

Mike Fannin
President and editor
The Kansas City Star

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Dear Mike,

Today, an overwhelming majority of employees in The Kansas City Star newsroom are asking The McClatchy Co. to voluntarily recognize the Kansas City News Guild, a unit of The NewsGuild-CWA, and begin contract negotiations.

An overwhelming majority of non-management, newsroom employees have signed union authorization cards. Those signatures came from every corner of the news operation — from sports and news reporters to photographers and other visual journalists — and include both long-time and recently hired employees.

While we have signed cards, we are not yet filing the cards as we hope to be voluntarily recognized so that we can sooner set to work building a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the company.

Voluntary recognition will save the company time and money that could be better spent improving our news product, as an election will bring about the same result. Plus it would demonstrate the company's commitment to a united newsroom and show that you respect the will of your employees to have a voice in their future and that of The Star. McClatchy has already shown that commitment by voluntarily recognizing union's at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, The Hilton Head Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette newspapers.

Granting voluntary recognition is common across our industry. It has happened at the Chicago Tribune, Capital Gazette, BuzzFeed, The New Yorker and The Hartford Courant, to name a few publications.

We look forward to the start of contract negotiations and a strong working relationship that will allow us to protect local journalism and preserve The Star far into the future.

Respectfully,

The Kansas City News Guild Organizing Committee and The NewsGuild-CWA.