

Gotham City Council

Westwood MUNC VII



Delegates,

Since WestwoodMUNCVII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is crucial for newcomers to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional general assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they run at a very fast pace, each committee is run in a series of moderated caucus, designed to maintain a rapid flow of debate, helping delegates adjust to crisis updates and such. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. Chairs will require the first motion being a round robin so as to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good jumping off point to see who delegates are most likely to work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After that, delegates will be able to motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, voting procedure, etc. In order to make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair after

raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers, though note that right of replies are rarely granted and are only allowed when serious insult to national or personal integrity has occurred.

III. Public Directives:

Delegates do not work to pass resolutions. Rather, they will pass a series of directives that are binding, take effect immediately and can potentially alter the course of events for the entire crisis simulation. A directive is a specific action that the committee wishes to take. Unlike resolutions, directives do not include preambulatory clauses; instead, delegates will directly state specific orders, similar to operative clauses, following the title and the sponsors and signatories list.

IV. Personal Directives:

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass personal directives depending on their particular position, potentially contributing to individual crisis arcs. These directives can range from allocating funds for renewable energy to carrying out assassinations. These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. These directives are sent to the crisis backroom, who determines whether or not the directive will change the course of the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation, and is especially a vital tool when delegates are required to respond to crisis updates. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair. Technology, like computers and cell phones, are not allowed during debate.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is *strongly* recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates that do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, 12 point font
- Describe your role's position and what they contribute to the issue
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your role
- Outline your role's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chairs no later than ***11:59 pm on Sunday, April 21st*** so that they have adequate time to read them. To qualify for any awards you must submit a position paper by emailing it to 24nbacchus@wpsstudents.org or 25oli@wpsstudents.org. Once again, please feel free to email your chairs or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,

WestwoodMUNCVII Staff

Hello Delegates!

I'm Nyla, the Gotham City Council committee chair. I am a senior who has been active in Model UN since my sophomore year. I've been to multiple conferences each year at high schools and colleges in the area, including Brown University and Boston University. I'm also the social media manager of the club, so I'm in charge of the Instagram account and spreading news about our events. Outside of MUN, I am a cheerleading captain and in the musical. I'm so excited to meet you all and see what original, creative ideas you come up with!

I hope that you enjoy the research process, feel prepared, and challenge yourself during debate to reach out to delegates with different opinions. Our committee will allow you to strengthen your public speaking and interpersonal skills. If you have any questions or want any support before the committee, please feel free to email me at 24nbacchus@wpsstudents.org, or reach out to my co-chair Olivia.

Best,

Nyla

Hi Delegates!

My name is Olivia and I'm incredibly excited to be co-chairing for the Gotham City crisis committee. I've been doing Model UN since my freshman year and have had incredible experiences at all the conferences I've attended. Outside of MUN, I love to dance and sing and am in the school's musical. I also enjoy playing piano, violin, and tennis. I am so thrilled to be a part of this conference and meet all of you and your undoubtedly amazing ideas.

Our committee is definitely a fun and imaginative one, but it also tackles some significant and very real issues we face in society today. If you need any help at all, please feel free to reach out to Nyla or me at 25oli@wpsstudents.org. Can't wait to meet you all!

Best,

Olivia

Overview

The dangerously widening gap between the rich and the poor is a developing issue in the city of Gotham, with each socioeconomic group differently affecting the community. The richer classes are corrupt while the poor are forced to grapple with rising crime rates which are only exacerbated by the heightening tensions between the groups. When it comes to criminal justice, the poor are punished exponentially harsher than the rich, who hold more influence in society and over the city's institutions. The City Council is gathered to discuss the benefits and consequences of pursuing urban development and changing the systems in place. Though it could prove to be beneficial to the economy, it may threaten to push some citizens deeper into poverty than before. Should the community support the developers in their efforts to create a new Gotham, or should they prioritize safeguarding the welfare of the less fortunate classes?

History of Gotham

The city of Gotham has always been vulnerable to a wide variety of merciless criminals: Joker, Harley Quinn, Poison Ivy, Scarecrow, and Riddler, just to name a few.¹ Some absurd, but all menacing. For decades, civil leaders have tried to rise up against the troubling state of the city to make it safer for all citizens, but none have succeeded in the face of this great challenge. Assassinations, robberies, murders, extortion— there are no limits to the horrors that have taken place in the city, despite the best efforts of past leadership. Crime is deeply woven into the city's institutions and culture, and there has been no escape from it. Many factors have contributed to the prevalence of crime. For one, the acute difference between the lifestyles of the rich and the

¹ Loeb, Jeph, Tim Sale, Gregory Wright, Richard Starkings, Christopher Nolan, David S. Goyer, and Bob Kane. *Absolute batman: The Long Halloween*. New York, NY: DC Comics, 2007.

poor leads to an overall low quality of living in Gotham City. There are few regions of the city that are dedicated to the improvement of the lives of the poor. A small number of homeless shelters and soup kitchens struggle to meet the demands of the people, and the impoverished have precious few job opportunities.

