

A NEW LIMITED SERIES FROM BATTLEROCK COMICS

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

TASK FORCE TWILIGHT



Issue 01
2017





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 clearer and clearer that something needs to be done before the city suffers the consequences.

"OPERATION 'TWILIGHT'"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

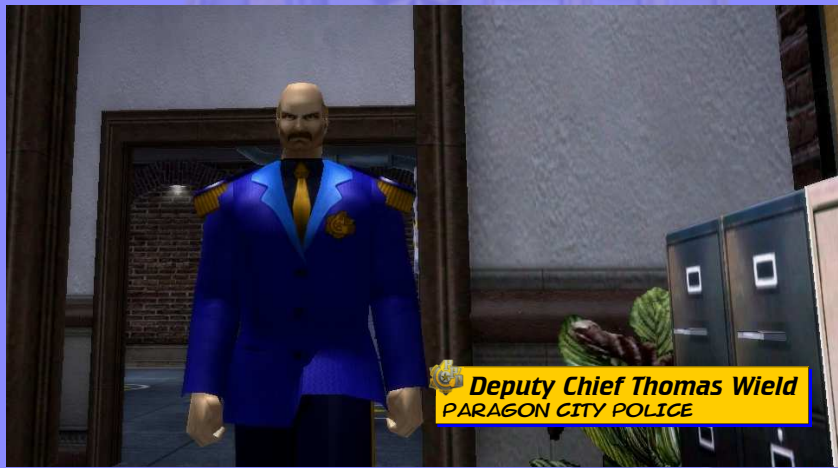
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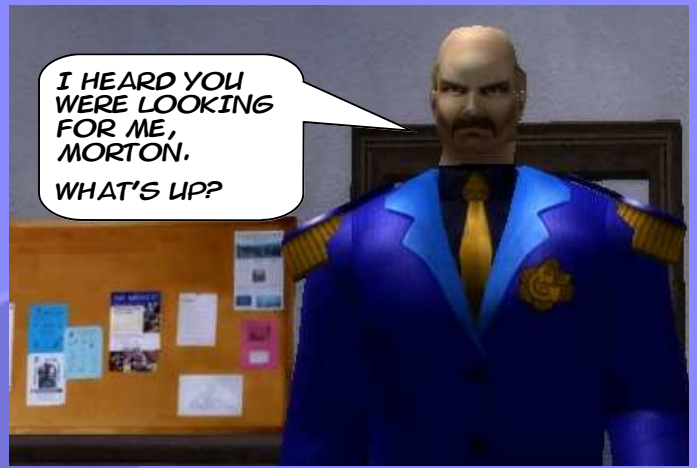
PARAGON CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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.

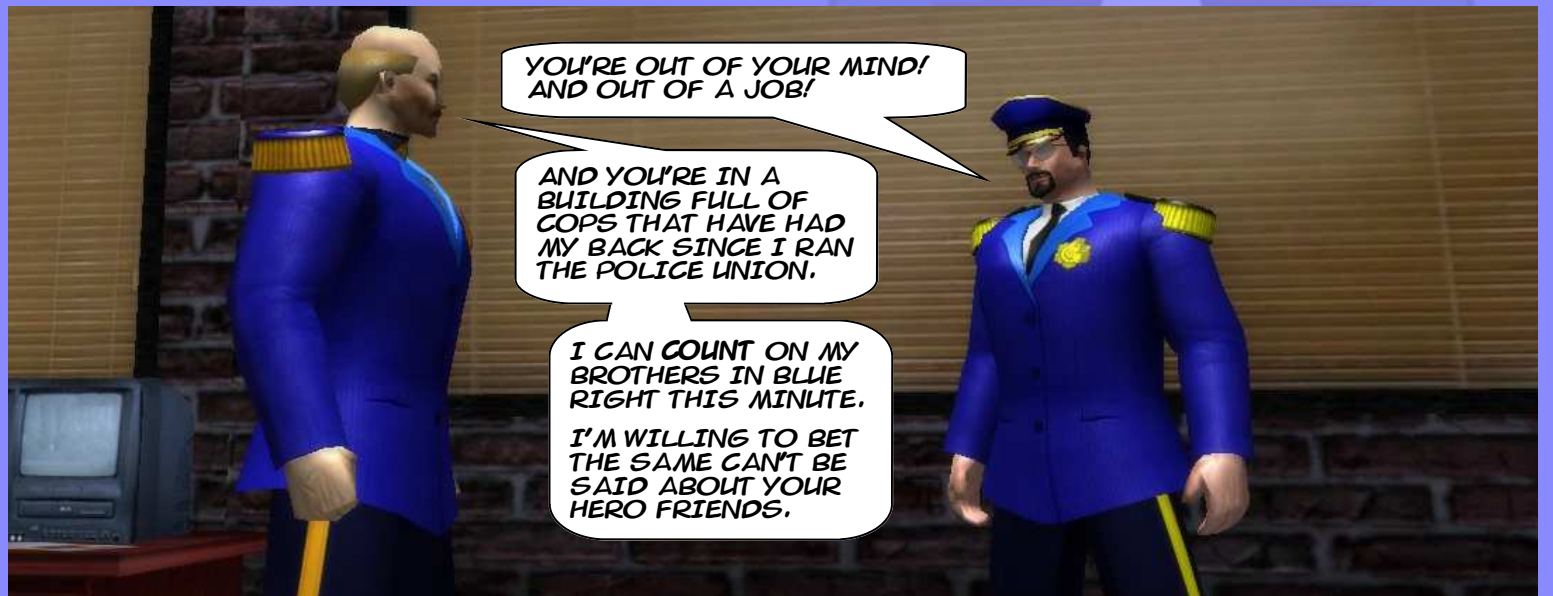
* MCMILLIAN WAS THE
PREVIOUS DEPUTY CHIEF. >



