



## **Baltimore Association of Black Journalists official statement on The Baltimore Sun's pending sale and the potential impact on newsroom diversity & inclusion efforts**

June 1, 2020

The [Baltimore Association of Black Journalists](#) (BABJ) applauds The Baltimore Sun's recent efforts to increase newsroom diversity. During this time of movement toward possible new local management, BABJ wants to emphasize the importance of maintaining The Sun Media Group's commitment to recruiting and retaining African American professionals.

*The Sun's* motto, "Light For All," means **all** voices must be amplified across the spectrum to be effective.

The Baltimore Sun's Diversity Committee recently earned the 2019 Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association's [Best Moves](#) Award for their [programming and advocacy](#), which includes intense diversity training within the newsroom. *The Sun* was also the first newsroom in the nation to undergo a [Maynard Institute](#) content audit. In the past three years, The Sun Media Group has added seven African American employees and five more individuals who identify as people of color. The incoming summer intern class also reflects this commitment to newsroom diversity and preparing the next generation of journalists.

African Americans make up [60% of Baltimore's population](#) and [30% of Maryland residents](#), according to the U.S. Census American Community Survey. This is not the time for a Pulitzer Prize-winning staff to lose its diverse voices telling the stories.

BABJ is familiar with the business practices of Alden Global Capital and its continued investment in the media industry. Although the New York-based hedge fund has a history of newsroom staff reductions, these scenarios are reflected disproportionately and more devastatingly to journalists of color and recent hires. It is our hope that the next owners of *The Baltimore Sun* will share our commitment to journalistic integrity and newsroom diversity.

BABJ is concerned for the well-being of African American Marylanders and coverage surrounding issues impacting the Black community. As a professional journalism advocacy group, we are committed to monitoring *The Baltimore Sun's* ownership developments to make sure that this management shift does not send its newsroom diversity efforts backwards.

Respectfully submitted,

The Baltimore Association of Black Journalists

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