



REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS
MAY-AUGUST 2020

• DEAR GRACE

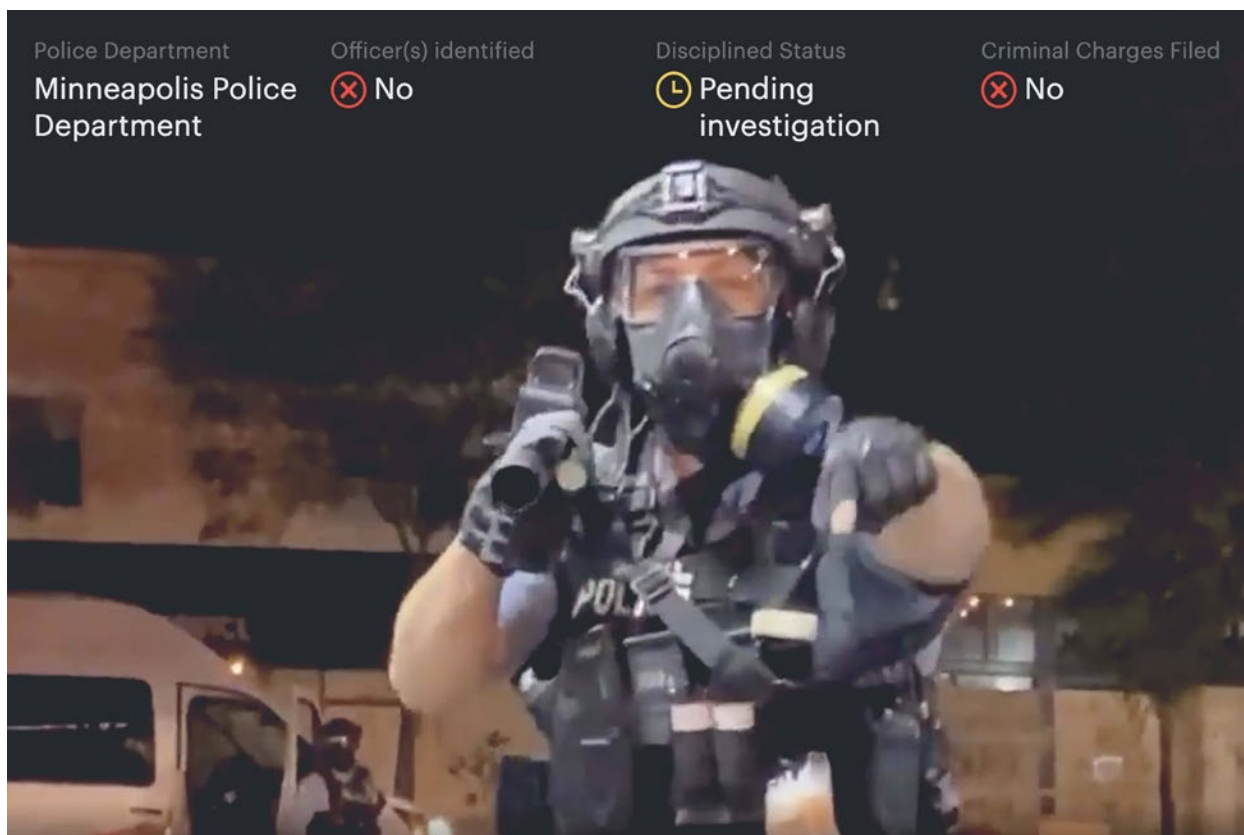
my name is Payge, I am
and writing to let you know we
AND stand in SOLIDARITY with

Investigating Racial Injustice

Since our founding, ProPublica has revealed the costs of systemic racism across our society, including in health care, housing, wealth distribution and criminal justice. Early in the pandemic, we found that racial disparities around the coronavirus were central to this immense story. As cases continued into May, ProPublica revealed myriad ways in which the pandemic continued to exacerbate preexisting inequities, including racial disparities in [COVID-19 deaths](#), in [arrests for social distancing violations](#) and in [job losses](#).

Amid this unfolding crisis, a horrifying spate of deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police sparked a national reckoning on racial justice. When demonstrations erupted across the country, we committed to bringing new reporting to the related questions of race and police accountability.

