



NEWSPAPER GUILD OF PITTSBURGH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEWSPAPER GUILD DEMANDS PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE MANAGEMENT CEASE DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

Pittsburgh, PA. -- One week ago today, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette management banned Black reporter Alexis Johnson from protest-related coverage because they claimed she showed "bias:" in a clever and benign tweet. Subsequently, members of the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh put that tweet on their own Twitter accounts to show support for their colleague. The Post-Gazette responded by pulling two published stories from its website written by reporters who had shown Alexis support and two stories scheduled the next day by other reporters were killed.

Without explanation, the PG then pulled Black photographer Michael Santiago off a previously scheduled assignment to cover protests on Saturday and didn't staff them with a photographer. On Sunday, no photographers were assigned to protests happening that day. On Monday, a photographer who does not have a Twitter account and therefore could not tweet support for his colleagues, was assigned to shoot an early morning protest.

The Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh finds these discriminatory, retaliatory actions to be unconscionable and morally and ethically bankrupt. Management's actions have nationally embarrassed and demeaned a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper. Statements of condemnation have been issued by the local's parent unions, the Communication Workers of America and the NewsGuild and the National Association of Black Journalists, among others. U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and

other prominent individuals have publicly supported the Newspaper Guild. And the public has expressed its ire at the actions--as of early today, more than 2,500 letters of complaint have been written to the Post-Gazette on an ActionNetwork app:
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/support-for-post-gazette-black-journalists/>

The letters to management support the Guild's demands:

- Rescind your ban and allow these Black journalists to cover the most monumental civil rights movement in more than 50 years.
- Stop retaliating against their supporters.
- Fulfill your mission by adequately and ethically covering the protests and related issues.

Additionally, we call upon advertisers large and small to contact the Post-Gazette to express their support of the Guild's position and ethical journalism.

Only in this way can management resolve a crisis of its own making and can the Post-Gazette go back to truly reporting the news rather than sadly making it.