTLY TO JAIL, MANY HEROES ARE FOCUSING ON OTHER THREATS TO THE CITY.

HEROES STOP ARRESTING CRIMINALS



ATTEMPTS TO COME UP WITH A HERO VERSION OF THE TELEPORT ARREST PROTOCOL SYSTEM HAVE BEEN STYMIED BY LOCAL JUDGES THAT QUESTION THE LEGALITY OF COMPETING SYSTEMS.

OTHER HEROES HAVE RESORTED TO WHAT THEY CALL THE "ORIGINAL METHOD" OF SIMPLY BEATING UP THE SUSPECTED CRIMINALS AND LEAVING THEM TIED-UP FOR THE POLICE TO ARREST AND CHARGE.

A MOVE THAT LEGAL EXPERTS SAY VIOLATE THE VERY LAWS THAT ALLOW REGISTERED HEROES TO OPERATE IN THE CITY.

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT AT [PNN.PARA](http://PNN.PARA)



P-N-N HAS ATTEMPTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH POLICE CHIEF MORTON CLAYTON, BUT HIS OFFICE HAS YET TO GIVE A RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRIES.

AFTERNOON NEWS WITH ROBIN STEED





LATER THAT NIGHT...

THIS USED TO  
BE MY DOMAIN.

WHEN I FIRST  
ARRIVED TO THIS  
UNIVERSE TEN  
YEARS AGO, I PUT  
THIS AREA UNDER  
MY WATCH.\*

I WAS A  
DIFFERENT  
MAN THEN.

 **Jason Knight**  
(DRAKE GREY)

C\* \*GUARDIANS OF THE  
DAWN SPOTLIGHT\* #3.)

THE POLICE WERE  
DIFFERENT THEN  
AS WELL.

THEY WERE JUST PURGED  
OF THEIR MORE ABUSIVE  
OFFICERS AND PUT  
UNDER A NEW CHIEF THAT  
WORKED WITH HEROES.

IT MADE THINGS  
EASIER FOR ME  
AND FOR THE CITY.

NOW THOSE DAYS OF  
TERROR ARE BACK,  
ALONG WITH THE ABUSE.

THE WORSE OF THE POLICE,  
THE BLUE DOG SQUAD, WAS  
SECRETLY BROUGHT BACK  
INTO KINGS ROW.

NOW THEY'RE NOT A  
SECRET. NOW THEY  
WORK IN THE OPEN.

EVERY NIGHT, I CAN HEAR THEM  
PREYING ON THE INNOCENTS  
LIKE THIRD-WORLD THUGS.

YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT! HOW  
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FEED  
MY FAMILY?

WHAT? THEY DON'T  
LIKE FALAFEL?

YOU KNOW THE RULES HERE  
IN KINGS ROW! EVERYONE  
PAYS TO BE PROTECTED.

SHUT UP, LADY! WE  
ARE THE COPS!

NEXT TIME YOU SEE US, YOU  
CROSS THE STREET, OR WE'LL  
SHOOT YOUR GODDAMNED LEG!

AND, TRY AS I  
MIGHT, I KNOW  
I CAN'T STOP  
THEM ALL.



AT LEAST  
NOT ALONE.

ARE YOU READY,  
STREETANGEL?

I'M IN POSITION.  
BUT... I'M NERVOUS  
AS HELL.

 **Streetangel**  
(KAREN MANNING)

KAREN MANNING WAS A  
PROFESSIONAL DECOY  
AGENT FOR LAW FIRMS  
AND PRIVATE  
INVESTIGATORS BEFORE  
SHE GOT INVOLVED WITH  
INVESTIGATING THE  
BLUE DOG SQUAD.\*

THEY TRIED TO  
BREAK HER. NOW  
SHE WORKS FOR ME.

\* SEE THE PAGES OF \*FURIA AND  
THE GUARDIANS\* FOR DETAILS.\*

THIS ISN'T A  
SIMULATION IN  
ARCHITECT  
ENTERTAINMENT.  
IF THEY KNOW I'M NOT  
THE REAL THING...

SHE'S STILL  
SCARED OF THE  
DOGS AND WHAT  
THEY TRIED TO  
DO TO HER.

THEY WON'T. I  
HAVE FAITH IN  
YOUR ABILITIES.

YOU NEED TO  
HAVE FAITH IN  
THEM AS WELL.  
DO IT.

\*BAMFFFFFFF!\*

STREET ANGEL'S  
NATURAL ASSET IS  
BEING ABLE TO  
DISGUISE HERSELF  
AND PLAY A ROLE.

BEFORE, SHE PRETENDED  
TO BE A HERO SO SHE  
COULD GET THE  
ATTENTION OF THE BLUE  
DOGS, NOT REALIZING  
WHAT THEY WOULD DO  
TO HER AFTERWARD.

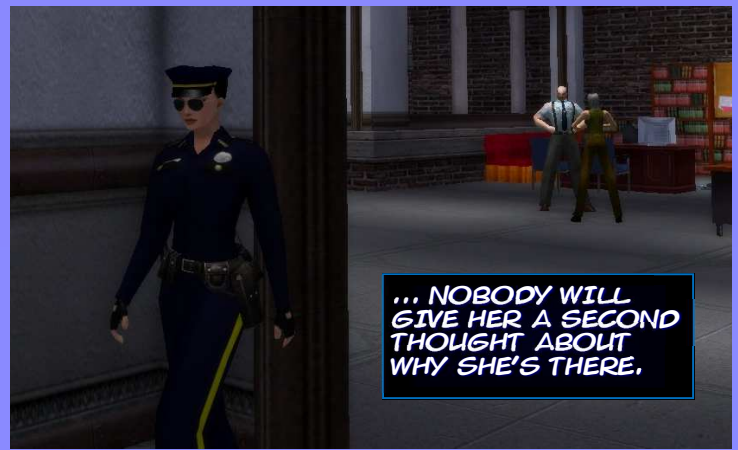
BUT THIS BATTLE IS GOING  
TO BE WON BY INTELLIGENCE,  
NOT BY BRUTE FORCE.

THAT MEANS STREET ANGEL  
NEEDS TO BE GETTING  
INFORMATION INSTEAD  
OF GETTING NOTICED.