Cover: *Payge Deron writes a letter of solidarity to Grace, a Black teenager who was sent to a juvenile detention facility in May for violating her probation after not doing her online schoolwork. (Mandi Wright/Detroit Free Press)*



We reviewed videos showing clear apparent instances of police officers escalating violence during protests. After following up, we found that little happened to police in the aftermath. (ProPublica)

Scrutinizing Police Violence

In our earliest coverage of the protests, reporter Akilah Johnson interviewed 18 Black demonstrators outside the White House about their reasons for taking to the street, one day after peaceful protesters there were tear-gassed. They described feeling caught in a [dual pandemic of COVID-19 and police violence](#), many of them willing to sacrifice their bodies, either to violence or the virus, to be heard. Engagement reporter Logan Jaffe looked to the small, mostly white town of Anna, Illinois — reputed to be a sundown town where, historically, Black people were not welcome after dark. In June, young activists confronted that history by organizing [the town’s first Black Lives Matter protest](#).

As protests continued, videos of the demonstrations went viral. Many news organizations described

what we were seeing in vague terms — “violent skirmishes” or “clashes with police” — but some images were unambiguous. Police were attacking protesters, launching tear gas canisters at people’s heads, shooting pepper spray from moving vehicles, firing foam bullets into crowds and beating retreating protesters with batons. ProPublica staffers Talia Buford, Lucas Waldron, Moiz Syed and Al Shaw reviewed [nearly 400 social media videos of police responses to protesters](#) and found troubling conduct by officers in at least 184 of them.

To find out what happened to police in the aftermath, research fellows Zipporah Osei and Mollie Simon set out to see whether these incidents caught on camera were investigated and whether officers faced any discipline. Focusing on 68 videos that showed

clear apparent instances of police escalating violence during protests, from more than 40 law enforcement agencies across the country, they found that little had happened to the officers.

In Portland, Oregon, meanwhile, federal agents had been driving around in unmarked vans, scooping up peaceful protesters and holding them for hours before releasing them without charge. After the local press reported on the terrifying practice, it was abandoned. But ProPublica reporter Dara Lind noticed a

new tactic from federal authorities: arrest for offenses as minor as “failing to obey” an order to get off a sidewalk; then telling those arrested they couldn’t protest anymore as a condition for release from jail. Legal experts described the move as a blatant violation of the constitutional right to free assembly.

Within 48 hours of the story, federal defenders and prosecutors in Portland made a joint request to the court that the practice be stopped. Protesters were released without restrictions.

Accountability in New York City

We also published an article by deputy managing editor Eric Umansky about accountability in the New York Police Department. The timely story began last Halloween, when Umansky’s wife and their daughter were headed home after a night of trick-or-treating and saw an unmarked police car hit a Black teenager who was running with a group. Miraculously unharmed, the teen got away. Police then hauled away a completely different group of Black boys — a 15-year-old, a 14-year-old and a 12-year-old — who were detained for hours before being released without explanation. When Umansky tried to find out whether the Police Department would investigate the cops’ actions, he discovered all the ways the NYPD is shielded from accountability.

For example, in 2018, the New York Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) logged nearly 3,000 allegations of officers physically abusing civilians in 2018 and was able to substantiate just 73. The most severe punishment, loss of vacation days, was meted out to nine officers.

No details were available on any of these cases because of 50-a, a New York law that barred the public from seeing police discipline records. But that was about to change. Shortly before we published Umansky’s story, New York lawmakers repealed that law. Soon after, we filed a request for the records of every police officer who had had at least one substantiated complaint. We had the data days later. Our team of developers — including Ken Schwencke, the editor of our news applications team, and developers Derek Willis and Moiz Syed — moved quickly to create an online database that could be searched by readers.



The NYPD has regularly failed to turn over key records and videos to investigators of police abuse at New York’s Civilian Complaint Review Board. (Daniel Zender, special to ProPublica)

The database, called The NYPD Files, made public thousands of police discipline records that New York kept secret for decades. It provided an unprecedented picture of civilians’ complaints of abuse by NYPD officers. According to the records, more than 200 officers still working at the NYPD have had five or more substantiated allegations against them. There are nearly 5,000 allegations of “physical force” and more than 600 of “gun pointed.” Readers can search police complaints and use the information to request details on cases from the CCRB. We also made the data available for download by anyone.

