



Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated

Rapid Release

January 7, 2011

OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING NEWS SEGMENTS ON 2008 HAZING AT SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

A recent news segment on Inside Edition included an interview with Ms. Courtney Howard on her account of how she was hazed while trying to become a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. in fall 2008, as well as the resulting lawsuit she has filed.

We are exceedingly sensitive to any physical or mental distress Ms. Howard experienced in 2008, but it occurred at the hands of individuals who made conscious and deliberate choices to act in direct violation to the rules and regulations of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. as well as the laws of the jurisdiction of California.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority has a **Zero Tolerance** policy for hazing in any form and chapters/advisors as well as any young women seeking membership are required to sign a terms and conditions document verifying (1) their understanding of our stance against hazing; (2) that they will not allow themselves to be involved in hazing of any kind and (3) that they will report any incidents of hazing for which they have knowledge.

The leadership of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority is working diligently in cooperation with our legal counsel to address the pending lawsuit and to ensure that any and all perpetrators are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law and our organization. Hazing is illegal and barbaric and is not and will not be tolerated by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc!

All questions and concerns related to this matter should be forwarded to our Executive Director:

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Cary, N.C. 27513
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As we address this critical and sensitive issue, we will continue to be at the forefront exhibiting active, value-added and influential leadership and support where needed to ensure equality, forward growth and progress. We are bent and dismayed but will not be broken in spirit or in our unified purpose as depicted by our international slogan "Greater Service, Greater Progress."

Always in Service,

Joann Loveless
22nd International Grand Basileus



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Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was founded on November 12, 1922 on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana by seven schoolteachers. The sorority's aim is to enhance the quality of life in the community. Public service, leadership development and education of youth are the hallmark of the organization's programs and activities. Recent sorority-wide community service initiatives include nation-wide youth symposiums focused on improving youth self esteem; a partnership with Lionsgate Studios for the promotion of the movie Precious and the hosting of community dialogue sessions on the topics of incest, teen pregnancy and child abuse; and the donation of more than 300 book bags full of school supplies to students at the Leonardo da Vinci Intermediate School, I.S. 61, in Corona, NY in conjunction with the organization's Officer Essentials Training. More information can always be found at www.sgrho1922.org