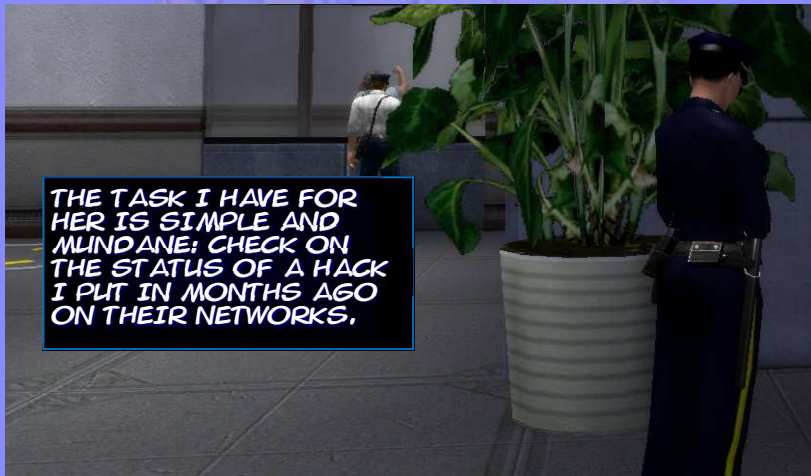




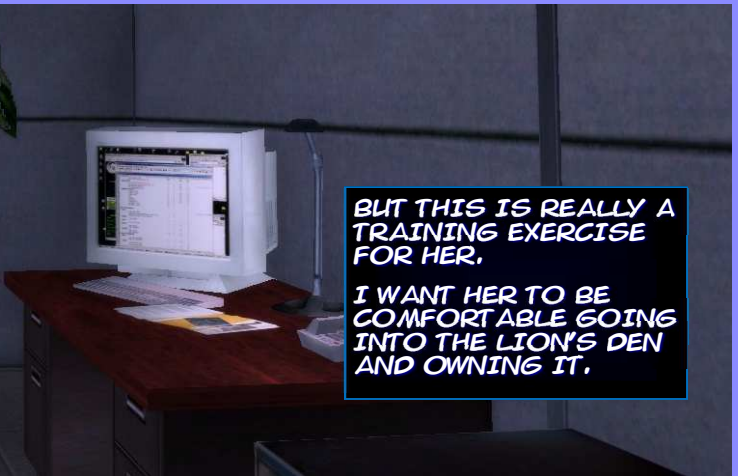
IF SHE LOOKS LIKE A COP AND WALKS LIKE SHE BELONGS THERE...



... NOBODY WILL GIVE HER A SECOND THOUGHT ABOUT WHY SHE'S THERE.



THE TASK I HAVE FOR HER IS SIMPLE AND MUNDANE; CHECK ON THE STATUS OF A HACK I PUT IN MONTHS AGO ON THEIR NETWORKS.



BUT THIS IS REALLY A TRAINING EXERCISE FOR HER.

I WANT HER TO BE COMFORTABLE GOING INTO THE LION'S DEN AND OWNING IT.



IT SEEMS YOUR LITTLE GIFT IS WORKING JUST FINE.

OF COURSE HER HANDS-FREE COMMLINK IS LEFT ON FOR THIS.



IN CASE SHE COMES ACROSS SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.

EXCUSE ME... YOU'RE NEW HERE AREN'T YOU?

I WANT TO HEAR HOW SHE HANDLES IT.



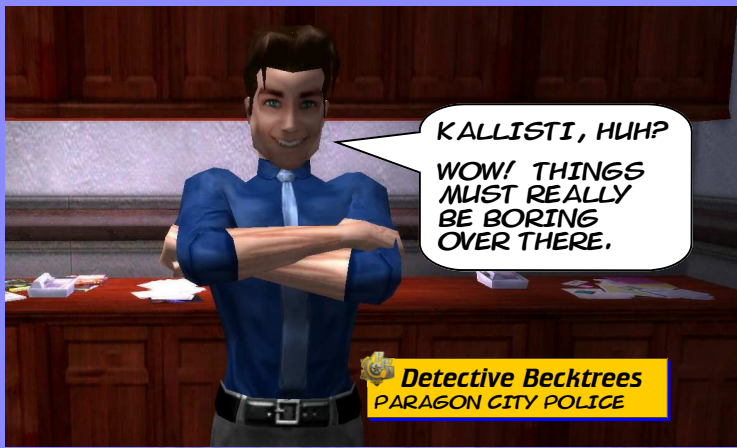
GO AHEAD. MAKE A NEW FRIEND.



OFFICER KAY PAIGE. I'M NORMALLY IN KALLISTI WHARF, BUT THEY HAVE ME DOING SOME CROSS-TRAINING.

I GAVE HER THE COVER STORY OF A REAL COP IN CASE ANYONE LOOKS UP HER NAME.





KALLISTI, HUHP?  
WOW! THINGS  
MUST REALLY  
BE BORING  
OVER THERE.

**Detective Becktrees**  
PARAGON CITY POLICE



WELL, YOU KNOW,  
WHEN THEY FINALLY  
GET THAT PLACE  
OPENED UP AGAIN,  
THAT'S WHEN IT'LL  
GET BUSY FOR US.

YOU'RE BECKTREES,  
RIGHT? THEY TOLD  
ME TO KEEP AN EYE  
OUT FOR YOU.



REALLY? WELL I  
HOPE IT'S BECAUSE  
OF MY CHARMING  
PERSONALITY AND  
CAN-DO ATTITUDE!

THAT'S... ONE WAY  
OF PUTTING IT.

I THINK THEY ALSO  
SAID IT WAS  
BECAUSE YOU'RE  
TOO CHUMMY WITH  
THE CAPES.



WELL, A LOT OF THAT  
IS JUST POLICE  
COURTESY.

I'M A COP, THROUGH  
AND THROUGH.

AND WHEN THE SMOKE  
CLEARS SOON,  
YOU'LL FIND OUT WHO  
REALLY IS AND ISN'T  
CHUMMY WITH CAPES.



WELL I'LL GUESS  
WE'LL FIND OUT  
THEN, RIGHT?

SEE YOU AROUND.

SO... IT'S  
HAPPENING  
SOON.



TELL ME  
YOU HEARD  
ALL THAT.



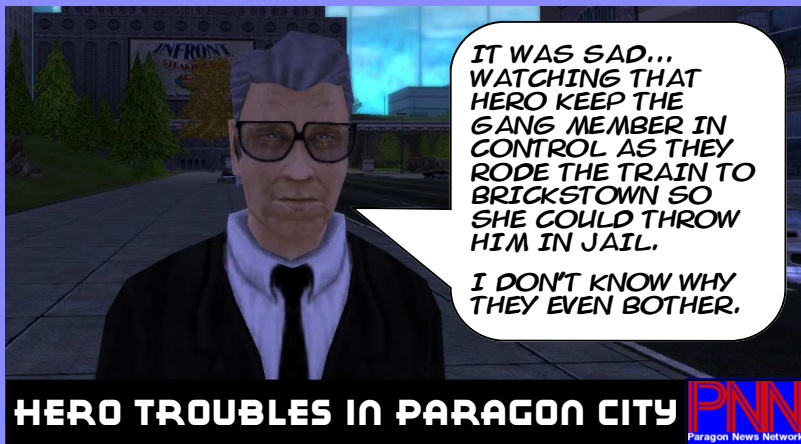
I DID. YOU  
DID GOOD.  
CHANGE BACK  
AND CALL IT  
A NIGHT.



