

1 **..Title**

2 **Local Journalism** - For the purpose of supporting local journalism, including fair economic
3 investment in newsroom staffing and resources.

4 **..Body**

5 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
6 **City of Annapolis**

7
8 **Resolution 58-20**

9
10 **Introduced by: Alderwoman Tierney**

11 **Co-sponsored by: Alderman Savidge, Alderman Schandelmeier,**
12 **Mayor Buckley, Alderman Gay, and Alderwoman Pindell Charles**

13
14 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

15
16 **Local Journalism**

17
18 **FOR** the purpose of supporting local journalism, including fair economic investment in
19 newsroom staffing and resources.

20
21 **WHEREAS,** the Annapolis City Council and the City of Annapolis is committed to supporting
22 local journalism, including fair economic investment in newsroom staffing and
23 resources; and

24
25 **WHEREAS,** the newspapers currently operating out of the Capital Gazette newsroom, including
26 The Capital, The Maryland Gazette, and The Bowie Blade News, provide vital
27 coverage of issues pertaining to the health, education, and well-being of the
28 residents of Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, and the City of Bowie;
29 and

30
31 **WHEREAS,** only four of the 35 employees represented by the Chesapeake News Guild make
32 more than \$40,000/year, despite the fact that some employees have worked for the
33 paper for more than 20 years, and some reporters make below \$15.00/hour; and

34
35 **WHEREAS,** in early 2020, the Tribune Publishing Company offered buyouts to experienced
36 employees, two of which were talented, veteran journalists who helped cover the
37 Capital Gazette shooting from the back of a truck in 2018; and

38
39 **WHEREAS,** the Tribune Publishing Company has declined to commit to hiring a diverse staff,
40 posting all job openings, and fairness in contract language; and

41
42 **WHEREAS,** the campaign “Save Maryland Newspapers” exists to convince the Tribune
43 Publishing Company to sell The Baltimore Sun and its related properties, including
44 The Capital, The Maryland Gazette, and The Bowie Blade News to responsible
45 local ownership who will care about the quality of news; and
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1 **WHEREAS**, the closure of the Annapolis newsroom means that reporters need to travel
2 significantly farther to meet with people in the communities they are writing about.
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4 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City of Annapolis urges
7 the Tribune Publishing Company to take the following actions:
8

- 9 - Cease any further layoffs that will have an inverse effect on the citizens of Annapolis,
10 Maryland receiving timely news.
11
12 - Consider in good faith any and all offers from outside Maryland, or Maryland based entities
13 that will return the paper to civic-minded ownership.
14
15 - Commit to diversity hiring and fairness in contract language.
16

17 **AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that a copy
18 of this Resolution shall be sent to the Tribune Publishing Company as a sign of our dedication and
19 commitment to supporting local journalism.
20

21 **EXPLANATION**

22 Underlining indicates matter added.

23 [~~Strikethrough~~] indicates matter stricken.
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