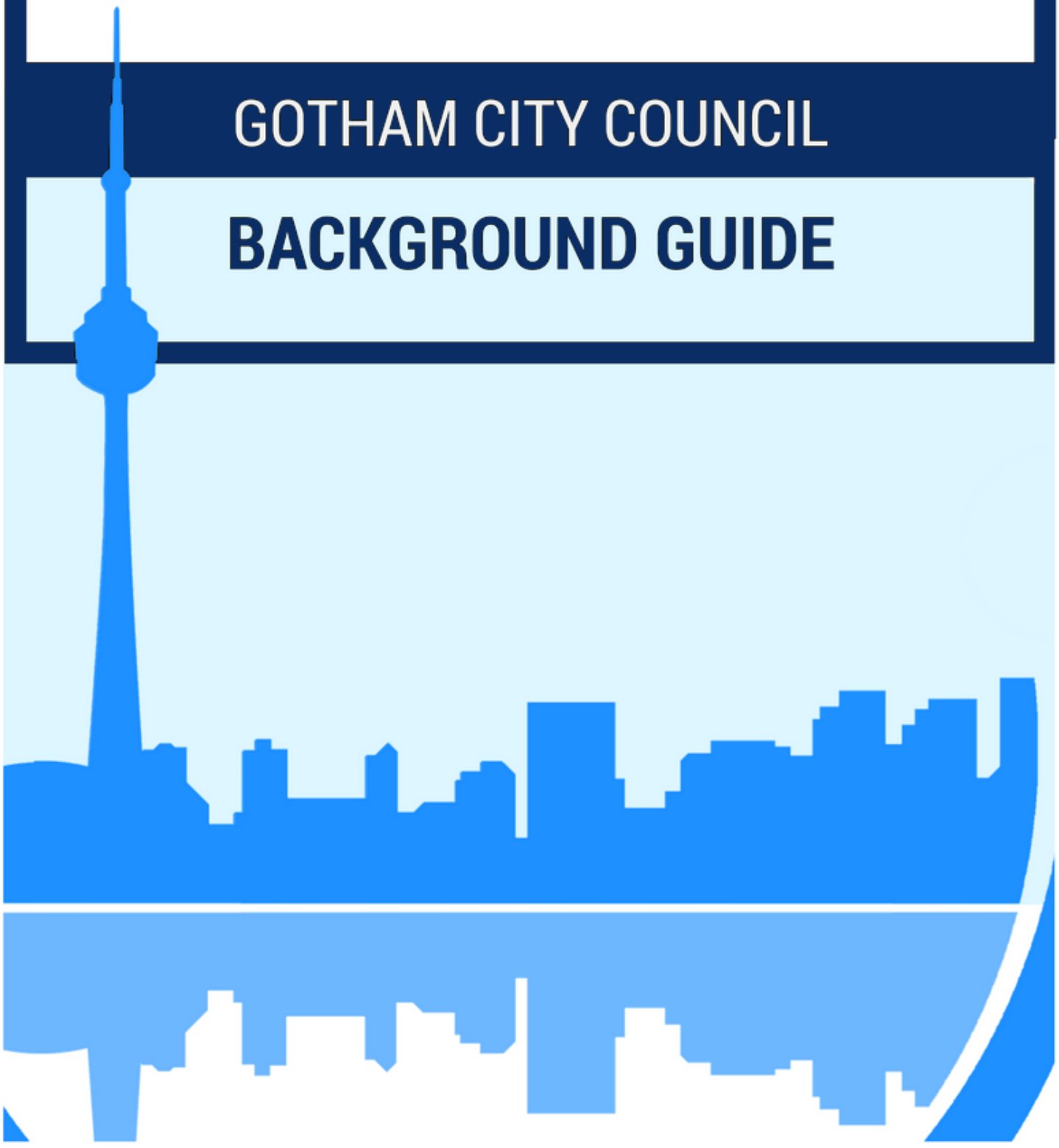
SSICsim 2017

GOTHAM CITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE



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Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Everywhere we look these days, it seems that we are surrounded by super heroes. In this golden age of super hero fiction, we are treated to blockbuster film after blockbuster film, all of them featuring superhero characters. There are so many heroes to choose as a favorite, and to some that can seem rather difficult, but there is one Hero who is truly the best… Batman.

Batman is different from other comic book heroes; he doesn't have the approval that the Avengers have, lacks the godly powers of Superman and certainly never had the humor or fun of heroes like Deadpool. But what makes Batman great is the fact that he's just Batman; sure, he has his money and his gadgets and martial arts skill, but when it comes down to it Batman is just a man. A random goon with a knife can pose just as much a threat to the Bat as someone like Killer Croc or Bane does. It all depends on how things go.