Freeing Grace

In our commitment to investigate systemic racism in all its forms, ProPublica Illinois reported on an outrageous example in the juvenile justice system. Co-published with the Detroit Free Press and Michigan's nonprofit Bridge Magazine, reporting began when ProPublica Illinois reporter Jodi S. Cohen received a troubling phone call from a desperate mother. Her 15-year-old daughter, Grace (her middle name, which we used to protect her identity), had been sent to



Naomi Mae joins a protest to free Grace. (Mandi Wright/Detroit Free Press)

a juvenile detention facility in suburban Detroit as the coronavirus swept across the country. Her crime: [failing to complete her online coursework](#) when her school switched to remote learning. Judge Mary Ellen Brennan of the Oakland County juvenile court ruled that this had violated the probation she had been given weeks earlier for fighting with her mother and stealing a classmate's cellphone. So Grace, a Black special needs student with ADHD, was locked up in juvenile detention.

Within days, Grace's story prompted shock and anger around the country. An online petition asking for her release garnered more than 350,000 signatures, and #FreeGrace became a trending hashtag. Protesters showed up outside the county courthouse where she was sentenced. The Michigan Supreme Court's oversight agency announced it was reviewing procedures in the case. Yet Brennan upheld her decision to keep Grace in detention.

Additional calls for her release came from, among others, Grace's city and school board members, members of Congress including Sen. Kamala Harris, and the ACLU of Michigan. Seventy-five days after her incarceration — and two and a half weeks after our first story — the Michigan Court of Appeals ordered Grace's immediate release and she went home. Soon after, Judge Brennan dismissed her case entirely.

Finally...

In this middle period of the year, ProPublica reported on other important subjects, including an ambitious piece with the New York Times Magazine and support from the Pulitzer Center that [modeled how climate migrants might move across international borders](#) as climate change makes certain areas unlivable. We published a comprehensive explainer on [U.S. Postal Service slowdowns](#) and voting by mail, reported on [election misinformation](#) on Facebook, and announced four Electionland grants to support local reporting projects on voting issues in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Florida and Wisconsin. We also released new databases tracking [companies that received taxpayer](#)

[money](#) through the Paycheck Protection Program, as well as [federal spending and contracts](#) to fight the coronavirus. And we expanded the ProPublica Local Reporting Network with six new projects in partnership with public broadcasters.

At ProPublica we have a clear and constant goal: to use the moral force of investigative journalism to spark tangible change. It's a mandate we take very seriously, and we're pleased to have generated more of that change through our most recent work. There is so much more work to do before this incredibly challenging year comes to an end. We are determined to pursue it.

Impact

The most important test of ProPublica is whether our work is having impact. We measure our impact not in terms of audience size or honors, but in real-world change. In addition to the impact previously mentioned, our journalism in the middle period of 2020 spurred such change in a number of important areas.

Senate Intelligence Chair Steps Down

In March, ProPublica reported that Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr sold off up to \$1.7 million of stock after receiving early classified intelligence briefings on the serious health threats of COVID-19. Simultaneously, Burr was reassuring the public that the government was prepared to deal with the health crisis. In May, FBI agents served a search warrant to Burr, which included a seizure of his cell phone, as part of an investigation of his stock trades. The next day, Burr resigned as chairman.

Alaska Attorney General Resigns After Texts to Junior Employee Exposed

In August, ProPublica and the Anchorage Daily News published an investigation showing that Alaska Attorney General Kevin Clarkson sent hundreds of text messages to a younger state employee — at least 558 messages in March alone — inviting her to come to his home in at least 18 of them and often using kiss emoji. At the time of our reporting, Clarkson was on a monthlong leave of absence without pay, but the state had never told the public he was gone, or why. Records we obtained showed the abrupt absence came after a junior state employee raised concerns about the text messages. Hours after we published our story, which included texts obtained by ProPublica and the Daily News, Clarkson resigned as attorney general.

Border Patrol Agents Fired or Suspended for Troubling Facebook Activity

In July 2019, ProPublica spotlighted the U.S. Border Patrol agents responsible for detaining and safeguarding immigrants crossing the border with Mexico, including many children. Our series revealed a pattern of indifference and callous behavior, including participation in a secret Facebook group for present and former Border Patrol agents where they shared racist, sexist and misogynistic posts about immigrants and members of Congress. The internal affairs office of Customs and Border Protection, the agency that oversees the Border Patrol, launched an investigation within hours of our report. In July of this year, the agency revealed that its investigation resulted in the firing of four employees and suspension without pay for dozens of others.

