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## ABC6 NEWS KAAL STATEMENT OF ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION COVERAGE

**July 19, 2018**

The wife of ABC6 NEWS KAAL News Director David Springer, Heather Holmes, is a 2018 candidate for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Councilmember seat on the Rochester, Minn., City Council.

Ms. Holmes faces three opponents for this seat: Patrick Keane, Paul Myhrom and Kim Sin.

In light of the inherent conflict of interest and potential for the appearance of bias this creates for the station's news coverage of this race, the management of ABC6 NEWS KAAL makes the following commitments to its viewers, its staff, and its community:

- ABC6 NEWS KAAL remains committed to objective, unbiased reporting in all of its political and election-related coverage. ABC6 NEWS KAAL will cover the Rochester, Minn., City Council campaign and election consistent with this core principle.
- ABC6 NEWS KAAL News Director David Springer has recused himself from any managerial or editorial involvement in the station's coverage involving or referring to Ms. Holmes's campaign, race, and election.
- Managerial and editorial responsibility for coverage of Ms. Holmes's campaign, race and election will be shared by: ABC6 NEWS KAAL General Manager David Harbert, and ABC6 NEWS KAAL Assignment Editor Jennie Hinz.
  - Mr. Harbert's and Ms. Hinz's responsibilities in this regard will include, but not be limited to, staffing assignments; reporter, photographer and editor assignments; final editorial and coverage (both on-air and on-line) decisions; determinations concerning the fairness and quality of the station's reportage; disclosure decisions; and ensuring that Ms. Holmes is treated neither no worse nor no better than any other similarly situated candidate for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Councilmember seat.
  - With regard to disclosure decisions, Mr. Harbert and Ms. Hinz will, in addition to posting this Statement of City Council Campaign and Election Coverage on the home page of the station's website, determine the scheduling, frequency, placement and wording of any additional on-air or on-line disclosure(s) to be made, taking into account appropriate journalistic ethical considerations.
- ABC6 NEWS KAAL management reserves the right to change and update this Statement, as may be warranted by the circumstances. Mr. Harbert and Ms. Hinz will privately meet to determine what other or additional managerial and editorial processes may need to be put in place, if any, in the event Ms. Holmes wins her election to office.
- Questions or comments concerning this Statement or ABC6 NEWS KAAL's election coverage may be addressed to the station's vice president/general manager, David Harbert, at 507-258-7228.