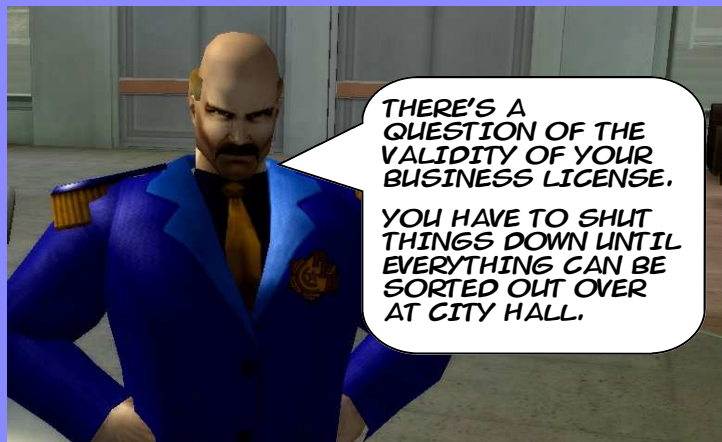
GREAT,  
BECAUSE I'LL  
NEED A REALLY  
LONG SHOWER  
AFTER THIS.

AND I THINK I  
MIGHT THROW  
UP WHILE I'M  
AT IT.





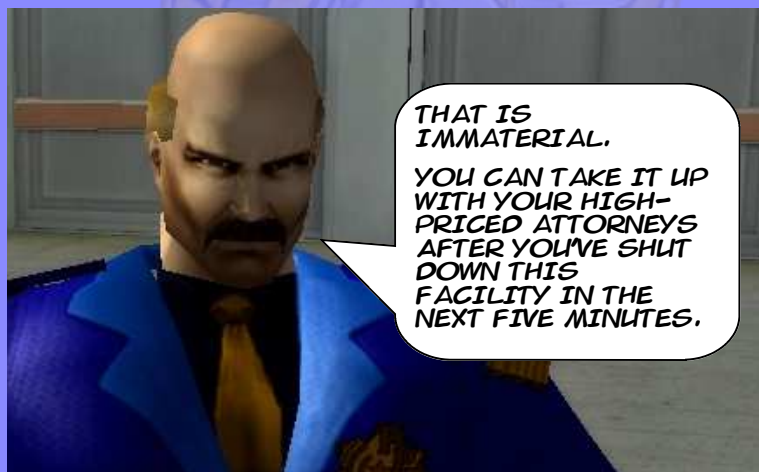




THERE'S A QUESTION OF THE VALIDITY OF YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE. YOU HAVE TO SHUT THINGS DOWN UNTIL EVERYTHING CAN BE SORTED OUT OVER AT CITY HALL.



THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. I PERSONALLY OVERSAW THE RENEWAL OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE ALONG WITH THE PRINCIPAL OWNERS.



THAT IS IMMATERIAL. YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH YOUR HIGH-PRICED ATTORNEYS AFTER YOU'VE SHUT DOWN THIS FACILITY IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES.



I CAN SEND THE CLIENTS AWAY, BUT IT WILL TAKE DAYS BEFORE WE CAN SAFELY SHUT DOWN THE REACTOR CORE. THIS ISN'T SOME LIGHT BULB YOU CAN JUST TURN OFF.



YOU ARE THIRTY SECONDS AWAY FROM BEING ARRESTED FOR DISOBEYING A POLICE OFFICER, GREY. AND THEN I'LL HAVE MY OWN ELECTRICIANS IN HERE TO SHUT IT ALL DOWN FOR GOOD.



YOU DO THAT, DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD, AND I PROMISE YOU THAT YOUR OFFICE JUST UP THE ROAD WILL BE A RADIOACTIVE HOT ZONE FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS. YOU DO IT MY WAY, AND YOU CAN STILL GLOAT ALL YOU WANT ABOUT IT AFTERWARD.




... FINE.

BUT THESE DOORS BETTER BE CLOSED IN THIRTY MINUTES.



ESTHER, PLEASE TELL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS TO BEGIN SHUTDOWN PROCEDURES. I'LL NOTIFY THE OWNERS.




Chris Jenkins, a bald man in a light green suit and blue striped tie, stands in a library with bookshelves in the background. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking.

ROBIN, WHILE IT IS TRUE MY OFFICE IS OVERFLOWING WITH HERO-ABUSE CASES, WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT RELISHING THE RUSH.

MOST OF THESE SO-CALLED "HEROES" DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY, AND THEY DON'T HAVE ANY HERO "INSURANCE" WE CAN TAP INTO TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.

I OFTEN HAVE TO TELL MY CLIENTS TO EXPECT TO GET NOTHING EVEN IF WE WIN.

**CHRIS JENKINS · FAMED HERO-SUING ATTORNEY**

Robin Steed, a woman with dark hair in a green blazer, stands in a newsroom with computer monitors in the background.

AND YET YOU'VE BEEN THE LOUDEST CRITIC TO COMING UP WITH A HERO ALTERNATIVE TO THE ARREST PROTOCOLS.

YOU'VE EVEN SUBMITTED FRIEND-OF-COURT BRIEFS ON THE MATTER.

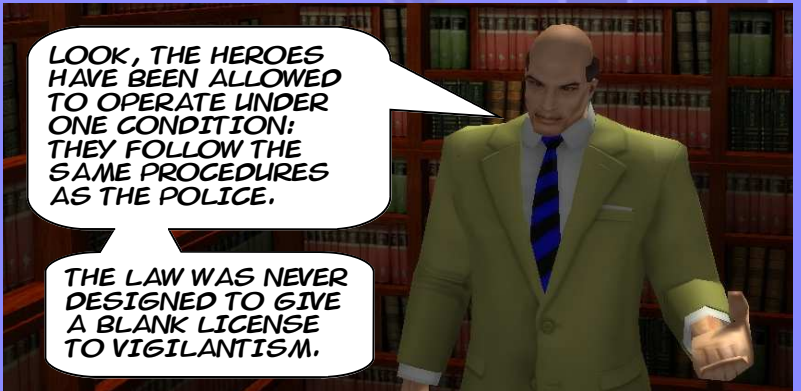
**HEROES OR VIGILANTES?**

Chris Jenkins, a bald man in a light green suit and blue striped tie, stands in a library with bookshelves in the background.