Current Events

Crime rates are at an all-time high. The citizens' quality of life has been degraded by a constant fear of what terrors might be lurking behind every corner. Gotham has been forced to put its blind trust into a single crime-fighting vigilante who has yet to reveal his identity or his true intentions, leaving the city to wonder if its mysterious hero could disappear or betray them at any moment. Though he has made it a point to imprison many dangerous criminals, it is clear that the city needs more than surface-level reform, especially as the prisons and mental health facilities become overpopulated. Overcrowding makes it difficult for convicts to turn their lives around as well as pose a threat to public safety, given the easy spread of illness. Since the Batman, as this vigilante calls himself, has not provided lasting solutions to these problems, developers have decided to take matters into their own hands as they have been hired by the government to fix the issues. They seek approval and guidance from the City Council.

Response

The government has hired the private corporation of DarkStar Incorporated to transform the city with funding from numerous investors. They want to create more expensive living opportunities to increase the value of Gotham. This includes the building of luxury apartments and townhouses in addition to elite clubs, gyms, golf courses, and fine dining. However, this

comes with the cost of demolishing numerous shelters and food pantries with the hopes that the demand of living in Gotham will increase. The developers have yet to figure out an efficient way to protect the impoverished. This neglects the needs of the poor and is a clear injustice as they are left without the few resources they do have to serve the wants of the wealthy.

The response to the prospect of urban development has been a variety of opinions. Many of the impoverished citizens of Gotham fear for their ability to sustain their livelihoods, as they view this plan as means to strip them of their homes. The reality for those citizens is that they are forced to stay in Gotham even though they may not want to due to their economic status, as the cost of living increases. However, the elite of Gotham have found great appreciation for this idea. If new rich residents were to move to Gotham, they would be able to expand their connections in the city. Even the rich find themselves stuck in Gotham, as much of their money has come from their families who have built up their familial status from generations. Since the wealthy also find their livelihoods within the city, they yearn for change and reform that they believe urban development can bring. Many also find themselves in the middle as well, as they want to acknowledge the position of the impoverished, yet the rising crime in Gotham is undeniable.

City Council

A traditional council typically consists of citizens of the local area who serve as the legislative body of the town or area. The members of the council are elected by the public, as representatives who share the same opinion as them. However, due to the request of DarkStar Incorporated, we have decided to open up the council to the individuals involved with the development and have been invited to sit in on this meeting and provide their opinions on the

matter. Citizens of the community have also been invited to join the meeting of the council, to represent the opinions of the impoverished individuals of Gotham city to do the same.

Questions to Consider

1. Should Gotham proceed with its urban development plan? Should raising the value of the city and attracting new residents be a priority?
 - a. If not, how can the City Council use its power and resources to address the needs of its lower-class citizens?
2. What are alternate solutions that would better serve your position and their beliefs?
3. Who are some individuals that share the same beliefs as your position? How could you collaborate to make your voices better heard on the Council?
4. Have Batman's contributions to Gotham's society been positive or negative? Should he change his relationship with law enforcement or how he deals with criminals?

Positions

Neutrals

- Bruce Wayne*:
 - Reigning billionaire of Gotham City, Bruce Wayne remains one of the most powerful men in the community, recognizing both the long-term potential and impact of developing the city and the indisputable benefits that would be reaped by the city and himself if the community was further urbanized. However, equally selfless as he is rich, he struggles to find a solid stance on this economic turmoil, knowing the city's benefit would undoubtedly come at the expense of others.
- Marion Grange:
 - Former district attorney turned former Mayor of Gotham City, Grange is well-versed in the inner workings of the criminal justice system and the increasingly pressing issue of the deepening divide between the wealthy and lower class.² As a retired citizen, her stance on the matter, however, remains neutral, as she values the stability of Gotham City over anything, and is willing to do whatever it takes to maintain it.

Support: Gotham City Government/Economic Figures

- Harvey Bullock:

²Contributors to Batman Wiki, "Marion Grange," Batman Wiki, accessed February 23, 2024, https://batman.fandom.com/wiki/Marion_Grange.