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 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, MOST 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.

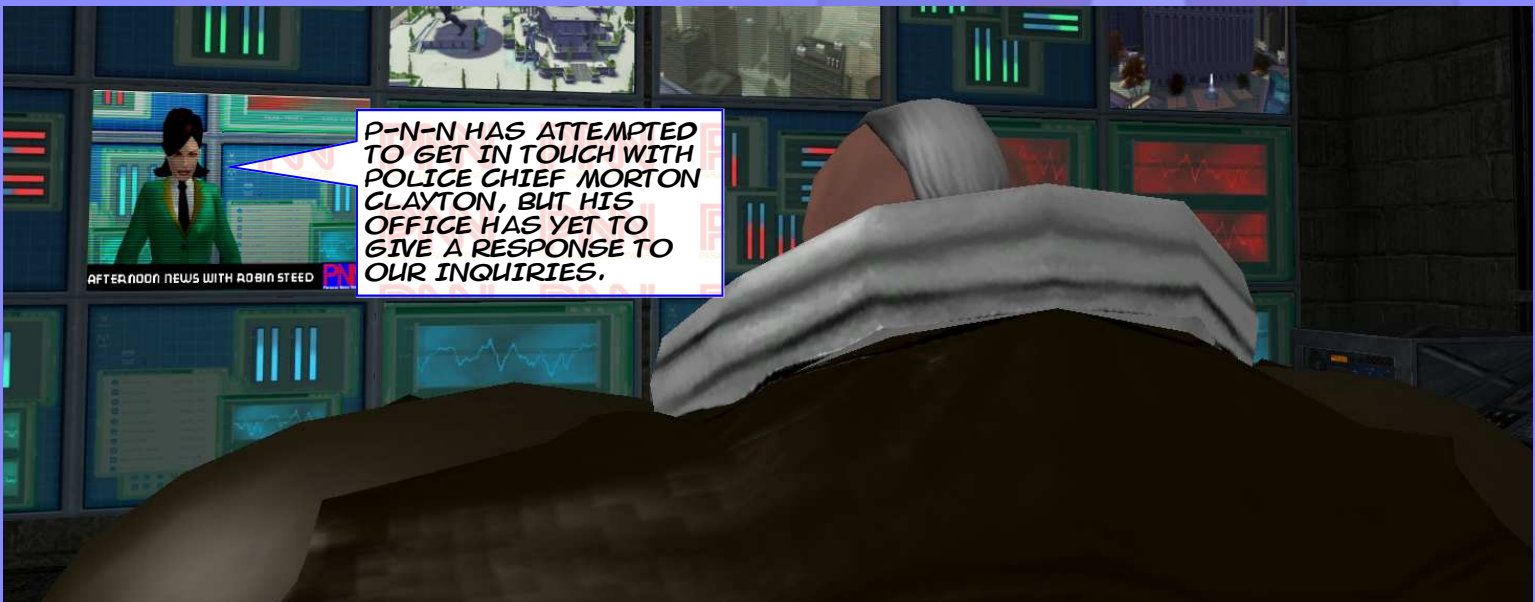
A MOVE THAT LEGAL EXPERTS SAY VIOLATE THE VERY LAWS THAT ALLOW REGISTERED HEROES TO OPERATE IN THE CITY.