SO HAS YOUR STATION'S OWN LEGAL EXPERT, NAN BRAGER.

SHE IS JUST AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW AS I AM.

**CHRIS JENKINS · ATTORNEY**

Chris Jenkins, a bald man in a light green suit and blue striped tie, stands in a library with bookshelves in the background.

LOOK, THE HEROES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO OPERATE UNDER ONE CONDITION: THEY FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURES AS THE POLICE.

THE LAW WAS NEVER DESIGNED TO GIVE A BLANK LICENSE TO VIGILANTISM.

**HEROES OR VIGILANTES?**

Chris Jenkins, a bald man in a light green suit and blue striped tie, stands in a library with bookshelves in the background.

THE POLICE SET THE STANDARD.

IF THE POLICE DECIDE TO NOT INCLUDE THE HEROES, THEN THEY SHOULD HONOR THAT DECISION.

**CHRIS JENKINS · ATTORNEY**

Robin Steed, a woman with dark hair in a green blazer, stands in a newsroom with computer monitors in the background.

AND IF THEY CAN'T?

IF THEY ARE CONFRONTED WITH A CRIME AND THEY CAN'T USE THE SAME TOOLS AS THE POLICE...

YOU EXPECT THEM TO DO... NOTHING?

**ROBIN STEED · PNN AFTERNOON NEWS**

Chris Jenkins, a bald man in a light green suit and blue striped tie, stands in a library with bookshelves in the background.

I EXPECT THEM TO FOLLOW THE LAW, JUST LIKE YOU OR I WOULD HAVE TO.

REPORT IT TO THE POLICE, OR PAY THE SAME LEGAL CONSEQUENCES AS THE CRIMINALS THEY CLAIM TO FIGHT, PERIOD.

**SOUND OFF AT PNN.PARA/FORUM**



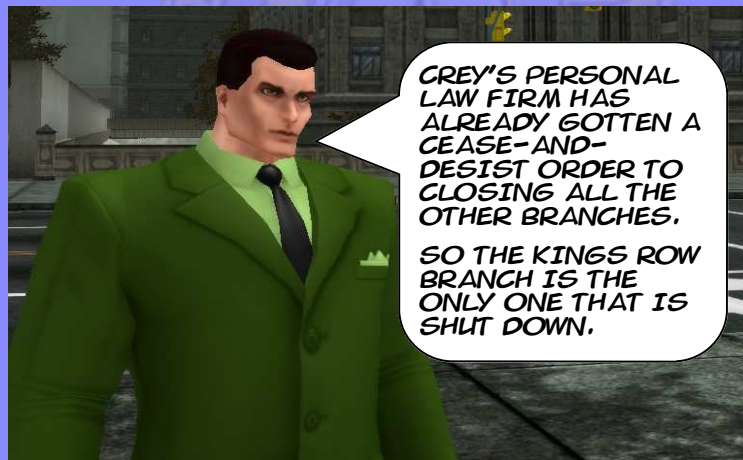




I TAKE IT YOU'VE  
SPOKEN WITH  
COUNTESS GREY  
AND DR. AEON.

AS THE TRUST-HOLDER  
OF YOUR STAKE, I'VE  
BEEN IN TOUCH WITH  
ALL THE OTHER OWNERS.  
THEY ALL AGREE WHAT  
WIELD DID WAS WRONG  
AND BORDERLINE  
ILLEGAL.

 **Alex Wentworth**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



GREY'S PERSONAL  
LAW FIRM HAS  
ALREADY GOTTEN A  
CEASE-AND-  
DESIST ORDER TO  
CLOSING ALL THE  
OTHER BRANCHES.  
SO THE KINGS ROW  
BRANCH IS THE  
ONLY ONE THAT IS  
SHUT DOWN.



AND YET... IT SOUNDS  
LIKE THAT WAS  
WIELD'S REAL GOAL;  
TO SHUT OFF A.E. FOR  
THE HEROES IN KINGS  
ROW.  
DEPRIVE THE HEROES  
OF A GOOD REASON  
TO BE IN THAT AREA.



IF THAT'S THE  
CASE, THEN HIS  
NEXT MOVE WOULD  
BE TO SHUT DOWN  
WENTWORTH'S.

NO, WIELD'S NOT STUPID.  
IF HE HARMS YOUR UNCLE'S  
BUSINESS, THEN THE  
BILDERBERG ALLIANCE  
WOULD HAVE TO STEP IN.



THAT'S WEIRD,  
HEARING THAT FROM  
YOU.  
YOU'D NORMALLY BE  
THE FIRST ONE TO  
BLAME IT ALL ON THE  
ALLIANCE.

WHEN YOU TOLD ME THAT  
EDWARD VANCE COULD NO  
LONGER DEFEND THE  
COPS\*, THAT LET ME  
KNOW THE ALLIANCE WAS  
WASHING THEIR HANDS  
OF WIELD.

BESIDES, THE ALLIANCE  
IS ABOUT PRESERVING THE  
STATUS QUO, AND WHAT  
WIELD IS DOING IS  
GOING FAR BEYOND THAT.

 \*FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS\* #24)





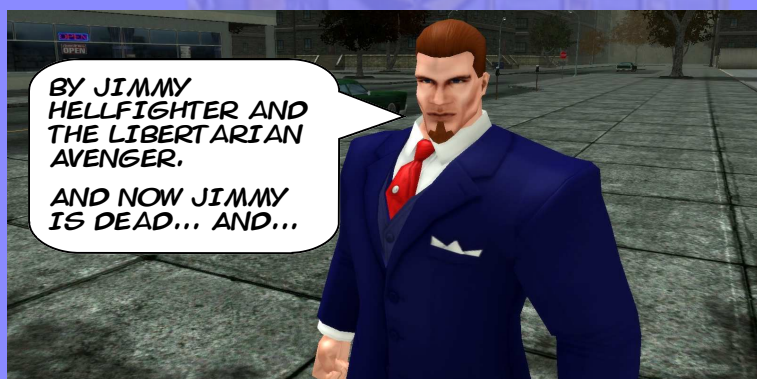
SO YOU SENSE A MASTER PLAN AT WORK...

OH, WAIT, OF COURSE YOU DO.

