

RESOLUTIONS

**RATIFIED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF
DIRECTORS UNDER ARTICLE IX,
SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE NAACP**

2011

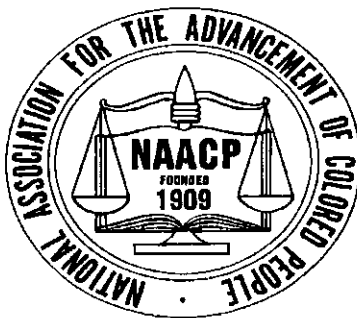
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP

2011

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1. (PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION)

1. *(Purpose of the Convention)*

The Annual Convention of the Association shall establish policies and programs of action for the ensuing year. All actions of the Convention on questions of policy and programs, which are not contrary to this Constitution, shall be binding on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Officers and all Units, except as hereinafter provided. No resolution for change of policy or program of action shall be in order unless it shall have been favorably voted upon at regular legislative meetings of a Unit in good standing, or has been submitted by the President and CEO. The resolutions for policy or program change must be certified by the President and the Secretary of the Unit, and received by the President and CEO in the National Office by May 1st, annually. The Convention shall act on all such proposed program or policy changes during its Legislative Sessions.



All resolutions contained in this packet were adopted by the 102nd Convention of the NAACP, held July 24 through July 28, 2011 in Los Angeles, California. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 15, 2011 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

1. *Urging Congress to Establish a National Monument Honoring the Trans-Atlantic Slave Holocaust*

WHEREAS, the Trans Atlantic American Slave Trade Holocaust subjected the enslaved to horrific and inhumane conditions including overcrowding, immobility, food deprivation, poisoning, diseases, fixed melancholy, and bare skin whippings while chained ankle to wrist; and

WHEREAS, the slave transport experience was so egregious that many enslaved opted for the fate of death by suicide believing that their death would return them to their homeland; and

WHEREAS, the suicide attempts were countered with further terrorism by slave shippers who would decapitate corpses to convince the enslaved that their bodies would return home beheaded; and

WHEREAS, slavery and its institutional maintenance involved the most heinous crimes ever committed against humanity; and

WHEREAS, the slave trade was initiated in this country by the British for over 100 years prior to America's Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, although the United States Congress and some individual states have issued official apologies for the abominable institution; Britain has only expressed a "deep sorrow" by former Prime Minister Tony Blair, who stopped short of a formal apology; and

WHEREAS, in as much as the scourge of slavery abides in the hearts and minds of its descendants, no national monument has been erected to establish a hallowed ground to pay homage to those who lost their lives during the Atlantic Slave Trade or those who survived the treacherous journey only to be condemned to a lifetime of adversity as slaves in America; and

WHEREAS, slaves made significant contributions to the building and sculpting of America, while suffering tremendous indignities in the process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the United States

Congress to afford the opportunity for historical recognition and memorialization for African enslaved ancestry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges Congress to construct a National Monument on the National Mall dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Trans-Atlantic African American Slave Trade Holocaust; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP petitions Congress to establish the monument to serve as a testament to the legacy and memory of African people captured and kidnapped from their homeland and brought to this country to live a tortured and terrorized life in slavery. This monument will serve as an official reminder for generations to come.

2. *National Civil Rights Hall of Fame*

WHEREAS, the NAACP founded in 1909, is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has positioned itself from the ballot box to the classroom with thousands of dedicated workers, organizers, leaders and members who continue to fight for social justice for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has endured and fought to change years of Jim Crow laws; and

WHEREAS, NAACP members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP work, labor, history and legacy of those advancing the cause of civil rights must be preserved and be taught to future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP shall establish a Blue Ribbon Committee to develop plans for the establishment of a National Civil Rights Hall of Fame dedicated to honoring civil rights workers and figures who have distinguished themselves in the Civil Rights arena.