USDA Cancels Contract With Unlicensed Food Supplier

In May, ProPublica reported that the Trump administration's billion-dollar Farmers to Families Food Box Program, meant to distribute fresh food to struggling food banks and other nonprofits dealing with increased food insecurity during the pandemic, was rife with problems. The program used an unusually fast bidding process that awarded contracts to many organizations that lacked experience or proper licens-



Our investigation on flawed roadside drug tests, used by police to send tens of thousands of people to jail every year, has led to the overturning of several wrongful convictions. (Lisa Larson-Walker/ProPublica)

es. Another result of this process was that the program left hard-hit areas like New York with less food than areas with less need and bypassed the states of Maine and Alaska entirely. In response to our reporting, both the House and Senate sent letters to the USDA asking for an explanation of how it evaluated the bids, including if it checked companies' licenses and considered equity across regions. The USDA committed to reviewing food distribution to underserved areas during its next round of contracts and canceled the largest unlicensed contract, a \$40 million deal to an avocado grower profiled in our initial investigation.

Trump Administration Backs Out of Fraudulent Ventilator Contract

In March, ProPublica published a story showing how a U.S. subsidiary of Royal Philips N.V., a Dutch appliance and technology company, had received millions in federal tax dollars years ago to deliver a low-cost ventilator for pandemics but failed to do so. Yet, as the coronavirus began spreading around the globe and U.S. hospitals were desperate for more, Philips was selling commercial versions of the government-funded ventilator to overseas buyers from its Pennsylvania factory. We reported in April that, despite having not fulfilled the initial contract, the Dutch company struck a much more lucrative deal to sell the U.S. government 43,000 ventilators for \$646.7 million — four times the price. In August, a House subcommittee investigating the government's purchase of the new

Philips ventilators said that “gullible” White House negotiators overpaid. Citing evidence of waste, fraud and abuse, the subcommittee asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General to launch its own investigation of the deal. By the end of the month, HHS terminated the controversial contract with Philips, and the company announced that it will stop making the ventilators.

Debt Collection Lawsuits Dropped Amid Coronavirus

ProPublica and the Texas Tribune investigated Oportun Inc., a Silicon Valley-based installment lender that caters to Latino immigrants, and found that it was continuing to sue borrowers even after they lost jobs because of the pandemic and missed payments. As part of our regular reporting practice, we submitted questions to the company. Shortly thereafter, and before we published the story, Oportun announced that it was dropping the lawsuits it filed against borrowers who fell behind on payments, including during the coronavirus pandemic. It also announced a cap on interest rates for new loans.

Five More Wrongful Convictions Overturned

A 2016 ProPublica investigation published with the New York Times Magazine spotlighted how police departments in Nevada and other states used roadside drug tests to secure guilty pleas, despite widespread evidence that the tests routinely produce false positives. The story led to five overturned drug convictions in Multnomah County, Oregon, and more than 250 in Houston. In July 2020, the Clark County District Attorney's Office in Las Vegas disclosed that, following ProPublica's reporting, Las Vegas courts overturned five more drug convictions in 2017. Upon reanalyzing white powder, originally believed to be cocaine, found with the accused, Las Vegas police officers found that the powders were not illegal substances at all.

CDC Restores Hospital Data to Its Website

In July, ProPublica Deputy Managing Editor Charles Ornstein noticed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website had stopped displaying hospital capacity information, which is a good barometer of whether hospitals in certain states have enough beds to deal with surges in COVID-19 cases. The information vanished from the CDC's site after the Trump



A federal investigation, spurred by our reporting, found Lovelace Women's Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M., violated patients' rights by profiling Native American mothers and separating them from their newborns. (Shoshana Gordon/ProPublica)

administration instructed hospitals to stop reporting data to the CDC and instead report it to a portal created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ornstein tweeted about the missing data, sparking a public outcry that prompted the CDC to add it back to the website.