WIELD WANTS TO FORCE OUT THE HEROES FROM KINGS ROW.

HE WON'T STOP THERE, THOUGH.

HE'S STARTING THERE BECAUSE THAT'S HIS BACK YARD, WHERE THE BLUE DOGS WERE PUT DOWN THE LAST TIME.



BY JIMMY HELLFIGHTER AND THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER.

AND NOW JIMMY IS DEAD... AND...



AND NOW THERE'S A FAKE AVENGER.

I THINK I KNOW WHO IT IS, BUT IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS TO HAVE THAT PERSON REVEALED.



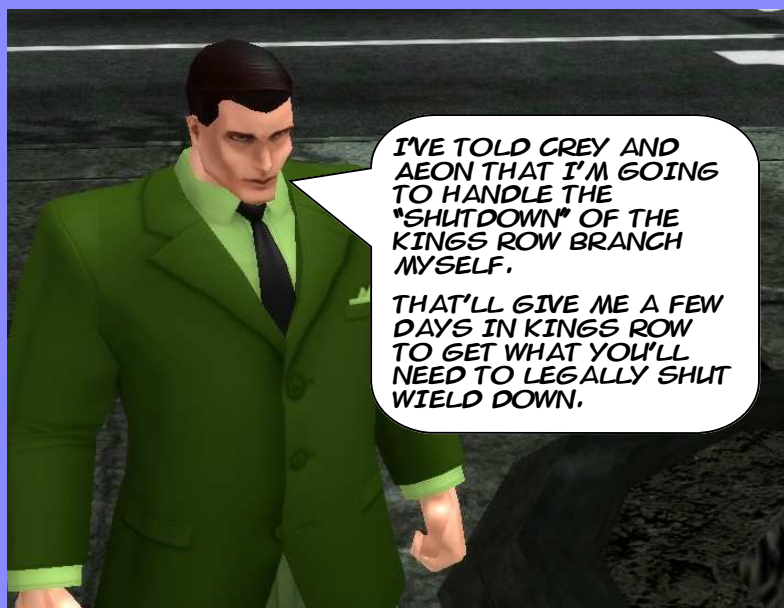
RIGHT NOW, THAT FAKE AVENGER IS A WILD CARD THAT WILL SLOW DOWN WIELD'S PLAN.

BUT AT SOME POINT YOU WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS IT.

THE LAST THING WE NEED IS SOMEONE TO COME OUT AND LINK THAT PERSON WITH ME.\*

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE SINCE BECOMING DISTRICT ATTORNEY WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

(\* ALEX WENTWORTH WAS THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER UNTIL HE BECAME D.A.)



I'VE TOLD GREY AND AEON THAT I'M GOING TO HANDLE THE "SHUTDOWN" OF THE KINGS ROW BRANCH MYSELF.

THAT'LL GIVE ME A FEW DAYS IN KINGS ROW TO GET WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO LEGALLY SHUT WIELD DOWN.



I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL.

JUST DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED IN THE PROCESS.



MEANWHILE...

I KNOW YOU SAID HE WORKS ON HIS OWN SCHEDULE, BUT I NEED TO KNOW THAT HE IS AT LEAST ON SOME KIND OF SCHEDULE!

NO... OF COURSE I'M NOT ASKING FOR A MEETING.

I JUST NEED TO KNOW THAT HE'LL BE DOING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE SOON.

YES, OF COURSE.

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CUT THIS SHORT.

MY APPOINTMENT JUST ARRIVED.  
WE'LL TALK AGAIN SOON, MY FRIEND.

I'M SORRY DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD, AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, DIRECTOR BURGESS.

AT OUR LEVEL, EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT.

**Director Darren Burgess**  
DEPARTMENT OF SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES

HOWEVER, ONCE I SHOW YOU WHAT I HAVE IN MOTION, I THINK YOU'LL FIND WE HAVE MUTUAL INTERESTS THAT CAN BE DEALT WITH RATHER EASILY.

THEN BY ALL MEANS, SIR, LEAD THE WAY.



WELCOME BACK TO "SHINING LIGHTS", I'M SALLY CARSON-RAMIREZ.

NORMALLY ON THIS PROGRAM WE TALK ABOUT THE UP-AND-COMING SUPERHEROES AND HERO GROUPS IN PARAGON CITY.



BUT TODAY WE WANT TO FOCUS ON SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH SUPERHEROES IN PARAGON CITY LONGER THAN ANYONE STILL ALIVE.

## SHINING LIGHTS WITH SALLY CARSON-RAMIREZ



EARLIER TODAY, PARAGON CITY SALUTED A WOMAN MOST PEOPLE KNOW SIMPLY AS "GRANDMA CAPE".

SHE MAY NOT HAVE ANY POWERS, BUT SHE HAS HEART, OPTIMISM, AND PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE.



SHE JOINS US FROM CITY HALL, AND I SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT SHE JUST TURNED NINETY!  
SO... HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

THANK YOU MY DEAR.



PARAGON CITY SALUTES GRANDMA CAPE



GRANDMA CAPE · CITY HALL



NOW, I UNDERSTAND FROM MY PRODUCERS THAT IN ADDITION TO BEING A REGISTERED HERO, YOU WERE ALSO ONE OF THE FIRST RECRUITS OF OUR OWN FREEDOM CORPS!

SO... HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?



WELL IT WAS NOT LONG AFTER MISS LIBERTY GOT STARTED AS A SIDEKICK TO STATESMAN.

SOME OF US SAW THIS YOUNG GIRL TRYING TO DO GOOD AND, YOU KNOW, WE JUST WANTED DO OUR PART TO HELP.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRANDMA CAPE!



GRANDMA CAPE · CITY HALL



WE WERE HOUSEWIVES AND DELIVERY BOYS AND TAXI DRIVERS... ORDINARY PEOPLE.

WE DIDN'T WEAR SKIN-TIGHT OUTFITS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. WE WERE LUCKY IF WE WORE MASKS AND A JACKET OVER OUR STREET CLOTHES.

WE'D BANDAGE UP THE HEROES, HELP CLEAN UP THE MESS... SOMETIMES EVEN HELP DETAIN THE CREEPS UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVED.



IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME BACK THEN.

THE POLICE CHIEF MAY HAVE HATED THE HEROES IN THE PAPER, BUT THE OFFICER-ON-THE-STREET WOULD THANK US FOR DOING OUR LITTLE BIT TO HELP OUT.

GRANDMA CAPE CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY AT CITY HALL







SO... WHAT MADE YOU GO FROM FREEDOM CORPS TO BEING A REGISTERED HERO?