But it's not just Batman's humanity and relatability that makes his comics such an excellent franchise; the universe he lives in is by far the strongest and most developed of any comic book hero. Gotham City and its residents are incredibly compelling and the stories that come out of them are some of the best in the comic industry. The realism of a city like Gotham blends beautifully with the normal campiness of comic books creating a world that is wholly unique. Batman is forced to tackle problems ranging from the all too real issues of police brutality and terrorism to more ridiculous ones such as fear gas and colorful criminals. And yet, both kinds of issues, the real and unreal are dealt with by Batman in equal ways. This does not devalue the seriousness of the realistic issues, it just makes them more digestible by pairing them with the unreal and creates hope in the audience by doing so. Complimenting this is the fact that Batman is not Gotham's only hero; everyday Gothamites often help Batman in taking a stand (one of the best examples of which is a young child confronting the Joker during his and Batman's showdown in the Dark Knight returns). Batman often saves the day in the end, but just as often he is only able to save the day due to the help of the average person.

That is why I chose Gotham City as the setting and topic for this Crisis. The combination of realism and science fiction in the Batman world not only lends itself perfectly to MUN but also it allows real issues to be discussed alongside the more colorful comic book ones. This committee is meant to simulate the world of Batman and for that reason no delegate will be the Batman. Instead they are Gotham's people, working to make it a better place. Exactly what a better place is, that's up to you. Will you be the hero Gotham needs? Or the one it deserves… Let's find out

Archie Burton Smith

Important Notes

Alternate Timeline

Due to the convoluted and often conflicting nature of different Batman stories, this committee does not follow any canon timeline within the Batman Universe (such as that of Christopher Nolan's films or the Arkham video game series) and instead follows an alternate timeline created specifically for this committee. Because of this, none of the events within this committee are considered canon, meaning that the events in this committee do not correspond directly with any existing Batman story. The characters and locations within the committee are all drawn from various Batman stories, but the events themselves, while taking inspiration from various pieces of Batman fiction, are unique to this committee's timeline. Because of that the information presented in this background guide should be considered a unique piece of Batman fiction.

Because of this, characters in this committee will differ in some ways to their canon counterparts, and may also have not yet undergone key character milestones. For instance, Barbara Gordon in this committee has not yet become Batgirl and has also not yet been crippled, and Harvey Dent has not yet suffered the acid attack that makes him turn into Two Face. Unless it is specifically stated in this background guide, characters who have major milestones occur within the comic or film canon have not yet undergone them. That is not to say however, that said milestones will not occur within this committee.

Batman's Identity

Anyone who knows anything about the Batman series will know that Batman's secret identity is billionaire Bruce Wayne. However, because in this committee delegates will be playing the roles of characters within the Batman universe, Batman's identity is to be treated as a mystery to the delegates. The identity can be discovered through the committee if such a path is to be taken, but delegates cannot simply arrest Bruce Wayne for vigilantism due to their knowledge of Batman. This also just makes the committee more interesting; where is the fun in being yourself in a Batman world. Take the chance to become your character and make the committee truly dynamic and engrossing for yourself and the others around you.

Model UN Characters

One of the most exciting parts about Crisis committees is becoming one with the character you're given. What this means, is that if you disagree with your characters views, leave your own views at the door. If you are a staunch communist but your character is a capitalist, welcome to the world of trickle down and Wall Street. If you are a Quaker and your character is an authoritarian, then it's time to take some harsh action. There is no judgement for what you do as your character; Every committee needs heroes and villains. The best Model UN delegate is one who can truly embody their character in committee sessions, no matter who that character is.

Taking Action in Committee

Gotham City Emergency Council:

In this committee, Delegates will take the roles of various Gothamites who have been selected by the Mayor to serve on a special advisory panel working to better Gotham city. As members of the panel, delegates have been given the power to create new laws (with the approval of the mayor*), order police action (with the approval of the commissioner*) and create new and dynamic plans to help make the city of Gotham a better place. Of course, better is relative for each character, but it's safe to say none want the city to be destroyed, and for that reason the common goal of the committee is to solve the crises it faces quickly and effectively. Gotham will face many major issues in this committee, and different delegates will have many ways to solve them, but the key to creating truly effective plans is by working with other delegates. More comprehensive directives will be far more likely to succeed, which is why characters will be inclined to work together. Of course, certain characters would never go along with some plans (Jonathan Crane for instance, would never vote to close down Arkham asylum or something along those lines) and the discord created by this is just another challenge to overcome in committee.

*(The Mayor and Commissioner have veto power over actions that need their approval.)

Directives:

In order to take action in this committee delegates will use directives rather than resolutions. Directives are much more streamlined than resolutions, often skipping the working paper stage. There are two types of directives, each having merits and flaws, and they are outlined below. In order for a directive to be successful delegates will need to ensure that they are very specifically written. If directives are vague or too simplistic the committee director won't approve them for debate or they will not be entertained by crisis, depending on the type of directive being passed.

Public Directives:

Similar to a resolution in a GA, a public directive is an order made by the committee to take action on an issue. Public directives are seen by the entire committee and passed via majority vote. Public directives are more likely to be effective on a large scale as they go through legitimate channels to be passed and a majority of the committee approves. Examples of public directive actions include: Moving police forces, passing new laws, starting major infrastructure projects etc.