3. *21st Century Leadership: Developing the Next Generation*

WHEREAS, the most effective means of building healthy and economically robust communities is to develop and harness the leadership of our youth and all community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, intergenerational African American leadership development is vital to create safe and vibrant spaces that offer comprehensive, integrated and innovative programs; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to create short- and long-term succession plans for community institutional leadership for young adults and developing professionals in particular, African American males, through mentorship programs, creating career opportunities for young African Americans to be culturally exposed to the richness of their heritage; and

WHEREAS, we have entered a new era of communications which is driven and influenced, in large part, by social media outlets.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will conduct a survey to identify community- based programs focused on youth leadership and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will coordinate with professional organizations that foster and develop hard skills and conscience raising; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will leverage and work with technology leaders to utilize social media tools that will educate and interact with our emerging and developing leaders; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP units are encouraged to collaborate and partner with community groups and businesses to identify and place youth and young adult members in internships, as well as seek opportunities for the development of young professionals.

COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

1. To Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the NAACP Youth & College Division

WHEREAS, under the guidance of Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, a youth advocate from Baltimore, Maryland, a national youth program was created for youth members of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP National Board of Directors passed a resolution formally creating the Youth & College Division on March 9th 1936; and

WHEREAS, the program provided national activities for youth that were supported by monthly meetings that discussed the local needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the major national youth activities were demonstrations against lynching, seminars and group discussions on the inequalities in public education; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of solidarity among black youths was sparked by years of racial discrimination, segregation, and mob violence; marked by an increasingly aggressive and efficient level of activity within youth units indicating not only intelligent leadership and loyalty on the part of the members, but a laudable spirit of cooperation among the young people; and

WHEREAS, from 1935 to the late 1940s, new NAACP youth units were organized; and in the 1960's NAACP youth units became entrenched in the fight for equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s and 1960s, due to heightened activity by youth units challenging all facets of discrimination, units conducted sit-ins, stand-ins, wade-ins, drive-ins, read-ins, mass demonstrations, protests, marches, picket lines, and selective buying campaigns in the South, Midwest and in virtually every other section of the country; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Division created and implemented the mission of the NAACP Youth & College Division which is to inform youth of the problems affecting black and other minority groups; to advance the economic, educational, social and political status of black people and other minority groups; to stimulate an appreciation of the black contribution to civilization; and to develop an intelligent and militant youth leadership through devising, working out and pursuing local programs; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s and 1980s, the Division's priority was voter registration and mobilization in an effort to stamp out voter apathy among black youth; a project that included youth and adults who walked from northern to southern California and throughout the Midwest, South, and East Coast; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the Youth & College Division focused attention on the glaring racial disparities that continued to exist in the United States. To address the growing higher education gap, the Division launched the "National Day of College Preparation", created in partnership with The Princeton Review Foundation, as a means to present college preparation skills and financial aid information to high school students and parents. Furthermore, in an effort to address youth violence within the black community, the "Stop the Violence, Start the Love" Campaign was created in 1997; and

WHEREAS, when the Division has sought a way to engage young people in juvenile detention facilities by creating the Phoenix Project. In addition, the "National Take Affirmative Action Day" was created as a vehicle for young people to engage in the protection of affirmative action programs across the country; and

WHEREAS, 75 years after its founding, the NAACP Youth & College Division continues to be one of the strongest, fastest growing and most capable elements in the NAACP. Through the creation of the Campaign to End Campus Racism, the STOP Campaign aimed at addressing negative images of African American youth in the media and the VOTE Hard youth voter outreach campaign, the NAACP Youth & College Division continues to develop brilliant, motivated young people committed to social justice and equality for all people of color; and

WHEREAS, with hundreds of active NAACP Junior Youth Councils, Youth Councils, High School Chapters and College Chapters actively involved in social justice advocacy, youth members continue to advocate around the issues of Education, Economic Empowerment, Health, Juvenile Justice, Voter Empowerment and now Climate Justice; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the only major civil rights organization which encourages youth leaders to participate fully in all aspects of its structure, including membership on the National Board of Directors, continues to actively support and uplift youth leadership and members in the Association; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirm its commitment to the Youth & College Division by continuing its support to train and uplift youth leadership in the Association; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP proudly congratulates the NAACP Youth and College Division on its 75 years of activism and leadership.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. A Call for Smart and Safe Policing Strategies and an End to Racially Disparate Stop and Frisk Policing by Law Enforcement

