

# Mike Mason

*represented by*

Michael Naso

The Naso Group

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## **AWARDS (First Place)**

- Associated Press "Public Service" (2014)
- RTDNAC "News Documentary" (2014)
- RTDNAC "Series" (2014)
- RTDNAC "Investigative Reporting" (2013)
- Alfred I. DuPont Silver Baton for Investigative Reporting (2005)
- Emmy "Best Investigative Reporting" (2005)
- SPJ Sunshine State Award "1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Investigative Reporting" (2005)
- SPJ Sunshine State Award "1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Education Reporting" (2005)
- Associated Press, "Best Public Service" (2005)
- Investigative Reporters & Editors Certificate "Best Investigative Reporting" (2004)
- Green Eyeshade Award "Investigative Reporting" (2004)
- Emmy "Best Investigative Reporting" (2004)
- Associated Press, "Best Continuing Coverage" (2004)
- Society of Professional Journalists "Investigative Reporting" (2004)
- Society of Professional Journalists "General Reporting Series" (2004)
- Associated Press "Best Investigative Reporting" (2003)
- Society of Professional Journalists "Investigative Reporting" (2003)
- Society of Professional Journalists First Place Awards:
  - "Investigative Reporting", "Serious Feature" and "Series Reports" (2002)
- National Edward R. Murrow "Best Investigative Reporting" (2001)
- Regional Edward R. Murrow "Best Investigative Reporting" (2001)
- Associated Press "Best Investigative Reporting" (2001)

## EXPERIENCE

TEGNA WXIA 11Alive News

Atlanta, GA

(November 2015 – January 2016)

Investigative Reporter

- Produced a series of documentary style reports regarding a four thousand percent increase in heroin-related deaths involving young people in Atlanta's wealthiest suburbs. Eight-week project was a new pilot program; it premiered in Atlanta both online and on-air in February, 2016.

WGCL CBS46 News – Atlanta, GA (June – August 2015)

Investigative Reporter

WLOS ABC News 13 – Asheville, NC (April 2013 – May 2015)

Investigative Reporter

- Series of investigative reports exposed lies and cover-ups involving Asheville's Chief of Police. We found officers used radar guns that hadn't been calibrated for years, forcing the District Attorney to dismiss hundreds of speeding tickets and associated charges. Our reports sparked an ongoing investigation by the state's Department of Professional Standards and DOJ. The police department has since lost its CALEA certification and the City Manager has hired consultants to overhaul the department while appointing the Fire Chief to take over operations. After uncovering numerous problems, the Police Chief abruptly retired on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Reported, wrote and produced a 68 minute investigative news special involving a toxic waste site that has been contaminating residents' drinking water for years. Our investigation exposed how EPA officials knew about the contamination for nearly a decade but failed to notify residents. Civil case went before the United States Supreme Court and noted advocate, Erin Brockovich, lobbied on behalf of those affected. Lawmakers are now demanding Congressional Hearings and criminal investigators are reviewing evidence presented in our report
- Exposed series of safety issues at Buncombe County schools including contractors and district workers failing to pull required permits for years at the direction of district administrators. Our reports sparked a state and county investigation which resulted in contractors fined and disciplined and

extensive repairs made at each school so they could comply with state safety codes

WFTX Fox 4 News – Fort Myers, FL (June 2011 – April 2013)  
Investigative Reporter

- Series of reports sparked four separate audits and investigations into improprieties at the Department of Transportation, which led to overhaul of entire department and termination of top administrators.
- Investigations into mishandling of various county business deals led to sudden resignation of County Manager and termination of several key county department heads.

WPIX-TV CW News - New York, NY (March 2010)  
Investigative Reporter – Freelance

- Series of reports focused on infamous serial killer David Berkowitz, also known as the “Son of Sam”, who was set for parole in 2010. Exclusive interviews with Berkowitz and his victims, prison journals and compelling new information questioned whether more gunmen were involved in the ‘Son of Sam’ killing spree. A shooting survivor spoke out publicly for the first time to tell us Berkowitz was not alone the night of the shooting and he witnessed someone else pulling the trigger.

WFTS ABC News - Tampa, FL (2001 – 2004)  
Senior Investigative Reporter

- Series of reports exposed dangerous flaws and corruption surrounding Tampa’s largest elevated expressway project. Reports warned public of the expressway’s serious structural flaws several months before the bridge collapsed. Acquisition of project files and public records revealed fraud, tampering of state and federal documents and inadequate safety requirements. Investigation led to criminal charges, new and stricter state construction requirements and Governor’s seizure of the project. Series earned the Alfred duPont award.
- Investigations into the malpractice of Hillsborough County’s former medical examiner led to the re-opening of homicide cases and ultimately the release of two convicted murderers.

WBBH NBC-2 - Fort Myers, FL (1999 – 2001)

Investigative Reporter

- School safety investigations sparked new state laws including stricter fire codes and higher overall safety standards for Florida's schools. Reports earned the National Edward R. Murrow award.
- Exposed serious flaws with Collier County's 9-1-1 emergency call system, which led to numerous deaths. Reports convinced county officials to overhaul the entire department and provide additional funding.
- First to report the identity of the two terrorists who hijacked the planes and attacked the World Trade Center Towers on 9-11. The couple who rented their home to the terrorists and man who owned the flight school they attended granted us exclusive interviews. Minutes after shooting the interview it was aired on the *Today Show*.

WXVT Newscenter 15 - Greenville, MS (1998 – 1999)

Anchor/Reporter

- Anchored, reported, wrote and produced newscasts
- Exposed Public Works Director's efforts to secretly destroy a historic slave cemetery in order to adjoin his adjacent personal properties and increase their market value. When questioned about this he physically attacked me and it was all caught on camera. Our investigation led to his immediate dismissal and restoration of cemetery.

WSVN 7 News - Miami, FL (1997 – 1998)

Copywriter/Assignment Editor

- Wrote news copy and reporter/anchor packages for various newscasts
- Coordinated logistics for reporters, photographers and live truck operators
- Delegated assignments to reporters and photographers

## **EDUCATION**

Saint Thomas University - Miami, FL (1993-1995)  
Degree: Bachelor of Arts  
Major: Communications/Journalism

International Fine Arts College – Miami, FL (1990- 1993)  
Degree: Associate of Arts  
Major: Commercial Art/Advertising