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EXCLUSIVE: Brooklyn lawyer files complaint in NYPD Wikipedia editing controversy, demands investigation into cops altering Eric Garner entry

BY [ROCCO PARASCANDOLA](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 6:44 PM

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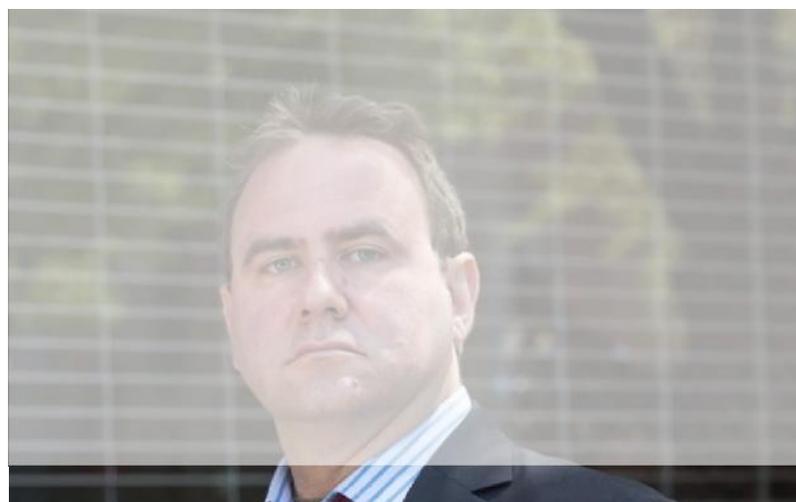
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The two cops who flouted work rules by using NYPD computers to make Wikipedia edits on the Eric Garner case need to be investigated, according to a new complaint filed by a Brooklyn attorney on Tuesday.

Leo Glickman of the law firm Stoll, Glickman & Bellina filed his complaint with the Conflicts of



JOE MARINO/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Attorney Leo Glickman filed a complaint with the Conflicts of Interest Board, demanding the agency and the Department of Investigation probe the cops who edited the Wikipedia page of Eric Garner.

quite frank with you, other than the admonishment advising them on department policy,” Bratton said.

But the complaint charges that Bratton “stood up for the notion that police officers are above the law.”

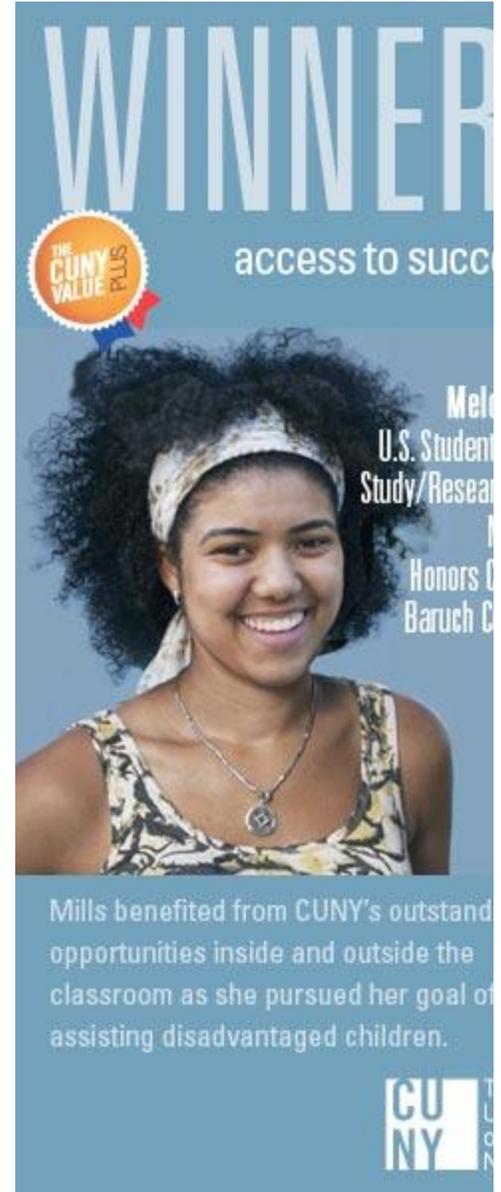
The NYPD declined to comment and has not named the officers.