Private Directives

Private Directives are far more secretive than public ones, and are operated using a character's own powers and resources. These are hidden from the committee and while multiple delegates can work on them, they are usually only known by one or two delegates. These directives are less likely to have major effects but if used effectively and sparingly, delegates can make strong ripples. Private Directives are the secret weapons of planners and schemers and can be very useful in guiding the will of the committee secretly. But remember, not everything goes according to plan. Private directives can range from using character powers to buying weapons. If you can think of it, you can usually do it.

Gotham City

Gotham's Foundation

Gotham City is a major metropolitan area located on the coast of the state of New Jersey,[1] with a population of about 6 million people[2]. Its foundation mirrors that of many other cities on the eastern seaboard of the United States; founded by Norwegian settlers and later taken by the British, Gotham was eventually claimed as part of the United States during the revolutionary war.[3] Over the decades, Gotham became an important part of the American economy[4], producing steel[5] and chemicals[6] that would be used by many other industries in the United States. The city saw rise to a variety of prominent families that would become important in shaping its future. The Wayne family founded Wayne Enterprises, a conglomerate with multiple diversified interests that is now owned by Bruce Wayne and run by Lucius Fox[7]. The company remains to this day one of Gotham's most important providers of jobs, and it runs programs to help the uneducated receive necessary training and work skills. It also provides funding to other important parts of Gotham, such as its schools and hospitals[8]. Another major Gotham family is the Sionis family, whose sole heir, Roman currently operates the Sionis steel mill, Gotham's number one employer[9]. Bruce Wayne and Roman Sionis hold the titles of first and second richest men in Gotham respectively[10]. However Gotham is not a city of prosperity; while companies like the Wayne Corporation are working to improve the city, rampant crime and poverty have crippled the city.[11] Crime rates have decreased in recent years but the rise of new gangs threatens to again plunge the city into chaos.

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[1] "Gotham City." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Gotham_City

[2] Ibid (*The size of the city often varies from writer to writer but for the purpose of this committee this population was selected above the others.)*

[3] Ibid

[4] Ibid

[5] "Black Mask." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Mask.

[6] "Ace Chemical Processing Plant." DC Database. http://dc.wikia.com/wiki/Ace_Chemical_Processing_Plant.

[7] "Wayne Enterprises." Batman Wiki. Accessed July 08, 2017. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Wayne_Enterprises.

[8] Ibid

[9] "Black Mask." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Mask. (*In this alternate batman universe, Sionis does not run his company into the ground and Sionis industries still functions.)*

[10] "Black Mask." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Mask. (*Again he is to be treated in this committee as a business success)*

[11] "Gotham City." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Gotham_City

Gotham's Geography

Gotham city is built on a series of islands[12], as pictured below. Not pictured on the map is Arkham Asylum, which is located on its own island in Gotham Bay[13]. Each island has multiple police stations on it meaning the police can reach each area easily. The location in which delegate characters are situated is Gotham City Hall.

Notable Locations in Gotham (for use with map below)[14]

Midtown: Police Headquarters and Gotham City Hall (City Hall location denoted by black arrow)

Uptown: Gotham Museum and Gotham General Hospital

Downtown: Gotham City Bank and Wayne Tower

South Hinkley: Gotham Public Housing and Blackgate Prison

City Industrial Park: Sionis Steel Mill and Ace Chemical

[12] Stamp, Jimmy. "The Cartographer Who Mapped Out Gotham City." Smithsonian.com. May 29, 2014. http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/cartographer-gotham-city-180951594/.

[13] Rocksteady. *Batman: Arkham Asylum.* Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, 2009

[14] Stamp, Jimmy. "The Cartographer Who Mapped Out Gotham City." Smithsonian.com. May 29, 2014. http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/cartographer-gotham-city-180951594/.

THE CITY OF GOTHAM 1: 15 000

Timeline of Key Events

(Due to the rather convoluted nature of the Batman Universe story, this committee takes place in an alternate timeline to that of the Films and comic series. The following is an outline of events leading to the start of this committee. Instead of the year measurements we follow, the timeline is measured through years in the periods of Before Batman (BB) and After Batman (AB) with the 0 period in between representing Batman's First appearance in Gotham.)

15 BB: Thomas and Martha Wayne are killed in a robbery by petty thief Joe Chill in front of their ten year old son Bruce Wayne. Guardianship of Bruce is awarded to his Butler Alfred Pennyworth[15]. Control of the company is handed over to the board and they promptly stop funding philanthropic projects. This causes crime rates in Gotham to begin to rise as there is very little investment into helping the public. As the city's residents are plunged into poverty, more and more people are forced to resort to crime, giving rise to new organized crime families[16].

4 BB: A now 21 year old Bruce Wayne has the family business returned to his control and he begins to start funding philanthropic endeavors again. However organized crime families such as the Falcone and Maroni now have a strong hold on the city and much of the money Wayne Enterprises pours into the city is stolen or misused. Wayne is seen in the papers going on expensive trips to countries such as Japan and China.

