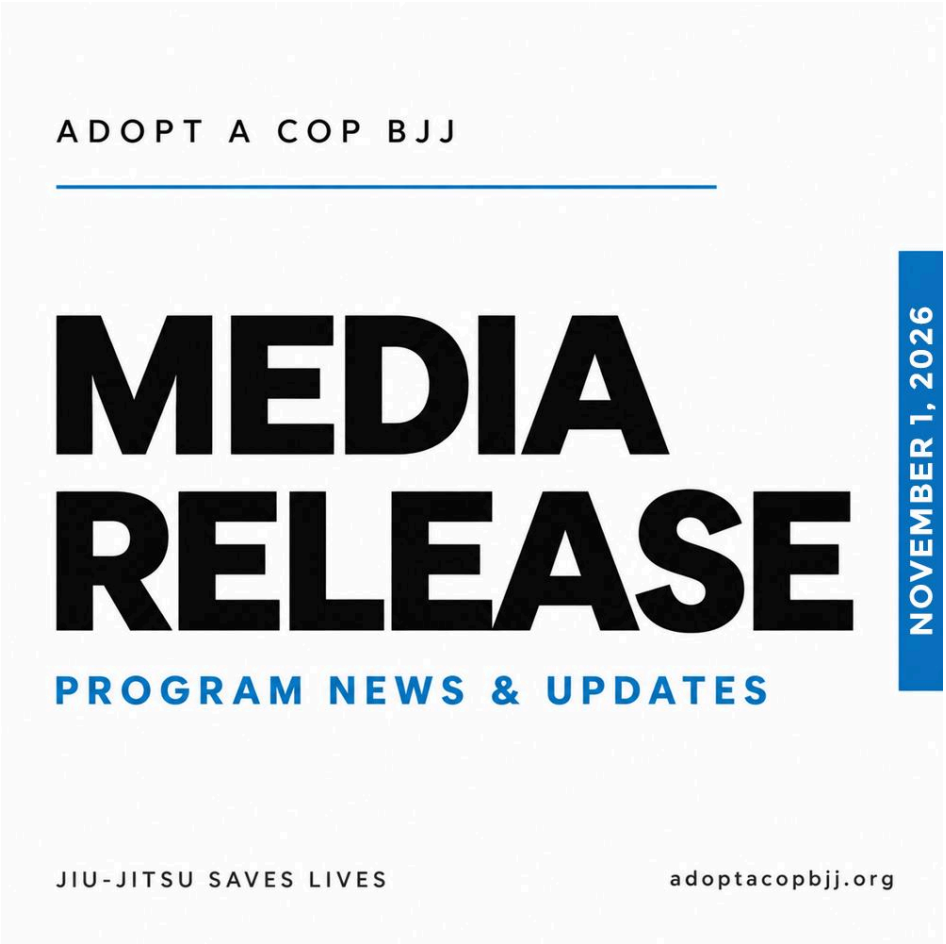
A New Chapter for Adopt A Cop BJJ: New Leadership, Renewed Commitment, and What's Ahead

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Same Mission. New Leadership. A Stronger Future.

At Adopt A Cop BJJ, we believe in the importance of communication, accountability, and transparency. As we move forward into a new chapter of our organization, we want to make sure the officers, affiliate academies, donors, departments, and supporters who believe in our mission are informed every step of the way.

That's why we're introducing our **Media Releases & Program Updates** series.

This will serve as a central place for announcements, organizational updates, new initiatives, program changes, and important information about Adopt A Cop BJJ. Our goal is simple: to keep our community informed, provide an honest look at where we are as an organization, and share where we're headed.

Whether it's announcing a new partnership, introducing a program, celebrating a milestone, or communicating changes to our operations, we want you to hear it directly from us.

Where It All Started

Founded in 2020 by Mitch Aguiar, Adopt A Cop BJJ was built around a simple but powerful belief: **Jiu-Jitsu Saves Lives.**

The concept was straightforward. Connect law enforcement officers with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu academies willing to help them develop the skills, confidence, and capabilities needed to better navigate the physical challenges of their profession.