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT AT PNN.PARA



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.

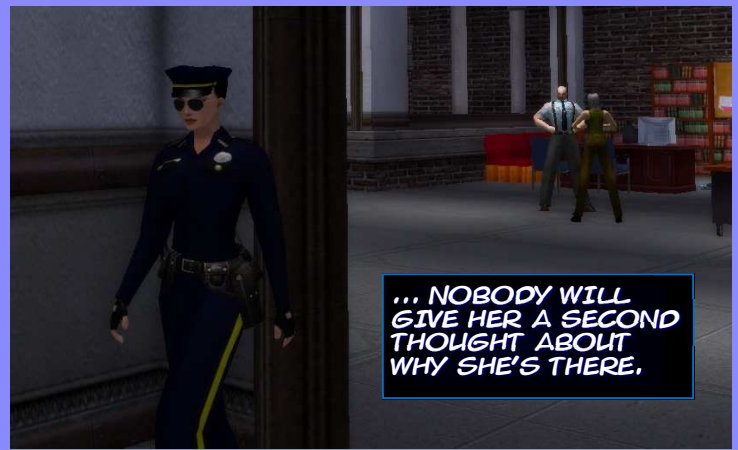
BEFORE, SHE PRETENDED
TO BE A HERO SO SHE
COULD GET THE
ATTENTION OF THE BLUE
DOGS, NOT REALIZING
WHAT THEY WOULD DO
TO HER AFTERWARD.

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

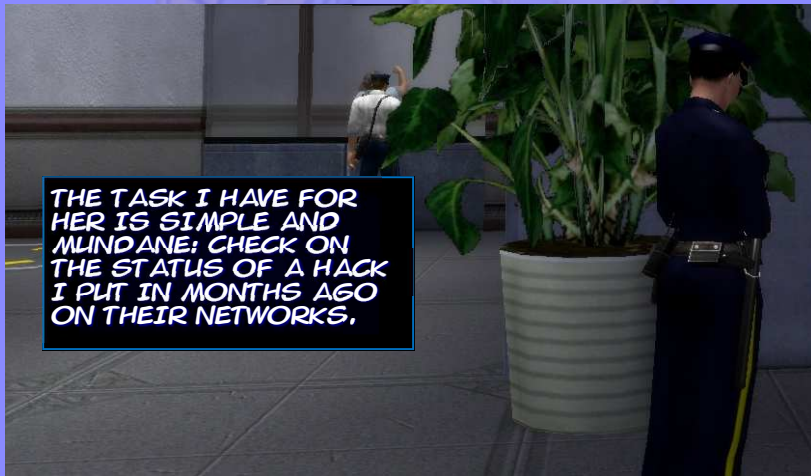
THAT MEANS STREET ANGEL
NEEDS TO BE GETTING
INFORMATION INSTEAD
OF GETTING NOTICED.



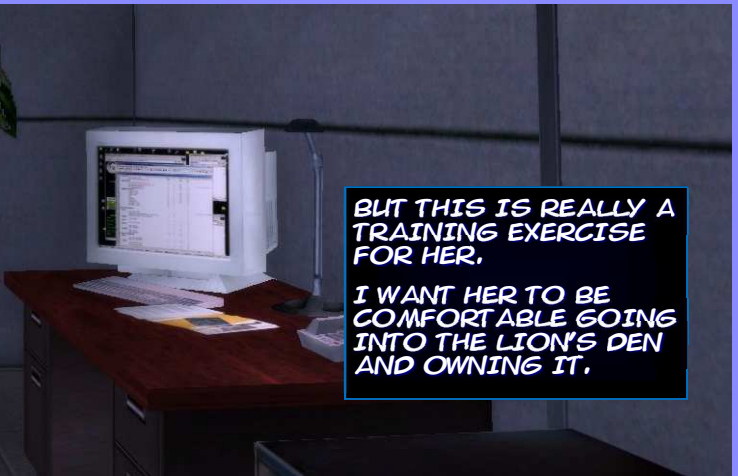
IF SHE LOOKS LIKE A COP AND WALKS LIKE SHE BELONGS THERE...