1 BB: Rampant corruption in Gotham leads to very little trust in the government and allows the Maroni[17] and Falcone crime families to take control of Gotham's politics rendering both untouchable by the police[18]. Anyone who attempts to fight against the crime families are threatened or silenced. Gillian Loeb is appointed police commissioner by Mayor Anthony Garcia. Loeb begins to make arrests against the crime families however only small timers with no knowledge of the operations are ever charged. These police actions make no real impact and many accuse the police of simply putting on a show to try and throw the public off and hide their dealings with the families[19]. Street crime reaches a record high with violent crimes being committed almost nightly. The people of Gotham begin to be afraid to go out into the streets. To make matters worse, Sionis Steel mill cuts hundreds of jobs due to the cities poor economy[20], leading to an even higher increase in crime. Meanwhile, Oswald Cob-

[15] "Batman." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Batman.

[16] "Gotham City." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Gotham_City

[17] "Sal Maroni." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Sal_Maroni.

[18] "Carmine Falcone." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Carmine_Falcone.

[19] "Carmine Falcone." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Carmine_Falcone.

[20] "Black Mask." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Mask.

blepot moves to Gotham City and begins a shipping business. The Wayne Corporation continues to invest funds into the public, however they're drained by a corrupt official in the government. Bruce Wayne makes an official statement in which he says that Wayne Enterprises will be looking for new avenues to help the city.

0: Criminals in Gotham begin to be accosted by a man wearing a black suit. Said criminals refer to this man as "The Bat". Using an array of gadgets and martial arts abilities, the Batman begins to take down small time criminals through the city[21]. The higher ups in Gotham's mob do very little to deal with the Batman as they feel he poses no threat to them. The police quickly denounce the actions of the vigilante saying that he is impeding the process of justice, however many police officers such as rookie detective James Gordon privately feel the Batman is doing a good job of cleaning up the city. Then, a break in occurs at Gotham's city hall and the next day Gotham News Network receives a package full of information incriminating the mayor of colluding with crime families. The mayor is arrested for, charged, and found guilty of conspiracy and control of the city is put into the hands of the deputy mayor and the city council. Head of the Maroni crime family Salvatore Maroni puts a hit out on Batman, but his organization is ripped apart by Batman[22]. Batman successfully apprehends Maroni and hands him over to the police[23].

1 AB: As the Batman continues his one man war against crime, Gotham city begins to undergo many changes. Howard Branden is appointed as head of the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT) by Gillian Loeb to try and capture the Batman however he proves quite unsuccessful at this[24]. City Prosecutor Harvey Dent works to ensure members of organized crime are convicted and for the first time ever high ups in the Maroni family as well as Salvatore Maroni himself are convicted. This causes Dent to become somewhat of a Gotham celebrity. Calls for expansion to Gotham's prison system leads to a project to reopen Arkham Asylum, a defunct hospital for the criminally insane. This project is headed up by biochemist and psychiatrist Jonathan Crane. Crane cites a series of breakouts in South American prisons to illustrate the necessity of better prisons and also states that Gotham's current main prison, Blackgate penitentiary, lacks any form of mental health care programs and thus a prison specifically designed for those unfit to serve normal sentences is necessary. The city council approves the Arkham project and Quincy Sharp is appointed warden[25] with Jonathan Crane serving as head Psychiatrist. For the first time ever Gotham's crime rates begin to lower.

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[21] "Carmine Falcone." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Carmine_Falcone.

[22] "Sal Maroni." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Sal_Maroni.

[23] "Sal Maroni." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Sal_Maroni.

[24] WB Games Montréal. *Batman: Arkham Origins.* Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, 2013

[25] Rocksteady. Batman: Arkham Asylum. Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, 2009

2 AB: With much of his gang dismantled and sensing his imminent fall, Carmine Falcone decides to run for public office in order to legitimise himself and retain some power over the city. He severs ties from his crime family and is able to distance himself enough that he is never charged for his crimes. Now without Falcone in charge and with Maroni in prison Gotham's gangs become simple groups of bandits lacking the organization that made them so powerful in the past. Harvey Dent is appointed District Attorney[26] and he turns his eye to dismantling the corruption within Gotham's government. Gotham enters a period of brief prosperity. With crime rates declining and the police making more and more arrests members of Gotham's government start to question if the Batman is still a necessary figure in Gotham or just a hero needed at the time. A hacker under the screen name ANARKY begins to launch cyber-attacks on Gotham establishments[27]; none of these attacks prove very effective, but in messages to the public the hacker promises that they are just beginning. Members of a new gang calling themselves "The Fire" begin to commit crimes in Gotham. The gangs of Gotham that no longer have specific figures leading them gravitate towards this new gang. The Batman Fights members of The Fire and gains the information that their leader is nowhere in the city of Gotham and relays this info to the police. On the political side of Gotham, elections are held and Carmine Falcone wins a seat as a city councilor and Arkham warden Quincy Sharp is elected Mayor[28].