Hospital Undergoes Federal Civil Rights Investigation

In June, ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner New Mexico In Depth reported on Lovelace Women's Hospital, a prominent facility in Albuquerque where pregnant Native women were singled out for COVID-19 testing and separated from their newborns after delivery. Clinicians and health care ethicists

deemed these practices — in which mothers were separated from babies for several days while waiting on test results, preventing them from nursing and bonding — to be racial profiling. The day after our reporting, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced a state investigation of the hospital. In August, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services concluded its investigation, finding that the practice, which Lovelace halted, had violated patients' rights. Hospital officials also submitted a plan to fix problems identified by federal investigators, including a promise to conduct internal audits to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and COVID-19 screening guidance.

FEMA Warns Against Unusable COVID-19 Testing Supplies as Homeland Security Investigates the Contractor

In June, ProPublica reported that the Trump administration paid a fledgling Texas company \$7.3 million for test tubes needed in tracking the spread of the coronavirus nationwide. But, instead of the standard vials, Fillakit LLC supplied plastic tubes made for bottling soda, which state health officials say are unusable and may be contaminated. A later story in the Wall Street Journal raised similar allegations. A week after the stories published, the Federal Emergency Management Agency warned states not to use COVID-19 testing supplies it bought under its contract with Fillakit, and the Department of Homeland Security opened an investigation into the contractor.

TurboTax Abuses Spotlights in State and Federal Investigations

Last spring, we showed how TurboTax uses deceptive design and misleading ads to get people to pay to file their taxes, even when they are eligible to file for free. Our series detailed how the website steers lower-income tax filers to paid versions of its services, and it revealed that Intuit, the maker of TurboTax, was deliberately hiding the free edition from Google Search by adding code on its site that prevented Google and other search engines from listing TurboTax Free File in search results. The series prompted investigations by federal and state agencies, including a review by the bipartisan Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. In June 2020, the subcommittee published a report on its investigation, which criticized the IRS for failing to oversee the free tax filing program and recommended that the IRS increase funds to advertise the free filing option instead of relying on the for-profit tax prep industry. Another investigation by the New York State Department of Financial Services, also launched last year in response to our reporting, concluded in July that TurboTax, H&R Block and other tax prep companies have long engaged in “unfair and abusive practices.”

GAO Investigates Dubious Contract for Unauthorized Hospital Masks

In May, ProPublica reported that former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Zach Fuentes’ 11-day old company received a \$3 million federal contract to provide KN95 respirator masks to Navajo Nation hospitals during the pandemic. Fuentes secured the deal with



Our reporting on misleading digital advertising by Intuit, the makers of TurboTax, prompted a series of federal and state investigations into the company. (Richard Borge, special to ProPublica)

the Indian Health Service with limited competitive bidding and no prior federal contracting experience — and his company’s Chinese-made masks did not meet FDA safety standards for use in health care settings. In June, IHS attempted to return the masks, which may not work. Several members of Congress also demanded investigations into the contract, and the Government Accountability Office announced plans to review the deal.

Human Rights Lawsuit Challenges Secretive Immigration Policy

In April, ProPublica reported on a secretive policy issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which barred unauthorized immigrants from entering the United States. We uncovered an internal memo that, citing an obscure federal law authorizing the government to ban the entry of people who could “introduce” an infectious disease (in this case, the novel coronavirus), instructed Border Patrol agents to summarily expel migrants and send them back immediately. The guidance ordered this without considering whether migrants might be persecuted in their home countries — a screening that is required of agents under U.S. immigration law. In June, a coalition of advocacy organizations sued the Trump administration to stop a 16-year-old boy from being summarily sent back to Honduras after he crossed into the U.S. to join his father. The lawsuit, which cites ProPublica’s reporting, is the first challenge to the administration’s policy.



At the age of 48, Luvenia Stokes lost her right leg, the result of a complication from diabetes. (Ruddy Roye for ProPublica)

New York Nursing Home Residents Sue Over Hazardous Conditions and Attorney General Investigates

In April, ProPublica reported that the Queens Adult Care Center, which houses elderly, sick or mentally ill New Yorkers, was covering up cases of COVID-19 within its facility and not implementing procedures to stop the spread. Patients with the virus continued sharing rooms with elderly and at-risk residents and were allowed to circulate in the neighborhood. Fearing for their own safety, staff didn't return to work or minimized contact to such a degree that residents went without food and medications. In May, ProPublica learned that the New York attorney general is investigating the center after being contacted by

two local lawmakers who read our story, and several residents featured in our reporting are now suing the facility under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Health Care Leaders Take Action on Black American Amputations