- Harvey Bullock is a police officer in the Major Crimes unit of the Gotham City Police Department. Bullock himself has been particularly susceptible to corruption despite his duty as an officer, and he has garnered a controversial reputation stained by his tendency to take illegal bribes and use brutality against citizens.³ He is in full support of urban development, convinced that it will only benefit the city and the organizations, such as the police department, that protect and defend it.
- Chanel Schmidt:
 - She is the current CEO of Darkstar Incorporated, a company passed down for generations of the family and has become corrupt with illegal bribes, involvement with criminals, and embezzlement. At her request, Darkstar Incorporated will help head the plans for urban development, placing their company above Wayne Tech once and for all. She wants to acquire as much power and influence as possible and finally reign supreme above all others.
- Lucius Fox:
 - Lucius Fox is the CEO of Wayne Tech and a powerful businessman and friend of Bruce Wayne. His dedication to the company and business and wealth-oriented mind have caused him to support and defend any venture, including the urban development of the city, that could possibly benefit Gotham City's economy, and as a result, his business.
- Quincy Sharp:

³ Contributors to Batman Wiki, "Harvey Bullock," Batman Wiki, accessed February 23, 2024, https://batman.fandom.com/wiki/Marion_Grange.

- Quincy Sharp is the current warden of Gotham City's notorious Arkham Asylum. His position and brutal treatment of the asylum prisoners have encouraged an even greater thirst for power and control within the city's criminal system. The prospect of an improved economy through urban development has led Sharp to believe that further development for the city would benefit and tighten his grip on the city's most dangerous criminals. He also believes his support would continue to improve his status, garnering him the reputation he needs to become Mayor.
- Ron MacDuff:
 - He is the head of the current operations and was the original person to suggest the plans for urbanization. Though a small part of him truly believes he is bettering the city, his main goal is to maximize his own profit and status within the city's social hierarchy. As urbanization is his idea, he wholly believes that it will succeed and will ensure it does at all costs.
- Hamilton Hill:
 - The current mayor of Gotham City, Hill seeks to advance both himself and Gotham City at any cost. Through increased living, numerous developments, and a booming urban economy, the value of Gotham will skyrocket and therefore his legitimacy as mayor.
- Arthur Reeves:
 - Arthur Reeves is the current Commissioner of the Department of Public Works. As Commissioner, his specialty is the creation and maintenance of Gotham City's infrastructure. He recognizes that the urbanization of the city provides the perfect

opportunity for him to display his talents and rise in the rank of government officials, perhaps even allowing him to run for Mayor someday.

- Vernon Wells:
 - Despite being the assistant of Harvey Dent, a passionate and moral district attorney, Wells has been corrupted by the rampant crime in Gotham City. He seeks a position of power in society, a desire that has not been fulfilled under Harvey Dent's instruction. As a result, despite outwardly displaying loyalty to Dent, he secretly hopes for the dream of a metropolitan Gotham City to be fulfilled, so he can leave his position and find one better in the ranks of the government.

Support: Mob Bosses

- Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot:
 - He is one of the most notorious crime bosses in the city, seeking to further cause chaos and disarray in order to distract from his own heinous crimes. On the outside, he portrays himself as simply seeking to improve the city and its status, yet deep down holds much more sinister motives of causing even more mayhem and tension within the city, further breaking the relationship between citizen and corporation.
- Salvadore Maroni:
 - Considered one of the toughest mob bosses in Gotham City, Maroni is infamously known for funding and supporting questionable and unreliable businesses, and is deeply involved in the corruption of corporations within the city. In order to

continue his exploitation and funding, he supports the prospect of urban development as it has the potential to heighten the power of Gotham City's most powerful organizations, giving Maroni the opportunity to harness an even greater power over the city's corporations and government.

- Carmine Falcone:

- He is a powerful mafia boss, known for having a strong hold on Gotham's organized system of crime. Much like Cobblepot, he seeks to fund and support the urbanization of Gotham in order to further incite violence and chaos in the city and prevent a shift in power in Gotham City and rather strengthen the power in the hands of criminal bosses. He believes urbanization is critical in helping to strengthen and maintain his grip on criminal groups.

- Rupert Thorne:

- Thorne is a deeply corrupt and power-driven individual. His corruption has extended into his politics, as he currently is involved in the organized crime system of the city. As a result of his own wealth-driven mindset and alliance with the underworld's most influential crime bosses, Thorne supports the reform of the systems in place and evolving into a business-driven economy and city in order to fulfill his greed and ascent to power and status.

