Good Conflict **Story Checklist**

Use this handy checklist to tell high-impact stories from a ***Good Conflict lens***. Each step will help you illuminate the conflict you're covering in surprising and useful ways—rather than just inflaming it. Good Conflict reporting builds conflict fluency and resilience in the communities we serve.

- [ ] Create a conflict map. Be sure to include any "fire starters."
- [ ] Pick an angle that has not been well-covered.
- [ ] Interview subjects who break binary narratives:
  - An unsure source.
  - A changed source.
  - A "misfit" source.
- [ ] Interview sources from opposing sides together when possible.
- [ ] Loop your sources & ask revealing questions to find the understory.
- [ ] In the story, tease the reveal of the understory the way you'd set up a mystery: "It looks like the conflict is about…, but is that really it?"

- [ ] Illuminate the conflict in your story by:
  - Using data to disrupt binary narratives.
  - Rightsizing voices & problems using proportionality [who, what, when… —*and out of how many?*]
  - Widen the lens by exploring the history of the conflict in your town— or a comparable conflict far away.
- [ ] Debrief with sources & the public after your story is released.
- [ ] Build conflict resilience in your community through radical engagement (think: "magic ratio").