... 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.

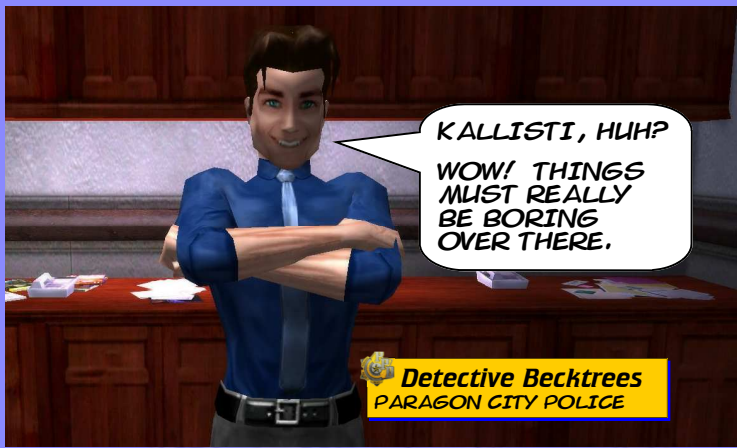


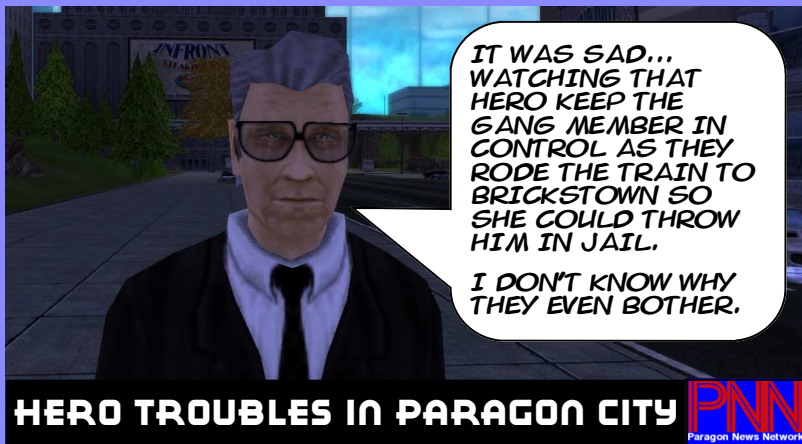
GO AHEAD. MAKE A NEW FRIEND.

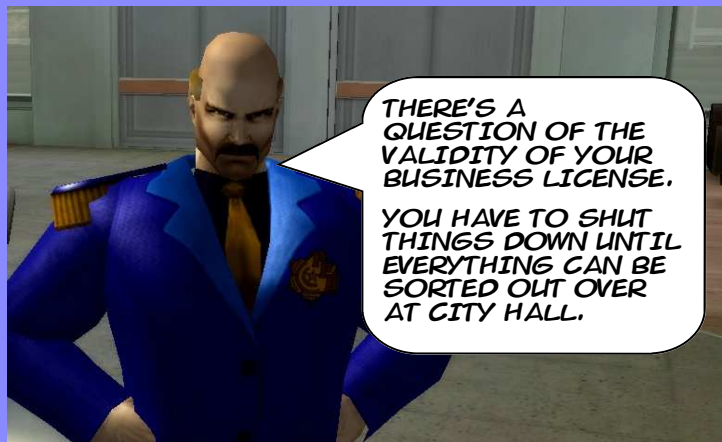


OFFICER KAY PAIGE. I'M NORMALLY IN KALLISTI WHARF, BUT THEY HAVE ME DOING SOME CROSS-TRAINING.