WHEREAS, in its new report *Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate, Under Educate*, the NAACP defines the war on drugs as largely responsible for mass incarceration in the U.S. and calls for implementation of smart and safe criminal justice policies; and

WHEREAS, under the United States' mass incarceration and the war on drugs, we imprisoned African American men at the rate of 4,919 per one hundred-thousand population in 2008. South Africa's 1993 Apartheid Government by comparison imprisoned 851 Black African men per hundred-thousand; and

WHEREAS, in many US cities African Americans are arrested for drug possession at five, seven and up to ten times the rate of whites even though the drug use among whites is higher than blacks; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local costs of the war on drugs exceeds \$40 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, stop-and frisk-policing – a practice where law enforcement officials stop and pat down individuals based solely on suspicion, in hopes of finding illegal contraband – has become commonplace as a result of the war on drugs; and

WHEREAS, for example in New York City, there were a record 580,000 stop-and-frisks in 2009. Most of those stopped (55 percent) were black (a large portion were also Hispanic), many were young and almost all were male. According to the Census Bureau, there were only 300,000 black men between the ages of 13 and 34 living in the city that year. A mere 6 percent of the stops resulted in arrests. And, in one eight-block area of an overwhelmingly black neighborhood in Brooklyn, the police made 52,000 stops in just four years, an average of nearly one stop for each resident each year; and

WHEREAS, easily accessible criminal records become a stigma, a modern "scarlet letter" which constitutes a substantial obstacle to employment, education, and full participation in American society; any criminal record, even just for arrest, consign the young people of color who are targeted by drug war policing to a second class citizenship and an insidious modern form of Jim Crow.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms the following previous resolutions against police misconduct:

- 1978 -Prosecution of Police and Correction Officers for Criminal Acts
- 1978 – Police Brutality
- 1979 – Police Brutality
- 1980 – Indiscriminate Use of Firearms by Police
- 1983 – Use of Chokeholds By Police
- 1983 – Police Brutality
- 1987 – Police Brutality
- 1991 – Police Brutality
- 1992 – Police Brutality
- 1996 – Excessive Force by Law Enforcement Officers and Police Departments
- 2007 – Establish Model Standards, Policies and Training to Prevent Police Misconduct and Excessive Use of Force; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on all units to advocate for community policing and evidenced based policing practices to combat crime, while putting an end to racially disparate “stop and frisk” policing that often result in longstanding humiliation and stigma of young people throughout America.

2. *Girls and Women in the Criminal Justice System*

WHEREAS, women are the fastest growing prison population in the U.S, with 200,000 in prison, and a million more under some form of criminal justice supervision, as of 2009; and

WHEREAS, between 1997 – 2007 the number of women in prison has grown by 832%; and

WHEREAS, black women represent 30 percent of females incarcerated, which is a growing number of all females incarcerated under state or federal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, black women were more than three times as likely as white women to be incarcerated in prison or jail; and

WHEREAS, women continue to be incarcerated for non-violent survival crimes, including sex work, drug related offenses, and property crimes due to mandatory minimum sentences and federal sentencing guidelines that limit the discretion of judges; and the overwhelming majority of women in prison – over two thirds are incarcerated for a non-violent offense; and

WHEREAS, guards have access to and review the history of inmates which include any complaints made identifying them, in retaliation, guards have threatened women, prisoner’s children and their visitation rights as a way of silencing them or issue rule infraction tickets to extend their stay in prison if they speak out; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 148,200 women in state and federal prisons while over 70% of the guards are male. And there’s documentation supporting allegations of officials subjecting female inmates to rape, sexual assault, sexual extortion and unreasonable body searches; and

WHEREAS, the latest numbers released by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics reveal that more than 57% of women in state prisons and 55% of women in local jails have been physically or sexually abused in the past, with 37% having been raped before their incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Statistics also reports that women prisoners are at least 3 times more likely than men prisoners to have suffered physical or sexual abuse in their past; and

