



Pacific Media Workers Guild

The NewsGuild - Communications Workers of America Local 39521

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PACIFIC MEDIA WORKERS GUILD URGES PROBE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S ILLEGAL HARASSMENT OF FREELANCE JOURNALIST BRYAN CARMODY

SAN FRANCISCO, May 13, 2019 – The [Pacific Media Workers Guild](#) and its [Guild Freelancers](#) unit strongly urge the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the Police Commission, the District Attorney, and the California and U.S. Attorneys General to investigate the egregious, illegal conduct of San Francisco Police officers and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents at the home and office of freelance journalist Bryan Carmody on the morning of Friday, May 10, and to hold the orchestrators and perpetrators of this travesty accountable.

The Guild and the Freelancers unit also call for San Francisco Police and FBI officials to meet forthwith with journalists' and other First Amendment-advocacy organizations to discuss specific ways to prevent law enforcement abuses of journalists and news outlets.

The Guild (The NewsGuild-CWA Local 39521) is a union of staff and freelance writers, editors, photographers, videographers, translators, interpreters, web designers and other communications professionals, chiefly in northern California, Nevada and Hawaii.

On the aforementioned date, according to news reports, police officers attempted to batter down the front door of Carmody's home with a sledge hammer and handcuffed him after he let them in. At Carmody's home and office, officers kept him in handcuffs for approximately six hours while they illegally seized professional equipment and materials that they hoped would reveal who provided him, in confidence, with information on circumstances surrounding the sudden death in late February of Public Defender Jeff Adachi.

FBI agents were present throughout this travesty and failed to warn the police officers that they were violating Carmody's First Amendment rights; the agents were complicit in the officers' misconduct.

The officers also flouted California's voter-enacted Shield Law, which establishes in Article I, Section 2(b), of the state Constitution and in Section 1070 of the state Evidence Code the right of journalists and news media to maintain confidentiality of information source identities and unpublished/unaired material.

Moreover, the seizure of Carmody's equipment and materials inflicts severe professional and financial harm by preventing him from continuing his journalistic work until he can muster enough money to replace them.

Also noteworthy is that the officials who orchestrated this outrage showed cowardice by going after a freelance journalist rather than the better-resourced news outlets that purchased and aired the information that he had obtained.

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