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



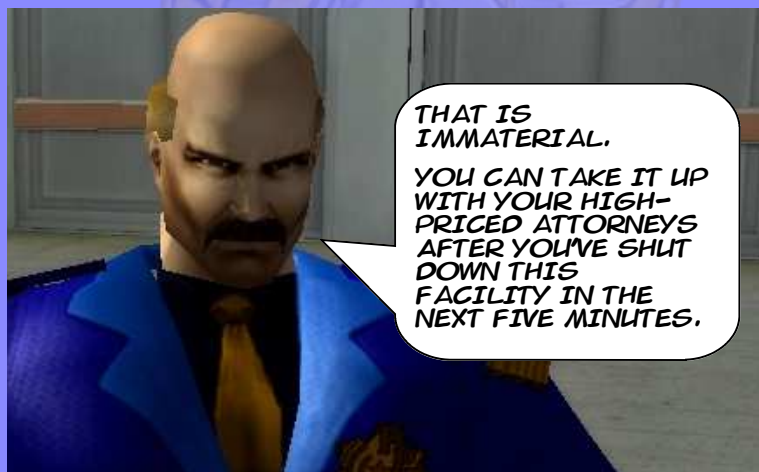




THERE'S A QUESTION OF THE VALIDITY OF YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE. YOU HAVE TO SHUT THINGS DOWN UNTIL EVERYTHING CAN BE SORTED OUT OVER AT CITY HALL.



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.



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.

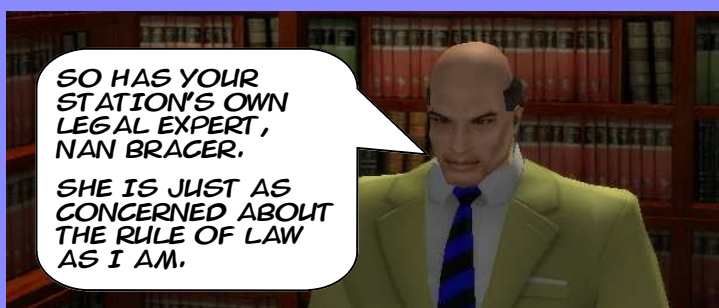
I OFTEN HAVE TO TELL MY CLIENTS TO EXPECT TO GET NOTHING EVEN IF WE WIN.

CHRIS JENKINS · FAMED HERO-SUING ATTORNEY



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.



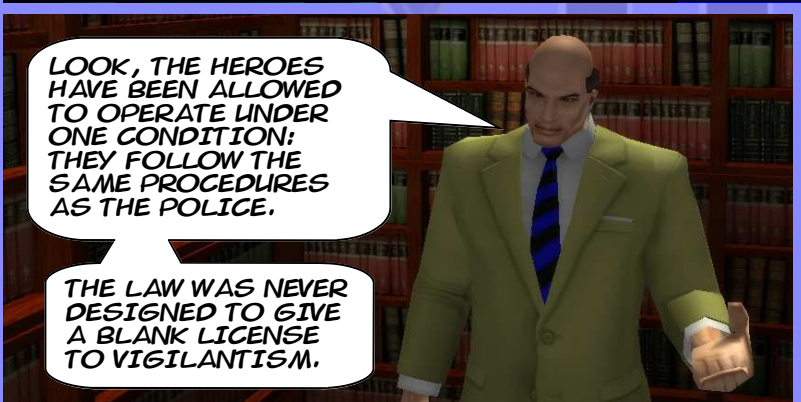
SO HAS YOUR STATION'S OWN LEGAL EXPERT, NAN BRAGER.

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

HEROES OR VIGILANTES?

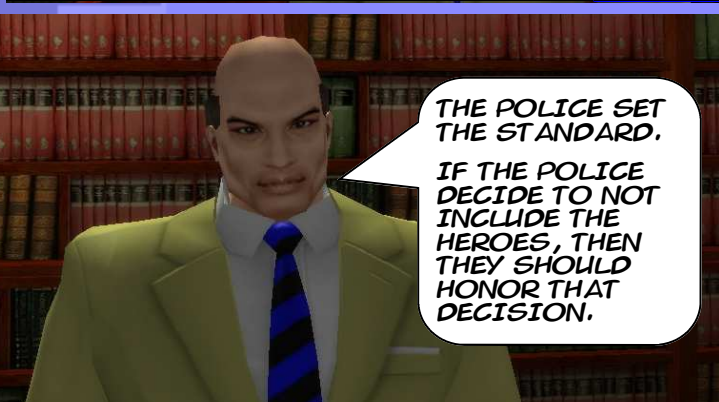


CHRIS JENKINS · ATTORNEY



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.