Through the generosity of donors and participating academies, Adopt A Cop BJJ began providing officers access to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training, with the goal of helping them reach their blue belt.

What started as an idea grew into a nationwide initiative, bringing together law enforcement officers, academy owners, instructors, and supporters who believed that consistent, hands-on training could make a meaningful difference.

That mission remains unchanged.

We believe that investing in an officer's training is an investment in their safety, their department, and the communities they serve.

A New Chapter: September 2026

In September 2026, Adopt A Cop BJJ officially transitioned to new leadership following its acquisition by **North Hills First Responders Corporation (NHFRC)**, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

Adopt A Cop BJJ now operates as a program of NHFRC, an organization dedicated to supporting first responders through hardship assistance, training opportunities, department resources, and community initiatives.

This transition represents more than a change in leadership. It's an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of Adopt A Cop BJJ, improve how we operate, and build a sustainable program capable of supporting law enforcement officers across the country for years to come.

Our leadership team is small, but our commitment to the mission is anything but.

Our current team consists of:

- **Ish Lopez — Executive Director**
- **Kate Califano — Program Director**

We will talk a little about them in a later post.

As a small team overseeing a nationwide initiative, we're working to rebuild and improve the processes that allow this organization to operate effectively.

We understand that many officers, academies, and supporters have been waiting for updates, answers, and opportunities to get involved.

We hear you, and we sincerely appreciate your patience.

Transitions of this size take time, especially when the goal isn't simply to resume operations, but to create systems that can better serve everyone involved.

What We've Been Working On

Since assuming leadership, our focus has been on strengthening the infrastructure behind Adopt A Cop BJJ.

Much of this work has taken place behind the scenes, but it plays an important role in our ability to grow responsibly.

We're reviewing and streamlining our officer application process, improving how we communicate with affiliate academies, developing better systems for tracking sponsorships, and creating new opportunities to fund officer training.

Ultimately, **we want to remove as many administrative obstacles as possible so officers can focus on what matters most: training.**

While our core mission remains the same, we're excited to introduce several initiatives designed to make our program more accessible, efficient, and sustainable.

Introducing Our Peer-to-Peer Sponsorship Program

One of our newest initiatives is the **Adopt A Cop BJJ Peer-to-Peer Sponsorship Program**.

This program gives eligible law enforcement officers an opportunity to take an active role in funding their own training through a personalized fundraising campaign.

Here's how it works:

1. An officer applies to participate in the Peer-to-Peer Program.
2. Once accepted, the officer receives an individual fundraising campaign through Adopt A Cop BJJ.
3. The officer has **90 days to raise $1,000** in support of their sponsorship.
4. Upon reaching their goal and meeting program eligibility requirements, the officer can bypass the traditional sponsorship waitlist and move forward with placement at a participating affiliate academy.

This initiative creates an additional pathway to training while allowing friends, family, coworkers, businesses, and community members to directly support an officer's development.

It's also an opportunity for officers to share why training matters to them and invite their communities to become part of the mission.

Introducing Department-Funded Sponsorships

We're also developing a more direct way for police departments to invest in their officers through our **Department-Funded Sponsorship Program**.

Through this initiative, departments will be able to partner with Adopt A Cop BJJ to sponsor eligible officers at participating affiliate academies.

With a foundational sponsorship contribution of $1,000 per officer and additional partnership opportunities, departments can help provide consistent, supplemental training beyond traditional in-service requirements.

Our nationwide affiliate academy network plays a significant role in this model. By working with participating academies that agree to a standardized sponsorship rate of $50 per month, we aim to make ongoing training more affordable and accessible.

This isn't about replacing departmental training. It's about complementing it.

We recognize the importance of use-of-force decision-making, officer readiness, and effective control tactics. We believe consistent Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training can help officers develop valuable skills in balance, positioning, leverage, control, and decision-making under physical pressure.

By partnering with departments, we hope to make long-term training more achievable while building stronger relationships between law enforcement agencies and local Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu communities.