- Peter Pauling:

- He is the dedicated assistant and right hand man to Rupert Thorne. As his crony, Pauling himself supports the every move of Thorne, yet also as a greedy individual seeking to ascend the ranks in the organized crime hierarchy of the city, Pauling believes that a metropolitan Gotham City will undoubtedly strengthen the

hold crime and corruption has on the city, providing the perfect backdrop for him to seize power.

Against

- Jim Gordon:
 - Jim Gordon is the Commissioner of the Gotham City Police Department. A man ceaselessly dedicated to ridding the city of the crime plaguing it, Gordon remains firmly against any attempts or possibilities of further widening the wealth gap in order to prevent the continuous isolation of the poor. As he sees it, the more the wealthy thrive, the more the impoverished suffer and will be forced to turn to crime to survive, causing even more mayhem in Gotham City.
- Louise Hummel:
 - Louise Hummel spent her childhood living in poverty, and was fortunate and skilled enough to amass wealth as she grew, becoming well-known for her ascent to wealth. As a result of her experiencing firsthand what it truly means to struggle, she currently uses her privilege to run one of the only homeless shelters in Gotham City. Her past and present have made her obstinate on her stance regarding the matter, as she believes that urbanization of the city will only encourage a division so deep, it will irrevocably damage the relationship between all of its inhabitants.
- Harvey Dent:
 - One of Gotham City's brightest and most passionate district attorneys, Dent has dedicated himself to the concept of justice and the enforcement of it, especially in

a city plagued by constant crime and corruption. Dent's experience with crime and injustice have caused him to be in opposition to the city's plan for urban development, as he holds the belief that it benefits very few, and will hurt too many who are already struggling.

- Roman Sionis:

- Troubled by his dark past and failure in business, Sionis holds a deep and unrelenting resentment towards the success of large corporations. With his own parents caring more deeply about their perceptions and wealth in society over him, as well as his fall from the elite social class through the failure of the inherited family business, Sionis is unwilling to support the further benefit of corporations, not out of care for the poor citizens, but rather his own hatred and resentment towards his failure and parents.

- Marine Norman:

- She is a highly intelligent, justice-oriented, and morally driven city council member. Adopted by wealthy parents, she lived a life of privilege until they were killed in the crossfire of criminal activity. Ever since, Norman has been dedicated to eliminating crime and reducing the murders of innocents caught in the conflict. She supports the reform of prisons and rejects the idea of urbanization in fear that it will only worsen crime and tensions.

- Sarah Essen:

- She is one of the few dedicated and ceaselessly moral police officers in Gotham City, eventually gaining enough expertise and experience to rise in the ranks and become sergeant. She is a firm believer in prison reform and thus the need to

eliminate the root causes of crime: poverty and corruption within the most powerful seats of government. As a result, she is firmly against the plan to urbanize, believing it to be a corporate plot to further feed the rich and leave the poor helpless.

- Helena Ryer:
 - She is the head of Gotham City's Criminal Justice Department. As a champion of equal rights and fair trial, Ryer seeks justice in all aspects of life. This manifests in her devotion to rid Gotham City of its rampant crime and corruption that has hurt innocents, including incidents where the corruption in the highest level of governments has the power to frame and wrongfully imprison innocents. She hopes that in voting against this law, it will be the first step to preventing further corruption and injustice.
- Heidi Baart:
 - Baart is the head of the Gotham City Public Health Department. As a result of her position, she is able to see firsthand the immense struggles of the lower class and the uninhabitable conditions they must live in. Consequently, she is completely against any attempts to urbanize the city in fear that it will only hurt the poor even more and leave them completely defenseless against the worsening conditions of the city, and leave the Public Health Department completely overwhelmed by the influx in addiction and death rates.
- Naia Bernardo:
 - She is the daughter of a wealthy retired politician. She herself seeks to run for mayor the next term and firmly believes that the city must tackle its wealth

disparity problem. She believes that crime is one of the biggest issues in the city right now and must be addressed as soon as possible; she hopes by voting against, she will help stall the widening gap between the rich and poor and take a step towards reducing crime in the city.

- Nikolai Lovel:
 - He is a homeless man brought in by Louise Hummel in order to give a firsthand account of the struggles of living in a poverty-stricken city only caring for the wealthy. He wants reform and change in how the impoverished are treated and wants the city to recognize the consequences of their greed and selfishness.

Works Cited

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