THE POLICE SET THE STANDARD.

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

HEROES OR VIGILANTES?



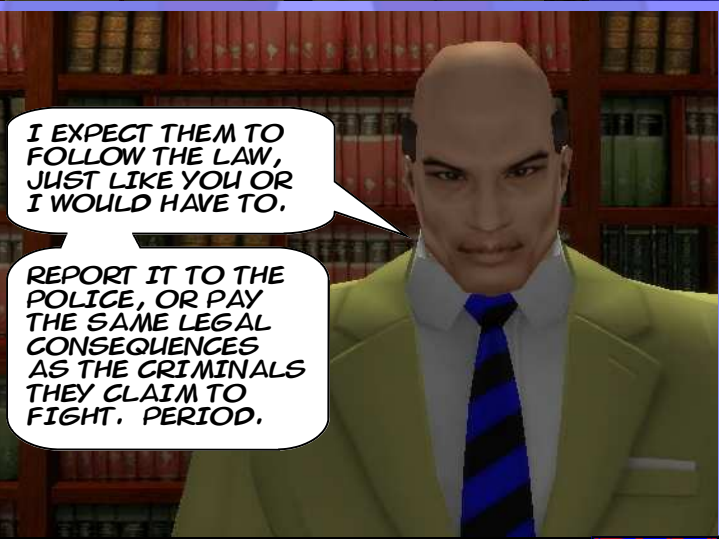
CHRIS JENKINS · ATTORNEY



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?



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.

ROBIN STEED · PNN AFTERNOON NEWS



SOUND OFF AT PNN.PARA/FORUM

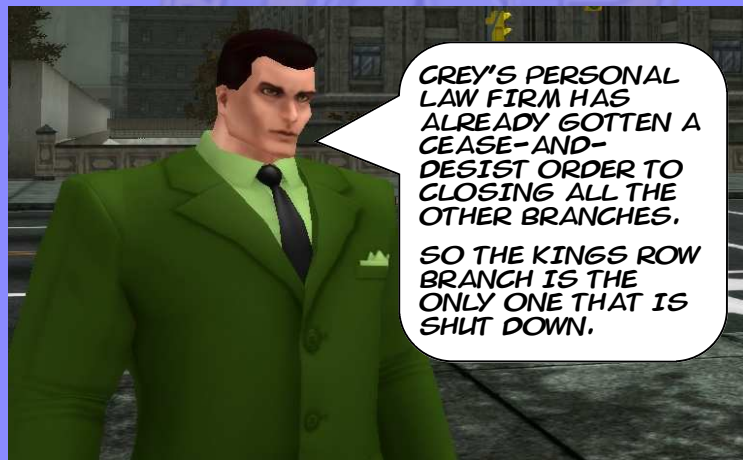




I TAKE IT YOU'VE
SPOKEN WITH
COUNTESS GREY
AND DR. AEON.

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 ZONE.



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.



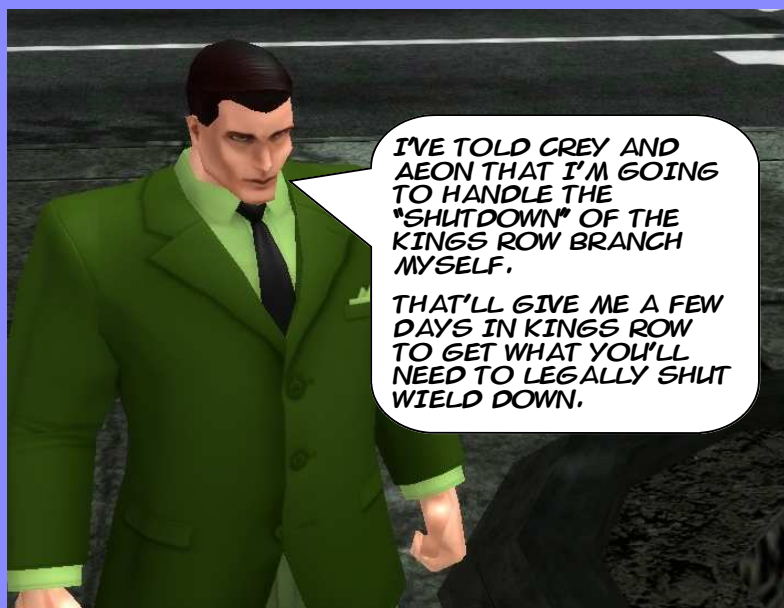
RIGHT NOW, THAT
FAKE AVENGER IS
A WILD CARD THAT
WILL SLOW DOWN
WIELD'S PLAN.