Interest Board, demanding the agency and the Department of Investigation probe the “seeming violation of the New York City Charter.”

Glickman, who filed the complaint as an individual and not on behalf of his firm, said Police Commissioner Bill Bratton’s “dismissive attitude” about the controversy prompted him to make the complaint.

“I know how seriously agency heads take this,” Glickman said. “I was surprised to hear the commissioner at least not make some public statement about the seriousness of violating the city’s ethics laws.”

Bratton on Monday said the cops had been identified but likely **will not be disciplined for the unsanctioned changes**. “I don’t anticipate any punishment, being



EDITOR'S PICKS

Boy, 14, suffers broken arm after Brooklyn beatdown

A 14-year-old boy latest victim of a teen-pack beatdown

Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, encourages public input and changes, though it frowns on what it calls "conflict of interest" edits.

Brooklyn, the third such attack in the borough in roughly a month.



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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BO
2015 MAR 17 P 12: 25

Mark Davies
Executive Director
New York City Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette St. Suite 1010
New York, NY 10007
By ECF

March 17, 2015

Re: **Complaint Against Police Officers' Misuse of Public Computers**

Dear Mr. Davies –

Pursuant to § 2603(e) of the Charter of the City of New York, the undersigned makes this official complaint to the Conflicts of Interest Board in reference to the apparent personal use (misuse) of City computers by unnamed but apparently identified police officers. I make this complaint as a civil rights attorney and concerned citizen of the City of New York.

On March 13, 2015, Capital New York reported that alterations made to Wikipedia entries about the police caused deaths of Eric Garner, Sean Bell and Amadou Diallo that shift blame away from police officers were made from IP addresses located at 1 Police Plaza. On March 16, 2015, Commissioner Bratton announced that the police officers who used department computers to alter the Wikipedia entries had been identified and that he "did not expect they would be punished." He also did not name the officers.

As you are well aware, the misuse of public taxpayer resources for non-city business is a violation of § 2604(b)(3) of the Charter of the City of New York, and punishable by a fine of up to \$25,000 per incident and the person "shall be guilty of a misdemeanor", and if convicted, forfeit his or her public employment. The conduct that has been widely reported and confirmed by the Commissioner clearly constitutes a violation of the law. Indeed, Mayor Bill de Blasio made clear that the officers' use of City computers for this purpose was not authorized.

We are deeply concerned not only about the reported flagrant violation of our City's strong Conflicts of Interest Law, but the Commissioner's dismissive attitude about it. By stating that he did not expect the police officers to be punished, he stood up for the notion that police officers are above the law. Whereas the hard working teachers, clerks and custodians who work for our City have to abide by the Conflicts of Interest Law, his police officers do not.

STOLL, GLICKMAN & BELLINA

Glickman said he was "was surprised to hear the commissioner at least not make some public statement about the seriousness of violating the city's ethics laws."

In a bombshell [first reported by Capital New York](#), computers within the NYPD network were used to make changes — corrections and clarification as well as additions and subtractions — on a number of high-profile cases dating back to Police Commissioner Ray Kelly's previous administration. The NYPD's computer server is only able to track activity for the previous year.

In December, shortly after a Staten Island grand jury voted for no indictment in the Garner chokehold death, the officers in question made several Wikipedia changes, including edits on details about the case.

City employees who use office resources for outside business can be fined up to \$25,000, according to the City Charter — and the Conflicts of Interest Board has cited dozens of municipal workers for similar infractions since 1990.

EXCLUSIVE: Foster mom talks son's death in sneaker fight

He was killed over a pair of kicks.



Elevator worker gets 3-month sentence over near-fatal repair

An elevator repairman whose unsafe shortcut caused grotesque injuries to a woman received minimal



City to pay NYPD cop \$110,000 for sexual harassment suit

The city is paying \$110,000 to a NYPD cop who claimed she was sexually harassed by her lieutenant, it was



Family of doctor who saved Martin Luther King recalls rescue

The family of the surgeon who saved Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is flooded with bone-chilling memories.