In May, a ProPublica story detailed how Black Americans with diabetes lose limbs at a rate triple that of others, a sign that quality preventive care isn't reaching the people who need it most. In the weeks that followed publication, several congressional and state legislative offices reached out to the American Diabetes Association to ask for guidance on drafting policy to reduce disparities in diabetic amputations. The organization responded by building an agenda around the issue. In August, the American Diabetes Association unveiled a new initiative to prevent unnecessary amputations as part of an unprecedented campaign on race and diabetes care. In addition, the co-chairs of the Congressional Peripheral Artery Disease Caucus have begun work on a bill to address racial disparities in amputations.

Bill Introduced Banning Use of Tear Gas and Rubber Bullets on Protesters

In June, ProPublica reported on the harmful effects of tear gas, which can cause long-term lung damage and increases the risk of contracting viruses like COVID-19; contaminates food, furniture, skin and surfaces; and seeps into homes. Citing our investigation, Sens. Edward Markey and Bernie Sanders introduced the No Tear Gas or Projectiles Act, which would prohibit federal, state and local law enforcement officers' use of tear gas and rubber bullets by banning federal officers' use of riot control agents and kinetic impact projectiles and by limiting federal funding to state and local entities that do not ban their use.

GAO Report on Trump Cronies Confirms Our Findings

In 2018, ProPublica reported that the "Mar-a-Lago Crowd" — a group of businessmen who meet at President Donald Trump's private club in Palm Beach, Florida, including Marvel Entertainment Chairman Ike Perlmutter, doctor Bruce Moskowitz and lawyer Marc Sherman — was exerting significant influence over the Department of Veterans Affairs, advising the president on veterans issues. They made recommen-



Our reporting on a midair crash that killed six Marines during a training mission showed that faulty equipment, lapsed training and ignored warnings led to the preventable accident. (Matt Huynh, special to ProPublica)

dations on VA policies, programs and personnel, even though none of them had military or government experience. Prompted by ProPublica's reporting, members of Congress requested a review by the Government Accountability Office. The GAO report, released in June 2020, confirmed ProPublica's findings that Trump empowered his friends to secretly steer the second-largest government agency without any accountability or oversight.

Internal Marine Corps Investigation of Fatal Crash Reinforces Our Reporting

In 2019, ProPublica reported on a 2018 Marines Corps crash off the coast of Japan that killed six men. Despite an original Marine Corps investigation into the crash that largely blamed the squadron, painting the men as reckless aviators who flouted safety protocols and abused prescription drugs, ProPublica revealed deep systemic failings that were well known to superiors up the chain of command. The squadron had been deprived of adequate training and equipment, and its repeated pleas for help from superiors in the months before the crash went unaddressed. A new Marine Corps review of the crash, which concluded in July 2020, acknowledged that its original investigation

was inaccurate and incomplete, led by a commander who was more concerned with how his findings would be perceived by his bosses than getting to the truth. Many of the report's findings reinforce ProPublica's reporting.

Trump Administration's Civil Rights Rollbacks Interrogated

In July, ProPublica and the Capitol Forum reported that the Trump administration has pulled back on civil rights enforcement as a part of its overall relaxation of bank oversight, quietly abandoning six discrimination probes into Bank of America and other lenders. Staff at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the regulatory agency that conducts investigations into discrimination, found evidence that people of color were being disproportionately denied loans or were charged more at banks across the country. Their recommendations for fines or penalties were ignored and the cases closed. Within a week of our investigation, 18 Senate Democrats asked the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to explain how the agency handled investigations into discrimination and "redlining" in the banking industry.

What People Are Saying

We ask donors why they gave to ProPublica. Here's a sampling of recent answers.