3 AB: Public Servants begin to go missing from banks and government offices and the disappearance count reaches 15. Crime rates and corruption have been on the rise again due to The Fire. Batman has been spotted in South America though his reasons for being there are unknown. Quincy Sharp establishes the Gotham City Emergency Council to work to solve Gotham's many issues. Prominent Business, Police and Political figures serve on the council and popular media figures Vicki Vale and Gossip Gerty are granted access to council sessions in an effort to increase transparency.

Now: (The events of this committee occur within November of 3 AB)

The council has gathered in response to a threat that has been made. Last night, the Gotham News Network (GNN) received a call in which an anonymous voice claimed to be the hacker known as ANARKY and took responsibility for the kidnappings of the missing public servants. He also informed GNN that something big was coming and that Gotham should prepare itself for the revolution. GNN relayed this information to Gotham's public causing mass panic. At this point in time the Gotham City Council is waiting for more information to become known before it takes action. However this threat is not the only issue the city council is facing. There are three major topics that it must tackle as well as the coming crisis. They are: Crime in Gotham, Rebuilding Gotham and The Batman.

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[26] "Two-Face." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Two-Face.

[27] "Anarky." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Anarky.

[28] Rocksteady. *Batman: Arkham City.* Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, 2011

Topic 1: Crime in Gotham

Just as any major metropolitan area does, Gotham City has its fair share of crime occurring within it's limits. Dealing with average crime such as murder or theft falls to the normal police of Gotham. The Crime issue that the city has to face is dealing with the major criminal threats that face the city. Currently, the city is facing two, ANARKY and The Fire. The council must work to deal with these two threats as well as any other threat that may arise. Just how they do this is up to them...

ANARKY

The individual known as ANARKY first began taking action 1 year before the start of this committee. He launched cyber-attacks on various Gotham establishments such as spamming the emails of Gotham's city council and cutting the power of the Gotham City Bank. These attacks were at first simply nuisances, but took a turn to be more dangerous when he began to start triggering fire alarms around the city and leaking emails. With each attack ANARKY has claimed that he is working to free the city from oppression and that he is fighting against Gotham's corrupt[29]. This led many to begin to refer to him as being a "Hacktivist[30]" or vigilante like the Batman, however with him now making threats to the council and GNN, ANARKY is now seen as a potential domestic terrorist. In regards to dealing with ANARKY, the council's goal is to apprehend ANARKY before he can cause any major damage to Gotham city, however the best method of doing this is being debated heavily by the council. The council is also on alert regarding his threat to GNN and is prepared to take action to stop whatever ANARKY is planning.

The Fire

The gang known as The Fire has only risen in Gotham in the past year. It has become the leading organized crime group in Gotham and has cornered the drug trafficking market in the city. The Gang has been annexing territory from other gangs in Gotham and has quickly become Gothams largest criminal operation. As a result of its aggressive expansion, members of The Fire are primarily former members of Gotham's Maroni and Falcone crime families, however some of its higher ups have been identified as South American mercenaries. Until just recently, there had been no sightings of the leader of The Fire within Gotham City, however, a few weeks prior to this council session, evidence was found that he may have relocated to Gotham City. Two police officers were found with their

[29] WB Games Montréal. *Batman: Arkham Origins.* Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, 2013
[30] "Anarky." Batman Wiki. http://batman.wikia.com/wiki/Anarky.

necks snapped inside of a shipping container at Gotham's port. Inside the containers were indication that someone was living within it while it was being transported from a currently unknown location to Gotham City. Police sources from within Gotham's criminal underworld have said that this container was used to transport the leader of the Fire, an individual who is being referred to as the Bear. It would be a major victory for the council to apprehend this individual. Just how this should be done is up to the council.

Topic 2: Rebuilding Gotham

Gotham city has a long history of being a city of thriving industry, however with the rise of the Falcone and Maroni crime family, much of the city's economy became illegitimate causing the legitimate industries of the city to suffer. With crime in the city being pushed back, the second goal of the council is working to help reignite the fires of Gotham's industry and rebuilding the people of Gotham. There are three major projects in the works to help with this process, and it is important for the committee to help and make sure these projects stay afloat. The committee must also make sure that these projects do not become corrupted by those who would abuse them for personal gain.

New Jobs for Gotham:

The first project is to use city funds to partner with the Sionis Corporation to rebuild a defunct segment of Sionis steel mill and to reopen the Ace Chemical Plant. This project is already underway and has seen significant investment by Roman Sionis. The project has faced some opposition from workers' rights activists and unions who accuse Sionis of labor malpractice, but it is important for the city to have new jobs for its citizens. It is up to the committee if it wants to turn a blind eye or further investigate these claims.

Gotham Public Housing Overhaul:

Through generous donations by the Wayne Corporation, the city has begun to improve the amenities of Gotham's public housing complex in South Hinkley. Gotham Public Housing is a sprawling apartment complex that provides cheap housing for those who need it most. The project was founded by Bruce Wayne`s father Thomas and has been continued by the younger Wayne to this day. Some of the more conservative members of the city council have stated they don't believe in using additional government funds for providing extra benefits to the poor but the generous donations of the Wayne`s have kept the project going[31].