WHEREAS, juvenile detention centers fail to address serious disparities in services and opportunities offered to girls including: alternatives to detention, vocational programs, community college programs, and recreational programs; and

WHEREAS, the one-size-fits all intervention programs used by the criminal justice system fit the characteristic needs of men, but ignore the characteristic circumstances that bring women into the system including: parenthood, drug use, sexual abuse, and domestic violence; and these programs often do not address women's specific needs when it comes to childcare, educational assistance, job training and other economic hardships women face.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP work with federal, state and local governments to generate gender-responsive strategies in addressing the intersecting problems that contribute to women's incarceration, through site and staff selection and the development of policy programs, content, and material that responds to the realities of women's lives, including social and cultural factors that lead them into the criminal justice system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP work to support, and advocate for diversion programs that: 1) offer treatment and rehabilitation (versus incarceration) for women who have suffered physical and sexual abuse, as well as for those who may have drug dependency issues, 2) address women's specific needs relating to child care, job training, educational assistance, and other economic burdens women may face; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will work to ensure that girls in the juvenile justice system are provided with programs and services that are specific to their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP work to enact evidence-based policies and practices that provide women and girls – inside correctional facilities and upon release – with adequate treatment and assistance programs that have been proven to work in dealing with the mental and physical trauma of physical, sexual, psychological, and drug related abuse; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP support the just treatment of those under supervision of the criminal justice system, regardless of race or gender; and require that abusive body search, rape and other brutal actions by guards be eliminated and the abusers terminated as well as prosecuted.

3. Upholding Civil and Human Rights in the Implementation of National Security Policies

WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks against the United States have led to the passage of policies and implementation of practices that profile people of Middle-Eastern descent, Muslim background, people of color, and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, these policies not only impacted people of Middle-Eastern and Muslim backgrounds, but also members of the African American community with Muslim sounding names, black immigrants, and anyone who looks like a member of these minority groups; and

WHEREAS, anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, anti-Middle Eastern, and anti-immigrant sentiments have been consistently on the rise; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP and the African American community are amongst the first communities in America to experience the pain and injustice of discrimination and racial profiling, by law enforcement officials as well as ordinary citizens; and

WHEREAS, the need for working to improve national security by implementing evidence-based practices that have proven effective in finding those intent on breaking the law (rather than profiling based on race, religion, ethnicity, or any other inherent characteristics) must be a priority for the United States; and

WHEREAS, racial profiling, or profiling of any kind based on one's inherent characteristic has been proven ineffective and a waste of precious and limited resources as a tool for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that all communities of color work together to ensure that the civil and human rights of all minorities are protected in the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirm its commitment to the protection and expansion of civil and human rights for ALL communities of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will continue to work together in coalition with other communities of color, advocacy groups, community leaders, national leaders, law enforcement and government officials to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties and human rights for all in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP work to pass legislation at local, state, and national levels that effectively bans the practice of racial profiling by law enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP work to enact evidence-based policies and practices to ensure national security rather than those misguided policies which target individuals and communities based on their race, nationality, religion, physical appearance or other inherent characteristics; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP continue its historic work in combating all forms of discrimination of our communities and campaign against the racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, anti-Black and anti-Middle Eastern sentiment sweeping the nation, both in society's mind frame, and in policies and laws.

4. Over Prioritizing, Punished and Incarceration and Under Educating

WHEREAS, simplistic "tough on crime", and "no tolerance" policies are expensive and ineffective; and

WHEREAS, these "tough on crime as well as "no tolerance" policies target and affect many disadvantaged youth; those that have psychological health issues due to birth defects or abuse/neglect, as well as the economically disadvantaged, single parent households, and minorities; and

WHEREAS, according to the newly released *Misplaced Priorities* report by the NAACP, state spending on prisons has grown nationally at six times the rate of spending on higher education during the last two decades; spending on prisons increased by 127 percent while spending on higher education rose 21 percent; rising prison budgets and falling education budgets are unsustainable, and we as a nation can no longer afford to invest in incarceration at the expense of higher education; and