"We're in a generation now where nobody seems to know what's really happening. Sources have at times become unreliable, through ignorance of the facts or intentional twisting of the truth. It's good to read such a depth of detailed investigative reporting that isn't always found elsewhere." — **Richard C.**

"I donated immediately after reading Caroline Chen's story on antibodies. It is so well-written, and was so helpful to me as a layperson, that I was inspired to donate. It's not easy to find writing that balances nuance and clarity so well when writing about complex information. Her only agenda seemed to be to clearly inform her reader as to what she could see using her expertise to guide me into the material." — **Martha S.**

"It is imperative that anyone who believes in decency, honesty and integrity give what they can to reporting outlets such as ProPublica, or the bad guys win. They silence the truth. To me it's worth a couple of dollars to hear that voice shouting out loud and clear." — **Billy A.**

"I've only recently gotten acquainted with Joaquin Sapien's reporting on how gravely our systems continue to fail folks with mental illness. I wish I could say that the most lucid clinical and journalistic perspectives always represent issues adjacent to our treatment of the mentally ill with nuance and empathy, but it's rarely the case. Joaquin's reporting with Frontline definitely achieves both, and it's totally commendable."

— **Jackie B.**

"I teach broadcast news and writing for media at a community college. I show my students stories from your site as the absolute best journalism I see being produced, and the fairest." — **Gary K.**

"I was watching PBS Newshour yesterday evening, and there was a story about the Pulitzer Prize winner from a local Alaskan newspaper who was able to do incredible work that might not have been possible without the supporting role played by ProPublica. It emphasized the tenuous future of these local news outlets that are so vital to telling stories that might otherwise go untold. I was reminded how often I have read many excellent ProPublica stories online for free. Thank you!"

— **Hedrich M.**

Recognition for Our Work

Most journalism awards are bestowed in the first months of the year, when ProPublica was honored with its sixth Pulitzer Prize. Honors received in the middle period of 2020 included the following:

“Lawless,” a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project with the Anchorage Daily News that uncovered **sexual assault in rural Alaska and the region’s lack of public safety services**, earlier received the Pulitzer Prize gold medal for Public Service. The series also won the Society of Professional Journalists’ Sigma Delta Chi Award for public service journalism, the Society of Professional Journalists’ Northwest Excellence in Journalism Award for investigative, and the Best of the West award for investigative reporting.

“Disaster in the Pacific,” our series on **deadly accidents in the Navy and Marines caused by inadequate training and faulty equipment**, earlier received a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. The series also won this year’s White House Correspondents’ Association’s inaugural Katharine Graham Award for Courage and Accountability, the Gerald R. Ford Award for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense,



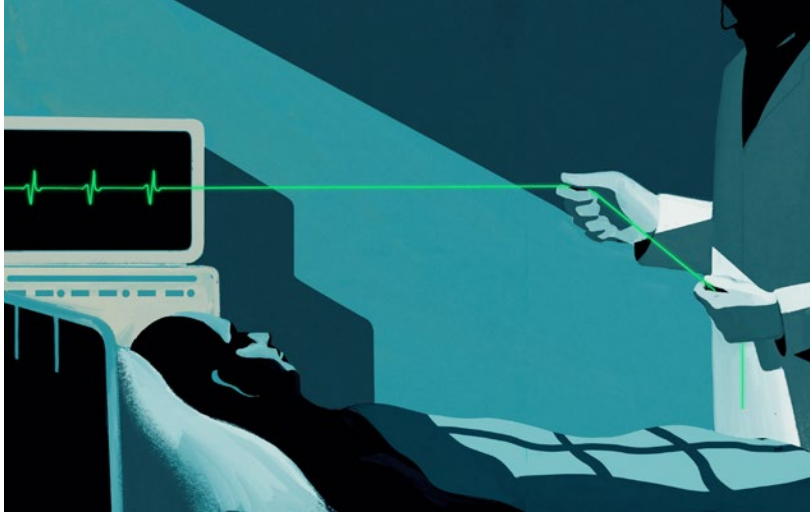
*A seclusion room at Braun Educational Center in Oak Forest, Illinois.
(Zbigniew Bzdak/Chicago Tribune)*

the Military Reporters and Editors Association Award for print/online domestic, and Malofej Silver Medals in the features and motion graphics categories.

Our reporting on the **pervasive use of jailhouse informants**

to secure convictions, co-published with the New York Times Magazine, won the National Magazine Award for reporting.