[31] Nolan, Christopher, Charles Roven, Emma Thomas, David S. Goyer, Jonathan Nolan, Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, et al. 2008. The Dark Knight. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video.

Modernizing Gotham's Police Force:

After 3 years of proving to be far less effective than the vigilante Batman, the city council has put forward that they want to modernize Gotham's police force. Just how they do this however, has caused much debate within the city council. Some members have proposed new training measures and PR programs to help create a warmer and more trustworthy image of the police in Gotham, while others have suggested new equipment and others have suggested the police gain heavier armaments[32]. The city council has reserved funds for this program and if a member of the committee can put together a directive to use them they can make a large change. The council must be careful in choosing just how they change the police force; police public relations are at an all-time low and whatever action the committee takes could help or hinder this greatly.

[32] WB Games Montréal. Batman: Arkham Origins. Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, 2013

Topic 3: The Batman

The official legal definition of a Vigilante is "Someone who personally claims to enforce law and order, but lacks legal authority to do so. Vigilantes operate by using actual or threatened force, and are distinguished from people who simply watch out for criminal behavior and report it to the police. Vigilantes are often motivated by a desire to avenge a perceived harm or injustice."[33] The Batman, easily falls into this category and as thus cannot be treated like a hero as he has been by many members of Gotham's public. Because of this, the final major issue that must be discussed by the city council is whether or not Batman can continue to operate as freely as he has been.

Official Police Policy: The official policy of the Gotham City Police is to capture the vigilante known as Batman on sight.[34] However, this policy is not closely followed by much of Gotham's police with many seeing him as a fellow officer, albeit one that is a little above their paygrade. There are of course members of the police who heavily criticize Batman, such as Howard Branden and Commissioner Loeb, but for the most part Gotham's police welcome the assistance of the Bat. Currently the Gotham Police Department have no evidence regarding the identity of the Batman. This is of course not to say they'll never have any; if the council or individual council members were to investigate the Batman's identity they may be able to locate the man himself. This would of course lead to his capture or arrest.

Legal Policy: It is a standing order for all prosecutors within Gotham to ensure that any vigilante who decides they have the authority to dole out justice faces the law. Because of this if the Batman were to be captured, DA Harvey Dent would have to prosecute him[35].

A Polarizing Figure: With public opinion so split between whether the Batman is a heroic Vigilante or a dangerous criminal[36], no matter what action the committee takes there will be consequences. Of course, whenever the Batman is successful in solving or preventing a major crime, it serves as an embarrassment to the city council, so it is important to act quickly. Whether that means recruiting the Batman to official police payroll, unmasking him or much worse, it is left to the committee's discrimination. The above ideas are of course just suggestions; there are many other potential ways of solving this Batman issue, some less than legal.

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[33] https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/vigilante

[34] Nolan, Christopher, Charles Roven, Emma Thomas, David S. Goyer, Jonathan Nolan, Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, et al. 2008. The Dark Knight. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video.

[35] Ibid

[36] Nolan, Christopher, Emma Thomas, Charles Roven, Larry J. Franco, David S. Goyer, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, et al. 2005. Batman Begins. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video.

Characters

Note: *Please note that while many characters on this list have far more history in the Batman Universe, in the timeline that this committee is placed in none of the characters with alter-egos, crippling injuries or deaths in the canon universe have passed these milestones in their histories. Instead follow the timeline that is presented earlier in the background guide. Each character will also be given a more detailed biography. The details in the following biographies are the information that each character has on the other characters in the beginning of this committee. More information on each will be gained through the actual committee session.*

Government

Mayor Quincy Sharp: The former warden of Arkham Asylum and now mayor of Gotham City, Quincy Sharp is a man with little actual political experience. However, this lack of skill at his own position has done little to deter Sharp from working to try and transform Gotham city into a city he sees as modern. There are rumors that Sharp's victory in the previous Gotham election were less than legitimate but this hasn't led to a weakening in his political power over the city. Strongly anti-crime, Sharp sees Batman's vigilante nature as a threat to the city. Being the mayor of Gotham Sharp must sign off on any public directive that requires city resources and also has the ability to issue official statements on behalf of the city. The mayor has veto power over any action requiring city resources.

Barbara Gordon: An official at the Gotham City Archives, Barbara Gordon is a young woman with a strong knowledge of Gotham's History. Gordon is an activist, and has become involved in many causes to help ease the corruption and poverty in Gotham city. This has caused her to be at odds with some other members in the council but has earned her the respect of her fellow members. Gordons unique knowledge of Gotham history has made her an invaluable asset to the committee and her input is taken with strong regard. Her position as part of Gotham's Archival staff has given her the ability to look into the past actions of fellow committee members.

Dr. Jonathan Crane: As the head psychiatrist of Arkham Asylum Dr. Crane is seen by some as a shining example of a Gotham citizen and by others as a depraved sadist. Crane is infamous in the medical world for being accused (though never convicted) of conducting experiments on patients. A very private man, Crane's main goal is to continue his work without any interference, and in order to do this wants to combat government overreach and stop the Batman. Crane has the ability to communicate with any of the prisoners in Arkham on the committee's behalf.