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 LAWTON)



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



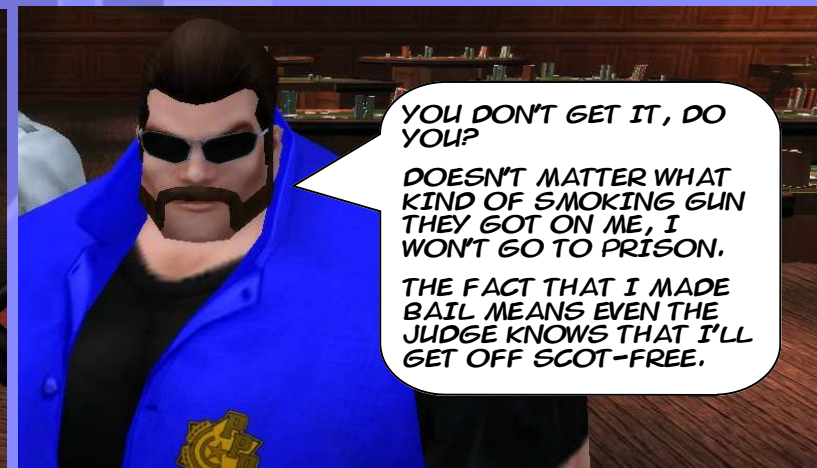
SAY THE WORD,
BEAR. WE GOT
YOU COVERED.
JUSTIFIABLE
HOMICIDE.



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.
THESE ARE 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.



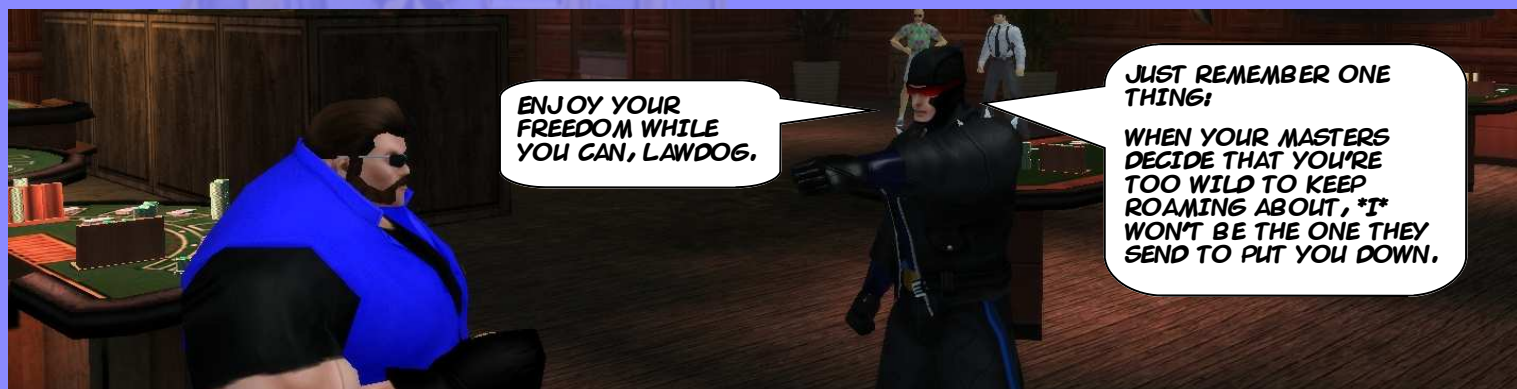
I LOST MORE THAN YOU COULD
EVER IMAGINE, LAWTON, AND I'VE
BEEN PAYING FOR IT EVERY
SINGLE DAY.

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)



Despair
PROBLEM-SOLVER

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 Zigursky 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

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 were thwarted 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.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...

FALL OF THE KNIGHT...

**AND THE RISE OF THE TASK
FORCE!**

**(AND THE APPEARANCE OF
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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**OUR "CITY" DIDN'T GO AWAY...
OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

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