



Atlanta Community Support Project Depiction Restrictions

OPTION 1:

I/we agree to talk to you on the record and participate in the article/interview/feature/photo essay if you can agree to the following:

Agreement 1: The piece will NOT include any language which is harmful or dehumanizing to people who are or have been criminalized and/or incarcerated, including but not limited to the words "inmate," "felon," "offender" (including "sex offender"), "convict," "ex-con," "probationer," "parolee," "detainee," "prisoner," "defendant," etc. This includes in the text of the piece and its headline, in captions or other words written on or below photographs, in voiceovers, closed captioning, or any other medium.

Agreement 2: Your team will make a conscious, professional effort to use person-first language. This includes calling me a person/man *first*, versus the robotic "formerly incarcerated person," etc., which are not person-centric and which reinforce problematic institutional norms.

Agreement 3: The piece will NOT mention that I have been criminalized/incarcerated unless that piece of information is needed for clarity. For instance, if the piece's title, introduction, or any section header(s) frame the fact that those (or even some of those) included have been criminalized/incarcerated, the piece will not include unnecessarily redundant verbiage in subsequent paragraphs and sentences that frames me/us as having been criminalized/incarcerated.

Agreement 4: Unless I give express permission, the piece will not be accompanied by any defamatory images of me, including mugshots, arrest or prison photos. And it will not include any stock photos or other imagery which plays into false cultural narratives surrounding "crime" and/or incarceration.

Agreement 5: The piece will NOT discuss or mention (verbally, written, in voiceovers, closed captioning, or any other medium) any crime(s) for which I or any other person included in the piece have been convicted, unless I expressly choose to talk about that. The inclusion of this type of information, irrelevant to the story, is not only harmful – it's bad journalism.

Agreement 6: On the webpage that contains this piece, there will be no links or references to any content that (a) includes harmful or dehumanizing language, as described in Agreement 1, or which (b) discusses any crime(s) for which a person has been convicted, unless said person has given the publication express consent to do so.

OPTION 2:

I will agree to interview with you if you agree to let me review and sign off on the completed piece, including the title or headline and any associated images, before publishing it. Many journalists, when interviewing folks who have been criminalized, have a tendency to include dehumanizing language, mugshots, irrelevant conviction information, and/or to use condescending/othering tones. These practices compound and perpetuate the harm and stigma already plaguing our community, directly sustaining racist and classist systems of oppression. Allowing me to okay the piece before publication will ensure that you and _____ [magazine/website/publisher] are not harming me or contributing to this societal problem.

FOR MORE INFO, check out Atlanta Community Support Project's community guide to [Language & Style](#).