Carmine Falcone: The former head honcho of the Falcone crime family, Carmine Falcone became a figure in Gotham politics after his gang was largely apprehended by Batman. Because of this, Falcone has a personal stake in unmasking Batman and ending his reign of vigilante justice. Falcone is also interested in cracking down on new crime gangs in Gotham city as he feels they are stepping into his territory. Falcone has a large network of underworld contacts that remain that he can utilize.

DA Harvey Dent: Gotham's rising political star, Harvey Dent is the hardworking District Attorney of Gotham City. Many say there are two sides of Dent; the citizens of Gotham see him as a hero while the criminals of Gotham see him as a threat. Dent is a firm believer in transparent government, justice and the work being done by the Batman. However every person has their dark side, and some have accused Dent of tampering with evidence to secure a conviction. This serves as a testament to Dent being willing to go incredibly far to have justice be served. Due to his DA position Dent has the ability to file for warrants against individuals and with enough evidence, even against other members of the committee.

Police

Commissioner Gillian Loeb: The Head of Gotham's police department. Loeb has a rather murky history with law enforcement, having been accused of misconduct and corruption multiple times, though this was never proven. He is a vocal critic of the Batman though his reasons for this are debated. He looks to decrease regulations on the police so his men can act more freely. Being the head of the Gotham Police Department his approval is required on any public directives that require police action. This grants him veto power over any action involving using police resources, unless a characters power specifically states otherwise.

Captain James Gordon: A captain in the Gotham Police, Jim Gordon is easily the most incorruptible and just man in Gotham. Gordon will work with anyone if he feel's justice is being served, and this has led many to believe he is in contact with the Batman. Due to his almost perfect record, Gordon is the head of a special investigations unit and is able to deploy this unit without the approval of his superiors. Due to his special position any action taken to remove him from this role would be highly outrageous to the public and thus would only occur in extreme circumstances. The unit is small but their abilities are above average.

Harvey Bullock: A detective in the Gotham City Police Department, Harvey Bullock is a former dirty cop who has turned to a more legitimate side of the law. His less than pristine history has led to many in the force distrusting him, but Bullock has proven himself to be a good cop during partnerships with both James Gordon and Sarah Essen. He retains many of his contacts from his old ways and thus is able to contact them for information.

Sarah Essen: A by the book Police Detective, Sarah Essen is the presence of the word of law on the council. Essen firmly believes in rules and regulations and while this makes her a bit of a stickler it also makes her one of Gotham's most trustworthy and able cops. Essen is highly critical of the Batman, and while she and him believe in many of the same principles his vigilante status makes her desire to see his capture. Her keen detective skills allow her to investigate the actions of Gotham citizens and see what they're up too.

Howard Branden: The head of Gotham's SWAT team, Howard Brandon carries out the will of the Gotham Police with extreme prejudice. Branden is a violent individual who enjoys brutalizing criminals, and this has led to his retaining of his position being questioned. He has been investigated by the Gotham Special Investigations Unit multiple times for police brutality but never convicted. Branden is keen on meeting the Batman himself and dolling out what he sees as justice. As head of SWAT Branden can deploy the unit when he sees fit though he needs to approval of Gillian Loeb to do so *currently*.

Business

Lucius Fox: The president of Wayne Enterprises, Lucius Fox is also a genius inventor and tech wizard. He has worked for Wayne Enterprises for two decades and thus has a close relationship with its primary shareholder, Bruce Wayne. Wayne Enterprises' multiple investments over the years to public works has netted Fox his position on the council and he hopes he can continue to invest in Gotham's impoverished and improve the city's economy. For years before becoming the head of Wayne Enterprises Fox was the head of the applied science division of the company, WayneTech, and because of this he has the know how to produce new equipment and tech for whomever may need it.

Roman Sionis: The shady owner of multiple Gotham companies, Roman Sionis is a ruthless businessman. Referred to in the past by Gotham News Network as being a psychopath, Sionis is infamous for his disregard for his workers, leading to multiple negligence lawsuit settlements. Still Sionis is essential to the city as the owner of Ace Chemical and Sionis Steel Mill, Gotham's two main job providers. Any construction efforts by the council will need Sionis' approval, due to his control over the cities steel and construction resources. Sionis is also the second richest man in Gotham giving him cash to burn on whatever he may please.

Oswald Cobblepot: A weapons merchant with purported organized crime ties, Oswald Cobblepot has become an essential part of Gotham's economy as he has acquired a monopoly on guns meaning all delegates will need to buy from him should they want additional firepower. Cobblepot is infamous for his aloof manner and disregard for city politics; he just needs people to sell weapons to. But with

Batman cracking down on crime and new gangs not buying from him, Cobblepot has become a little more invested in stopping both of the aforementioned parties. Cobblepot also despises the mocking nickname he has been given by Gotham's underworld, “The Penguin”.