Improving the Officer and Academy Experience

We're also working to modernize how officers and affiliate academies interact with our organization.

These improvements include:

- **Streamlined applications and onboarding:** Making it easier for officers and academies to apply, submit information, and understand the next steps.
- **Clearer program requirements:** Establishing consistent expectations for participation, attendance, sponsorship duration, and accountability.
- **Improved communication:** Providing more direct updates about application status, sponsorships, and program changes.
- **Better sponsorship management:** Strengthening our ability to manage funding, academy partnerships, and ongoing officer participation.
- **Additional resources:** Developing opportunities to connect participating officers with educational resources, training opportunities, and other benefits as our program continues to grow.

Some of these improvements are still being developed, and we'll share more information as they become available.

Our goal isn't to build a complicated program. It's to create an efficient, dependable system that allows officers, academies, and donors to participate with confidence.

Looking Ahead to 2027

As we continue rebuilding and improving our operations, **our goal is to have Adopt A Cop BJJ's updated systems, programs, and application processes fully operational by the start of 2027.**

We're working toward reopening enrollment, strengthening our affiliate academy network, launching our new sponsorship initiatives, and making it easier for eligible officers to access training.

We recognize the importance of getting this right. Rather than rushing to reopen without the proper infrastructure in place, we're taking the time to create a stronger foundation that will allow us to serve officers more effectively and responsibly.

This is our target timeline, and we'll continue providing updates as we progress toward the new year.

We're excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to welcoming more officers onto the mats in 2027.

Building Trust Through Transparency

We recognize that Adopt A Cop BJJ exists because people believe in its mission.

Officers trust us to help them access training. Academies generously offer their time, facilities, and instruction. Donors contribute their hard-earned money because they believe those contributions can make a difference.

That trust matters.

As we move forward, we're committed to being open about our progress, challenges, changes, and accomplishments.

Our Media Releases & Program Updates will be one of the ways we maintain that commitment.

We won't have every answer immediately, and there will undoubtedly be challenges along the way. But we're committed to communicating openly, operating responsibly, and continuing to improve.

Help Us Get More Officers on the Mats

While we continue improving our programs and preparing for the new year, our mission still depends on the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities that believe in the importance of officer training.

You don't have to wear a badge to make a difference.

Every contribution helps support our mission of providing law enforcement officers access to supplemental Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training.

Whether you're an individual looking to give back, a business interested in supporting first responders, or someone who simply believes that better-trained officers contribute to safer outcomes, your support matters.

If you'd like to donate to Adopt A Cop BJJ and help us get more officers on the mats, you can contribute directly through our secure donation platform:

Donate to Adopt A Cop BJJ — Help Get More Officers on the Mats

You can also learn more about our mission and upcoming opportunities to get involved by visiting **www.adoptacopbjj.org**.

Every donation, partnership, and shared message helps us continue moving this mission forward.

Thank You for Your Patience and Support

To every officer who has applied, every academy that has opened its doors, every donor who has contributed, and every individual who has supported Adopt A Cop BJJ: **Thank you.**

We know this transition has brought questions, uncertainty, and delays. We also know there are officers eager to begin training and academies ready to help.

We appreciate your patience as we work toward our goal of having everything up and running for the new year.

Our team may be small, for now, but we're passionate about this mission and genuinely excited about what lies ahead.

We're not looking to change what made Adopt A Cop BJJ special. We're working to build upon it, strengthen it, and create new opportunities to reach more officers across the country.

Same mission. New leadership. A renewed commitment to the officers and communities we serve.

We're excited for this next chapter of Adopt A Cop BJJ.

There's so much more to come.

— *The Adopt A Cop BJJ Team*

Jiu-Jitsu Saves Lives.

Stay Connected

For future announcements, program updates, and opportunities to get involved, visit www.adoptacopbjj.org and follow **@AdoptACopBJJ** on Instagram.

Adopt A Cop BJJ is a program and registered fictitious name of North Hills First Responders Corporation, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.