SALLY CARSON-RAMIREZ · PNN STUDIO 



WELL, EVENTUALLY I HAD TO RETIRE FROM THE CORPS... I HAD KIDS AT THE TIME AND THEY WERE GETTING OLDER.

THEN, AFTER I LOST MY HUSBAND IN THE RIKTI INVASION, IT WAS JUST ME.

GRANDMA CAPE · CITY HALL 



SO I FIGURED, WHY NOT?

I MEAN, I DON'T BEAT UP BAD GUYS, BUT I CAN STILL GIVE ADV--

GRANDMA CAPE · CITY HALL 



I'M ROBIN STEED HERE AT PNN STUDIO A WITH BREAKING NEWS.

P-N-N JUST LEARNED THAT ACCUSED CORRUPT POLICE OFFICER BENJAMIN LAWTON, AKA "LAWDOG", HAS BEEN FREED ON TEN-THOUSAND DOLLARS BAIL.

LAWTON, WHO WAS SUSPECTED OF KILLING SEVERAL PEOPLE ON BEHALF OF THE BLUE DOG SQUAD, WAS ORIGINALLY HELD IN A FEDERAL FACILITY WITHOUT BOND UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON, WHEN A FEDERAL JUDGE REVERSED THAT DECISION AND ALLOWED THE PARAGON POLICE UNION TO POST BAIL ON HIS BEHALF.

**BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!** 



STAY TUNED TO P-N-N FOR MORE DETAILS ON THIS BREAKING NEWS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE TO US.

TONIGHT... IT WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT.



HOURS LATER, NOT FAR FROM  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

IT'S GONE THROUGH  
SEVERAL OWNERS OVER  
THE YEARS, AND EACH  
OF THEM HAD A  
DIFFERENT NAME FOR  
THE BUILDING.

BUT THEY NEVER STUCK  
AROUND LONG  
ENOUGH TO CHANGE  
THE OLD NEON SIGN.

IT DIDN'T MATTER,  
THOUGH, BECAUSE  
NO MATTER WHO  
OWNED IT, IT WAS  
ALWAYS CALLED  
"THE COP SHACK".

BAR

IT'S THE ONE PLACE  
COPS WOULD GATHER  
OUTSIDE OF A POLICE  
STATION...

SAVE, OF COURSE, FOR  
DRENCHED DONUTS.

WHAT ARE YOU  
LOOKING FOR?

I SAW HIM,  
ERNIE.  
I SAW THAT  
STUPID  
REPORTER  
SNEAKING  
AROUND!

THAT FAKE NEWS  
HACK AIN'T GONNA  
COME BACK FOR  
SECONDS, BURT.  
HE CAN'T EVEN  
WRITE AFTER YOU  
BROKE HIS HANDS.

STRIKE FAST  
AND HARD...  
BEFORE THEY  
CAN ALERT THE  
OTHER COPS.

I TRY TO TELL  
MYSELF THAT  
IT'S JUSTICE  
FOR THAT  
REPORTER.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO  
GET SENTRY TO  
DIG UP HIS  
STORY BEFORE I  
CAN BELIEVE  
WHAT I'M  
TELLING MYSELF.





LOOK WHO  
DECIDED TO  
CRASH THE PARTY.  
YOU GOT A DEATH  
WISH, KNIGHT?

**Lawdog**  
(BENJAMIN "BEAR" LAWTON)



I'VE BEEN DEAD  
BEFORE, LAWTON.  
DOESN'T SCARE ME.  
SHOULD SCARE YOU,  
THOUGH.



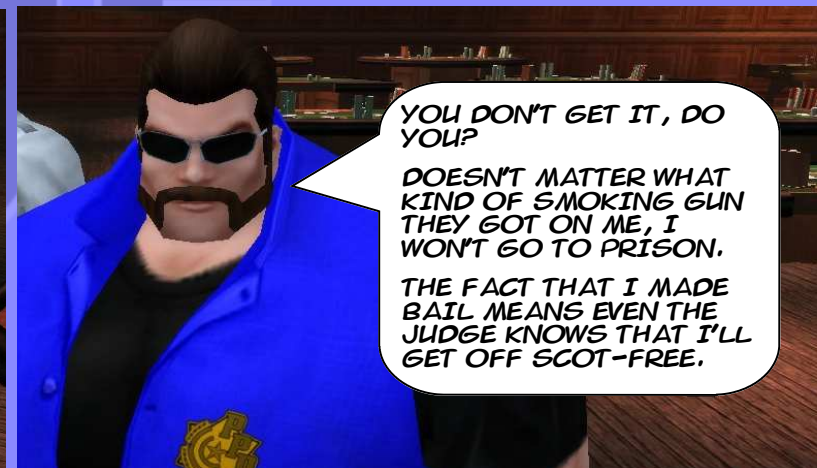
SAY THE WORD,  
BEAR. WE GOT  
YOU COVERED.  
JUSTIFIABLE  
HOMICIDE.



NAW... LET HIM HAVE  
HIS SAY, BOYS.  
AS LONG AS HE  
LEAVES AFTERWARD.  
THAT OKAY, KNIGHT?  
MY GIFT TO YOU.



YOU GOT LUCKY  
WITH THE JUDGE.  
BUT YOU'RE STILL  
GOING TO FACE  
JUSTICE FOR WHAT  
YOU DID.



YOU DON'T GET IT, DO  
YOU?  
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT  
KIND OF SMOKING GUN  
THEY GOT ON ME, I  
WON'T GO TO PRISON.  
THE FACT THAT I MADE  
BAIL MEANS EVEN THE  
JUDGE KNOWS THAT I'LL  
GET OFF SCOT-FREE.



YOU CAPES AND MASKS, YOU  
THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER OF  
BUSTIN' THE BAD GUY, AND  
THEN THEY GO TO PRISON.  
THAT'S NOT HOW THE REAL  
WORLD WORKS, KNIGHT.

I AIN'T NO SAINT, BUT I DO WHAT I  
DO FOR THIS BADGE ON MY CHEST.  
SAME WITH ALL MY BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS HERE WHO WEAR THE SAME  
BADGE.  
WE MAY BE A GANG, BUT WE'RE THE  
CITY'S GANG. SO WE'RE UNTOUCHABLE.






IS THAT WHAT YOU TELL  
YOURSELF WHEN YOU PUT ON  
A DISGUISE AND MURDER  
SOMEONE OUTRIGHT?

OR WHEN YOUR "BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS" MAKE DEALS  
SO CAREER CRIMINALS TAKE  
THE RAP FOR YOUR CRIMES?