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But only eight of those infractions involved NYPD professionals — six cops, a lawyer and former Commissioner Bernie Kerik.

Glickman’s complaint called that “an eye-opening disparity that ought to give rise to serious investigation.”

DOI said it doesn’t discuss investigations until they are done.

rparascandola@nydailynews.com

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East Harlem blast may have been triggered by plastic piping

The blast that leveled two buildings and killed eight people in East Harlem last year may not have been



Brooklyn man

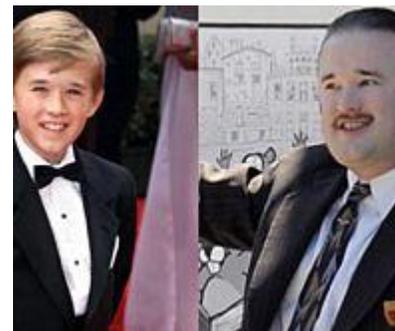
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Simpson cited a conflict of interests around Michael Vecchione after



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The disgraced father-son duo accused of using a chain of drug treatment centers as a personal piggy



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Tairod Pugh was arraigned Wednesday on the two-count indictment in Brooklyn Federal Court.



Happy Land mass murderer Julio Gonzalez denied parole

The man responsible for sparking the infamous Happy Land fire in the



Man, 26, dies after getting stabbed in chest in East Harlem

Cops say the victim was attacked after getting into a verbal dispute with the 22-year-old suspect on E.



John Jay College scholarships honor slain NYPD officers

The scholarships \$2,500 a semester awarded each year next three years.

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CHARLES MANSON 0
21 hours ago

These bohunks should have just left it up to the pros at the NYPD Office of Misinformation. They are expert spin doctors who are trained to manage and mold public opinion, and THEY are smart enough to use a proxy, so the footprints can't be followed home. Sheez... now these amateurs come along and open up this whole can of worms... for nothing.

Like

RENELDA 0
1 day ago

Bronx man dies after being stabbed over sneakers: cops

Malcolm Jacob was stabbed in the chest after accusing his mom's sweetheart of stealing his



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East New York Young Writer's Academy, the Beacon School of Excellence and Bronx Latin break the odds to achieve



Bronx jury clears NYPD sergeant of charges in tix-fix scheme

A Bronx jury on Tuesday cleared an NYPD sergeant of all charges stemming



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NY Daily News

Good work, Lawyer Glickman. I hope you get a successful resolution. The infringement by the NYPD on Wikipedia, is egregious. I hope you actions set a precedent.

Like [REPLY](#)

NOO YOKA NOO YOKA

3

1 day ago

I'm afraid the whole issue escapes me. Isn't Wikipedia open to being edited by ANYONE, at ANYTIME? Hasn't this source been condemned on numerous occasions for the inaccuracy of the information and the ease of any moron to replace information originally provided by the knowledgeable? If this is the case, let someone re-edit the offending work.

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JANICE

0

1 day ago

The NYPD criminals were doing what they've been caught doing hundreds of thousands of times: cheating, lying, and breaking the law.

And it violated WIKIPEDIA's own rules. Nice try, COP TROLL. You guys never learn, do you?

Like [REPLY](#)

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NOO YOKA NOO YOKA

0

14 hours ago

No, I'm not a "cop troll," simply someone unfamiliar with Wikipedia who refuses to use it precisely because anyone can alter it at any time. I genuinely am confused to know how cops are different from any other person with an ax to grind or uneducated yahoo.

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JANICE

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never forget: the NYPD said the NYPD is totally corrupt. EXAMPLE: they never wanted dash cameras, cameras IN precincts, or lapel cameras. We HONEST people would LOVE to wear a camera all the time!

Like [REPLY](#)

JANICE

0

1 day ago

Bloomberg and Kelly both TRIED TO OUTLAW FILMING COPS as they break laws and beat up women. Do you not understand how clear a statement that is? It is precisely what Chancellor Hitler would do in the same situation.

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long rap sheet

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