“The Quiet Rooms,” a ProPublica Illinois series with the Chicago Tribune about the **unlawful**



A patient suffered brain damage during a heart transplant at Newark Beth Israel and never woke up. We reported that doctors kept him alive for a year to avoid federal scrutiny. (Carlo Giambarresi, special to ProPublica)

use of isolated timeouts in Illinois schools, won the Fred M. Hechinger Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting, the top prize in the National Awards for Education Reporting; first place in the Richard H. Driehaus Awards for Investigative Reporting, as well as the Driehaus Awards' inaugural Readers' Choice Award; the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for investigative reporting; and four Chicago Headline Club Peter Lisagor Awards: the Watchdog Award, best education reporting, best data journalism and best multimedia collaboration.

Reporter Caroline Chen won the Livingston Award for Young Journalists in the local reporting category for her story on a **Newark hospital that kept a vegetative patient on life support to boost its survival rate**. The story also won the New York Press Club Journalism Awards for Feature Reporting in Science, Medicine, Technology.

"Inside the Border Patrol" won the RFK Journalism Award in the new media category.

Our story on **Black land loss in the South**, co-published with the New Yorker, won the John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism.

"Polluter's Paradise," a collaboration with The Times-Picayune and The Advocate, won the Society of Environmental Journalists' Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting in the large newsroom category, the Malofiej Awards' Climate Change and Environmental Commitment Best Graphic Award, and a Malofiej Silver Medal in the features (local) category.

"Unchecked Power" by Reckon by AL.com, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, won the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for public service journalism.

"The Bad Bet," a collaboration with WBEZ public radio, won the Edward R. Murrow Regional

Award for investigative reporting and third place in the Richard H. Driehaus Awards for Investigative Reporting.

Our reporting with the Chicago Sun-Times on the **failures of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to serve Spanish-speaking families** in the foster care system won the Chicago Headline Club Peter Lisagor Awards for best non-deadline reporting and best illustration, and was a finalist for the Richard H. Driehaus Awards for Investigative Reporting.

"The Extortion Economy" won the Trace Prize for Investigative Reporting.

Our reporting on **sundown towns** won the Chicago Headline Club Peter Lisagor Award for best feature story or series.

"Trump, Inc.," a collaboration between ProPublica and WNYC, won the New York Press Club Journalism Award in the podcast category.

Our reporting with Portland Monthly on **sexual misconduct by U.S. Ambassador Gordon Sondland** was a runner-up for the SPJ Northwest Excellence in Journalism Award in the feature/hard news category.

Three **ProPublica newsletters** ("False Witness," "Disaster in the Pacific" and "Not Shutting Up") won the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for public service in newsletter journalism.

Our **news applications and data visualizations** won a Malofiej Silver Medal in the features category for "Trapped in a Deadly Chase" and a Malofiej Bronze Medal for the portfolio of news applications developer Al Shaw.

ProPublica Partners, May–August 2020

■ Anchorage Daily News	■ CT Mirror	■ New Yorker
■ Atlanta Journal-Constitution	■ Daily Herald [suburban Chicago]	■ New York Times
■ Arizona Daily Star	■ Detroit Free Press	■ Oregonian
■ Arizona Republic	■ The Frontier [Oklahoma]	■ Oregon Public Broadcasting
■ Asbury Park Press	■ Georgia Health News	■ The Public's Radio [RI]
■ Atlantic	■ Honolulu Star-Advertiser	■ Texas Tribune
■ Bay City News [CA]	■ KYUK [Bethel, Alaska]	■ WKSU [Kent, Ohio]
■ Bridge Magazine	■ MLK50 [Memphis]	■ WNYC
■ Capital Gazette [Annapolis, MD]	■ NBC News	■ Youngstown Business Journal
■ Capitol Forum	■ New Mexico In Depth	
■ Chicago Tribune	■ News & Observer [Raleigh, NC]	
■ The City [NY]		

*New partners marked in **bold**.*

By the Numbers

8,300,000	Page views on ProPublica platforms per month on average	UP	64% *
10,300,000	Off-platform pages viewed on Apple News, Microsoft News, Google News and SmartNews per month on average	UP	94% *
4,200,000	Unique visitors to ProPublica.org per month on average	UP	66% *
601,000	Pages republished under Creative Commons per month on average	UP	38% *
352,000	Newsletter subscribers		
887,000	Twitter followers	UP	3% †
456,000	Facebook followers	UP	1% †
71,000	Instagram followers	UP	66% †
10,000	Additional donors		

* vs. 2019 † since April