

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Producer Justin Cooper Joins Staff of the *McKinley Park News*

CHICAGO – Film and video producer Justin Cooper has joined the staff of the *McKinley Park News* to provide media production services toward development of new video news programming at the micro-local publication.

“We’re very excited at the opportunity to work with Justin as we launch our first live news programs here at the *McKinley Park News*,” said Publisher Justin Kerr. “Both Justin’s technical knowledge and aesthetic as a producer have already helped us as we prepare to launch this fall.”

The collaboration came together thanks to the 36Squared Business Incubator, where both Cooper and Kerr maintain accounts for their businesses. The incubator resides in Chicago’s McKinley Park neighborhood in the historic Central Manufacturing District and is both an Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and a City of Chicago Neighborhood Business Development Center (NBDC).

The 36Squared Business Incubator is also one of the leading support organizations for Chicago’s all-abilities entrepreneurial community, a key feature that attracted Cooper, who is a leading disability activist in Chicago. In addition to serving as president of the Young Professionals Council for Access Living, Cooper is a board member of the Illinois Partners for Human Service, a head marshal for Chicago’s Disability Pride Parade and the social media chair for the Chicago Disability Activism Collective (CDAC).

36Squared has been a key partner in enabling and supporting both businesses, Kerr said. “In addition to the direct support within the incubator we’re getting for our programming and studio access, its collaborative business culture fomets productive business-to-business relationships like the one we’ve made with Justin,” Kerr said.

Cooper said he was looking forward to helping the *McKinley Park News* develop and launch its first video news programming. As part of his engagement as a *McKinley Park News* staff member, Cooper also enjoys a Sponsorship to market his direct video and film production services.

ABOUT THE MCKINLEY PARK NEWS

The *McKinley Park News* is a micro-local online publication covering the McKinley Park Community Area and Central Manufacturing District of Chicago from its website at <https://mckinleypark.news>. Its features include original news reporting, a comprehensive calendar of neighborhood events and an interactive membership and subscription system. Online as a neighborhood resource since 2012, the *McKinley Park News* launched its commercial operations in 2019 as a publication of Local News LLC.

It is a member of the Local Independent Online News (LION) media association, the Chicago Independent Media Alliance (CIMA) and the 36Squared Business Incubator.

ABOUT JUSTIN COOPER

Justin Cooper is a Chicago-based filmmaker and media producer, providing production and consulting services directly and through his company Cooper Industries. He is also a leading disability rights activist in Chicago.

ABOUT THE 36SQUARED BUSINESS INCUBATOR

The 36Squared Incubator is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation offering on-site training, classes, one-to-one counseling and other services to help Chicagoland entrepreneurs of all abilities grow their businesses. Connect and learn more at <https://www.36business.org>.

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