THAT'S WHAT FAMILY  
DOES, KNIGHT.  
THIS IS MINE.  
NO DIFFERENT THAN  
YOUR GROUP.




OR DID YOU THINK  
WE ALL FORGOT  
THAT YOU BECAME  
AN APOSTLE FOR  
SOME PHONY GOD  
AND TRIED TO TAKE  
OVER THE CITY?\*

\* SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE  
DAWN GRADUATION" #3)



WE LOST THIRTEEN  
COPS THAT DAY.  
THIRTEEN OF MY  
BADGE BROTHERS.  
AND YOU WALKED  
AWAY UNTOUCHED.



I LOST MORE THAN YOU COULD  
EVER IMAGINE, LAWTON, AND I'VE  
BEEN PAYING FOR IT EVERY  
SINGLE DAY.

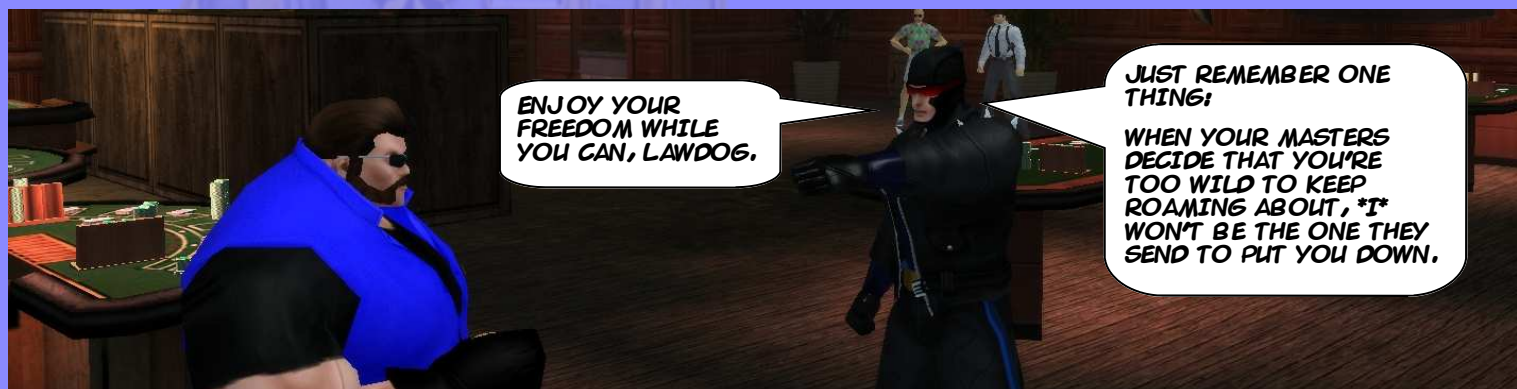
BUT THAT DOESN'T JUSTIFY WHAT  
YOU'VE BEEN DOING FOR YEARS  
WHILE WEARING THAT BADGE!





YEAH, WELP... TIME FOR YOU  
TO CALL IT A NIGHT, KNIGHT.  
MY BROTHERS OF THE BADGE  
WILL LET YOU WALK OUT HERE  
THIS TIME...  
AND ONLY FOR THIS TIME.

BELIEVE ME, THERE  
WON'T BE ANOTHER.



ENJOY YOUR  
FREEDOM WHILE  
YOU CAN, LAWDOG.

JUST REMEMBER ONE  
THING!

WHEN YOUR MASTERS  
DECIDE THAT YOU'RE  
TOO WILD TO KEEP  
ROAMING ABOUT, \*I\*  
WON'T BE THE ONE THEY  
SEND TO PUT YOU DOWN.



I'LL BE THE ONE DEBATING  
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I  
SHOULD SAVE YOUR SORRY  
ASS JUST SO IT CAN ROT  
IN THE ZIG AFTERWARD.



GODDAMNED  
HYPOCRITE!

KEEP WALKING,  
ZERO, RIGHT  
OF OUR CITY.

MAGA, BITCH!

DEAD, JUST  
DON'T KNOW  
IT.

DEAD CAPE  
WALKING.

COPS  
ALWAYS  
WIN!

THIS IS OUR  
CITY, NOT YOURS.

COP ALWAYS  
WINS, ASSHOLE.





MY BEST FRIEND'S SECOND-COUSIN WAS ATTACKED BY SOME SKULLS AND THE HEROES DID NOTHING.

THEN THE COPS SAID SHE SHOULD BLAME THE HEROES FOR IT!

HERO TROUBLES IN PARAGON CITY



I THINK BOTH GROUPS ARE AT FAULT FOR WHAT IS GOING ON.

THEY SHOULD JUST CUT THE \*BEEP\* AND GET OVER IT.

HERO TROUBLES IN PARAGON CITY



NORMALLY I'D BE COMFORTED BY THE SIGHT OF THE ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING LIT UP AT NIGHT.

IT WOULD STAND OUT AS A BEACON IN THIS HELL-HOLE OF A DISTRICT.

BUT NOW... QUITE LITERALLY... THE LIGHTS ARE ON, BUT NOBODY'S HOME.

THEY'RE ON BECAUSE DR. AEON'S "CLEAN" REACTOR IS STILL SUPPLYING POWER TO THE WHOLE BUILDING, AND IT SUPPOSEDLY TAKES DAYS FOR IT TO BE "SAFELY" SHUT DOWN.

IT'S A LIE, OF COURSE, BUT IT ALLOWS ME TO KEEP THE POWER RUNNING FOR MY LAIR INSIDE THE BUILDING.

IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME AND WHAT WAS LEFT OF MY MONEY TO SET UP THE LAIR.

EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I COULDN'T AFFORD TO RELOCATE MY OPERATIONS AND STILL WORK TO SHUT DOWN THE BLUE DOGS.





WIELD HAS UNITS  
ASSIGNED TO  
WATCH THE  
ENTRANCEWAYS.

TO MAKE SURE  
THE BUILDING  
STAYS CLOSED.

SO I HAVE TO  
RESORT TO MY OLD  
METHOD OF TRAVEL  
THROUGH THE AREA.



I USED TO HATE TRAVELING  
THROUGH THE SEWERS.

I ONCE ASKED HOW  
SHODDEN FREID WOULD  
PREFER LIVING IN THE  
SEWERS IN PRAGUE.\*

HE NEVER ANSWERED MY  
QUESTION. BUT I FOUND  
OUT HOW EASY IT WAS  
WHEN I FORCED MYSELF TO  
LIVE IN THESE SEWERS.\*\*

FOUR TURNS AND I  
SHOULD BE RIGHT  
UNDERNEATH THE  
A.E. BUILDING...  
AND HOME.