Alfred Pennyworth: The Butler to playboy billionaire Bruce Wayne Alfred Pennyworth is the council's primary liaison between them and the richest man in Gotham. Following a series of gracious donations and a heavy suggestion from Wayne himself, Alfred was invited by the city to sit on the council. Alfred also has training from the British SAS and is able to give points to the committee about how they should operate tactically. Alfred’s own combat prowess has waned due to his advanced age, but he is still able to give fighting pointers to those who need it.

Simon Stagg: A security systems developer and egomaniac, Simon Stagg is the CEO of Stagg Industries. His security and tech know how has led to the council recruiting him to give him pointers on how to best keep the city safe and secure. Stagg dreams of creating a fully surveilled city and unmasking the Batman in order to prove his abilities to the world. He is known throughout Gotham for his egomaniacal personality and he often prefers working alone as not to share credit. He is able to produce security systems for himself, the committee as a whole and singular delegates.

Media

Vicki Vale: A reporter with a lot of sway in the media as well as a strong moral compass, Vicki Vale is known throughout the media industry for her strong and factual pieces. Some of the council disapproves of Vale’s presence but she’s fine with that; she disapproves with them as people. Vale has a strong dislike for corruption and has worked for years to unmask those she feels have wronged the city, though she is sometimes questioned for her lack of desire to unmask the Batman. At the end of each committee session Vale will select as city circle for crisis to write a report on that will boost the performance of one of the three circles of the city. Vicki Vale cannot vote on directives.

Gossip Gerty: A gossip columnist for a Gotham tabloid with a surprising amount of readers, Gossip Gerty is always hungry for a scoop even if it lacks truth too it. Gerty is hounded by most of Gotham's more mainstream media but is beloved by the public. She is a wildcard in the council and was allowed in by Quincy Sharp in the hopes that she would gain it popularity with the public of Gotham. Most members of the council are afraid of Gerty and wouldn’t want to get on her bad side. She’s infamous for her unflinching and damaging reports on Gotham's elite, as well as her sometimes factually inaccurate stories. Gerty cannot vote on directives.

Main Mechanics:

City Projects: By passing directives, delegates will be able to initiate various city projects and do different things with the cities resources. To streamline the directive process and add some simplicity to the committee, the city does not have a specific set budget when it comes to utilizing funds. As long as a public directive that is passed is well thought out and is within reason, it will be put into effect. However, in order for a directive to even be debated, it must be legible, clear and well thought out, as well as approved by the dais. A project like building a new subway line is doable if the committee is able to present solid reasoning behind doing so and a careful plan for how it would be done. A project to make the city fly… not so doable. This makes the committee a little more manageable and adds some extra fun.

Police Forces: Much of the action taken in this committee will involve police force. There are a total of 12 police units in Gotham city: 10 regular, one SWAT controlled by Howard Branden and one SIU controlled by James Gordon. In order for a police action to be taken at least one unit must be deployed by the city council. Because of this it is unwise to use all 12 police units at once, due to the fact that if a new crisis arose while the other units were all busy, the committee would be powerless. Any gangs the city faces will be in units as well. A single police unit will, unless otherwise specified, be stronger than a gang unit. In order for an arrest to be made there must be at least 1 police unit for every gang unit being captured. This can change as well through committee action.

City Circles: Characters are all separated into 4 major circles of operation in the city: Business (Bus), Policing (Pol), Governance (Gov) and the Media. Character actions will be based on the sector they are in. A business based character will do things like produce technology, buy weapons or build city infrastructure, Government characters will deal with lawmaking and police represent the main muscle of the city council. The media presence serves as a monitor for the other three circles. At the end of each session the circles will be given a score based on public approval of their actions; this will affect how easily they are able to perform private directives. Certain characters may value their circles more highly than the good of the public and may thus act accordingly to affect their circles performance at the expense of the others.

Gotham News Network: Gotham's primary media source is Gotham News Network (GNN). One way you will be receiving updates in the committee is through the GNN twitter page, (Handle to be established). The tweets are composed by reporter Jack Ryder, a hard hitting journalist who goes far to get a story. His twitter page will be projected in the committee and delegates will be able to see the updates live. It is possible through both private and public directives to contact Jack.

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Nolan, Christopher, Charles Roven, Emma Thomas, David S. Goyer, Jonathan Nolan, Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, et al. 2008. *The Dark Knight*. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video.

Additional Resources

While all the information that will be useful in this committee is presented in the background guide, if you want to get into the feel of the Batman universe and wish to see some depictions of the characters in this committee here are some useful and entertaining sources. All of the sources here served as inspiration for much of this committee.

Comics

- Batman: Knightfall
- Batman: Year One
- The Dark Knight Returns
- The Killing Joke

Films

- Batman
- Batman Forever
- Batman Begins
- The Dark Knight
- Under the Red Hood (Animated)
- Dark Knight Returns Part 1 (Animated)
- Dark Knight Returns Part 2 (Animated)
- Batman: Assault on Arkham (Animated) [what suicide squad should have been]

Video Games

- Batman: Arkham Asylum
- Batman: Arkham City
- Batman: Arkham Origins
- Batman: Arkham Knight
- Batman: A Telltale Games Series