

# *Update on the labor-management dispute at the Press-Telegram*

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CONSIDER:

## **Newsroom cuts have FAR outpaced declines in circulation OR revenue.**

Since MediaNews bought the Press-Telegram in 1997, circulation is down almost 24% - During that same period, it reduced the newsroom staff, from over 175 newsroom employees in 1997 to just 29 today.

CONSIDER:

## **The Press-Telegram has always been and continues to be, a profitable business.**

Staff members' proposed wage increase of 4% in the first year of their contract will not significantly impact profits. This increase for P-T Guild members would total approximately \$75,000 which represents one-fifth of 1% of the MediaNews reported \$35 million profit of FY 2007.

CONSIDER:

## **Claims that MediaNews doesn't have the finances to support their workers are misleading.**

Our proposed 10% wage increase over the term of the contract would total approximately \$190,000, just 1.1 percent of the \$16.7-million profit MediaNews made on the sale in 2006 of the company's long-time Pine Avenue headquarters.

CONSIDER:

## **MediaNews' focus on short term profits have had a drastic effect on their long-term viability. Circulation losses continue:**

- Since 1997, circulation is down 24%
- In 2005, circulation was 95,816
- In 2006, circulation was 87,872
- In 2007, circulation was 83,941

CONSIDER:

## **The Press-Telegram and MediaNews, owner of the largest publisher of daily newspapers in California, thinks covering local news is too expensive.**

MediaNews is demanding a change in its P-T union contract that would allow it to replace, at its sole discretion, current and future newsroom staff and allow it to farm out local news-gathering and related tasks to anyone, anywhere. That's not good for us, for you or for the communities it serves.

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## **What can you do?**

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Contact **LANG president and CEO Ed Moss** at [ed.moss@langnews.com](mailto:ed.moss@langnews.com) or 818-713-3000 and **P-T publisher Mark Ficcaro**, c/o Daily Breeze, 5215 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503-4077 (310-540-5511). Tell them to negotiate a fair contract that benefits not just the company, but benefit its workers, the readers and our communities. Tell them not to outsource your local news.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT VICKI DI PAOLO @ 562-259-9430