\* SHODDEN FREID WAS THE PREMIERE  
INVESTIGATOR FOR THE EUROPEAN  
SUPERGROUP DAWN PATROL. HE WORKED  
WITH JASON KNIGHT IN "GUARDIANS OF  
THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT #28."

C\*\* "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #4  
AND "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN  
GRADUATION" #2-3)





WAIT...

I'M NOT  
ALONE  
HERE...

I BETTER  
ACTIVATE MY  
STEALTH DEV--



**\*CRUNCH!\***



**\*WHUMP!\***



YOU... WON'T...



**\*KE-RACK!\***



**\*KA-THUD\***



YOU WILL DIE  
SOON ENOUGH.  
JASON KNIGHT.



ONCE YOU  
KNOW...  
DESPAIR.

**Despair**  
PROBLEM-SOLVER

**Next:**  
*The Hand  
of God.*



# TASK FORCE NOTES

*Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.*



## Longbow Intelligence Unit

Assessment/Profile Division

A subsidiary of Freedom Corps, Inc.



**Subject:** The Teleport Arrest Protocol System (T.A.P.)

The Teleport Arrest Protocol, or TAP for short, was a revolutionary way of dealing with arrests and detainment of criminals in Paragon City.

**Background:** During the First Rikti Invasion of 2002, a besieged Paragon City was specifically divided by huge war walls constructed in an insanely rapid period of time by the other-dimensional Rikti. Not only did the walls isolate the city from the rest of the world, but the Rikti also divided the city itself within specific zones. This seriously hindered our heroes from moving from one zone to another, while the Rikti themselves could travel to anywhere in the city through spatial portal technology that they mastered in their own universe.

After the Rikti Invasion ended, there was extensive debate about how to deal with the War Walls. One of the arguments for breaking down the walls involved dealing with emergencies such as crime or injuries. Heroes and emergency personnel could not travel fast enough when bottlenecked through a singular entranceway, and travelling above the walls was problematic because of the design of the energy barriers at the top of the walls.

Then came the invention of the emergency medial teleport system (or EMT), retro-fitted from Rikti technology (which we would later discover was retrofitted from their world's benefactors). This invention allowed the severely injured to be teleported directly to the nearest emergency room by way of temporary teleport "patches". Once activated, the patch would teleport the wearer to a receiver unit.

Once this became viable, Paragon City police officials discovered they could develop something similar to deal with the arrest of suspected criminals. City officials commissioned Dr. Science to mirror the EMT system for the police, only being able to teleport suspected criminals to the nearest police station for processing and later transportation to the Zigurksy Correctional Facility in Brickstown.

Dr. Science dubbed this program the Teleport Arrest Protocol (or TAP).

**How it works:** The TAP replaces handcuffs and zip-ties (although police still carry them as backups) and the need for transport vehicles. Once a suspect is incapacitated, a TAP patch is placed on them and activated. Once activated, the TAP teleports the suspect to the nearest available receiver unit in the Paragon City Police Department. However, unlike the EMT system, the TAP would be allowed to briefly "detain" the suspect in the system until officers can be made available to physically take custody of the suspect.

*Continues on next page...*



# TASK FORCE NOTES

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*Continued from previous page...*

Because of the extraordinary amount of energy that is consumed for this process, police officials were warned against using the TAP as an indefinite detention facility. In addition to the amount of energy that is consumed to maintain the digital information of the suspect, prolonged detainment through the TAP system can also pose a risk to the integrity of the suspect. Research has shown that keeping a suspect's digitized information longer than thirty minutes can result in permanent degradation, which would be fatal. Safeguards were installed in the system to prevent that from happening, and it is police policy to have at least one officer on-duty at all times at receiving units.

Once a suspect is processed, the officers can then teleport the individual to the receiver unit at the Zigursky facility.

The TAP system was implemented in 2004. Its first subject was a member of the Outcasts with a lengthy police record. Previous arrests of this subject became problematic because his fellow gang members would attack the transport vehicle. With the first use of the TAP system, this suspect was teleported straight to the nearby precinct and summarily processed without risk to any officer.

Despite objections from then-Police Chief Conrad Bochco, the authorization of the TAP system was only possible after the city agreed to Dr. Science's demand that the technology would be shared between police and registered superheroes. TAP patches would only be issued by either the Paragon City Police Department or City Hall.

For legal assurances, each TAP patch issued contains digital code that identifies the person using it and when it was used. Misuse of the TAP can result in disciplinary actions for police and possible criminal charges for registered heroes.

The TAP has proven itself to be a valuable tool in the apprehension and transportation of wanted criminals, for both police and registered hero alike.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

**NEXT ISSUE...**

**DESPAIR HAS MADE HIS MOVE.**

**WILL JASON KNIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP WHAT COMES NEXT?**

**AND IF HE CAN'T, THEN WHO WILL LEAD THE TASK FORCE?**

**THAT AND THE SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY A CERTAIN STREET VIGILANTE.**





# The Heroes Are Not Our Friends!

When police officers and other government officials break the law and bring harm to the innocent, they are held to account for it. There are legal mechanisms in place that stop abusive officers. The government is required to pay for all the damages incurred. There are even insurance policies set up for just such an unfortunate situation.


The same cannot be said for the so-called "registered heroes" in Paragon City.

Every day, innocent people are assaulted by vigilantes that are registered by our city. Most often these "heroes" have almost none of the required training that law enforcement officers have to spend weeks learning. They often do not follow up their "arrests" with actual reporting of the alleged crimes committed, and they don't even show up in court to testify under oath why they did what they did.

And there is no accountability for their actions!

When myself and other dedicated followers of the law try to hold these vigilantes to account when they do harm, quite often there is no way we can serve them legal notices. They hide behind their masks and their "secret identities". And even if we prevail, there is often no financial restitution. The hero community have no "insurance policy" to compensate for those harmed by their illegal actions.

Quite often I have to tell my clients to expect nothing even if we prevail.



My firm is looking for those who have been legitimately harmed by these so-called "registered heroes" so we can represent them in a comprehensive class-action lawsuit against Paragon City, the State of Rhode Island, and the United States government.

If these institutions will not do something to stop the abusive actions of these lawless vigilantes, then we must hold the institutions themselves to account for them.

Help me bring them all to justice!

## Chris Jenkins - Attorney At Law

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**AND MANY, MANY MORE!**

**OUR "CITY" DIDN'T GO AWAY...  
OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

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