



COUNCILMEMBERS PICKET WITH STRIKING LOCAL JOURNALISTS

Rochester City Councilmember Mary Lupien, joined by Council President Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., fellow councilmembers Smith, Lightfoot and other local elected officials, stood in solidarity with striking Democrat and Chronicle Journalists Thursday to call on Gannett to negotiate in good faith with its workers.

“It's our collective support and dedication to looking out for each other that truly makes us stronger,” Councilmember Lupien said. “The solidarity demonstrated here this week – from elected officials, community leaders and everyday Rochesterians alike – has been incredible. Folks have supported striking workers with food donations and through the strike fund in a testament to our community resiliency.”

City Council also issued a letter of support for the striking journalists, highlighting the importance of local journalism, and calling on Gannett to cut its workers a fair deal.

“It's my hope that all of you are able to get back to the bargaining table as quickly as possible,” President Meléndez said. “I hope that this is short lived, and I hope that you get the compensation and benefits you deserve based on your hard work and dedication.”

The strike Thursday drew crowds of supporters, elected officials, former journalists and a parade of cars honking in support, underscoring the Rochester community's dedication to strong, local journalism.

“This is not the normal configuration we're accustomed to with elected officials,” said Newspaper Guild Vice Chair Justin Murphy. “We'd much rather be on the other side of the podium asking them questions and interrupting them while they're talking.”

“It is untenable that negotiations have continued this long without resolution and is a strong indication of continued bad faith bargaining by the company,” State Assembly Labor Chair Harry Bronson said. “Instead of replacing journalists with AI in the newsroom, let's get intelligent in Gannett's boardroom, and negotiate in good faith.”

“I work in an industry where people want to read headlines, they want to read tweets, where people want to read something quick, and it minimizes the challenges that we face and how complex they are and how difficult the solutions will be and why we need journalism,” State Assemblymember Sarah Clark said.

“We need journalists monitoring our actions to ensure tax dollars are spent correctly,” said former journalist and County Legislator Rachel Barnhart, underscoring the essential role of journalism in governmental and community transparency.