WHEREAS, nationally there should be "smarter on crime" and "prevention and intervention" policies. Helping to reduce the number of youth committing violent and/or non-violent crimes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP stands opposed to these "tough on crime" as well as "no tolerance" policies and practices in the United States of America and will work through the local, state, and federal legislative process to make sure that some funding for incarceration and the prison industrial system is refocused to higher education; as well support policies and practices that will study the problem, create reinvestment commissions, eliminate disparities in drug laws, Increase earned time, support youth violence reduction programs, reform sentencing and drug policies, use diversion for drug-involved individuals, shorten prison terms, increase parole release rates, reduce revocations of people under community supervision, and support re-entry and the sealing of records; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge all of its units to work to identify and assist in supporting “smarter on crime” and “prevention and intervention” policies and practices, following NAACP procedures, and take action necessary to expose and halt those entities that engage in supporting “tough on crime” and “no tolerance” policies in our communities and states.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP adopt the recommendations of the *Misplaced Priorities* report as follows:

1. **Study the problem:** Support federal, state, and local efforts to create blue-ribbon commissions that will conduct thorough evaluations of the criminal justice system and offer recommendations for reform in a range of areas, including: sentencing policy, rates of incarceration, law enforcement, crime prevention, substance abuse and mental health treatment, corrections, and reentry.
2. **Create reinvestment commissions:** Support commissions charged with identifying legislative and policy avenues to downsize prison populations and shift savings from prison closures to education budgets.
3. **Eliminate disparities in drug laws:** Support efforts to eliminate disparities in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine at the state and federal level.
4. **Increase earned time:** Support reforms that would allow prisoners to earn an earlier release by participating in educational and vocational programming as well as drug and mental health treatment.
5. **Support youth violence reduction programs:** Support programs and policies to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk youth to prevent gang activity and criminal justice involvement.
6. **Reform sentencing and drug policies:** Eliminate mandatory minimum sentencing for drug offenses that help fuel drug imprisonment.
7. **Use diversion for drug-involved individuals:** Reform prosecutorial guidelines to divert people to treatment who would otherwise serve a mandatory prison term.

8. **Shorten prison terms:** Send young offenders who would otherwise receive mandatory sentences to structured programs to help them earn their GED and shave time off their prison sentences.
9. **Increase parole release rates:** Improve parole boards' ability to use evidence-based strategies when making decisions to parole prisoners, thus improving parolees' chances for success and increasing parole approval rates.
10. **Reduce revocations of people under community supervision:** Develop alternative-to-incarceration programs that will reduce the number of people sent to prison for technical violations.
11. **Support reentry and the sealing of records:** Support legislation that will close criminal records of certain offenders after they have not committed another crime within a certain number of years.

5. Campaign to Re-establish the System of Parole for All Federal and State Prisoners, Including Statutory Good Time and Educational/Work Incentive Credits

WHEREAS, historically the system of parole has been a mechanism for prisoners to avail themselves of the opportunity, through work, educational programs, and incentive-based programs, to re-enter society; and

WHEREAS, Earned Good Time and Work Incentive Credits/Industrial Good Time Credits, would be an effective and useful method towards instituting good behavior, positive work ethics, allowing prisoners the ability to acquire necessary and realistic goals and skills, and allowing them to be eligible for parole; and

WHEREAS, the United States is 5% of the world population, yet incarcerates and holds 25% of the world's prisoners, with the vast majority of those being of African and Hispanic- descent, as well as other poor and underrepresented Americans; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently spends in excess of sixty-eight billion dollars (\$68,000,000,000) a year on America's Prison Industrial Complex and Corrections in general; and

WHEREAS, Harry G. Lappin, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, testified on March 10, 2009, before the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations' Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science and Related Agencies that the Bureau of Prisons is "operating at 36% over its maximum

capacity," and agreed that reducing overcrowding would allow the Bureau of Prisons funding to be used more effectively in other important areas; and

WHEREAS, states such as Alabama, California, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia have recently proposed legislation to repeal their current non-parolable sentencing schemes/laws to reduce their annual budgets for housing prisoners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP call for reinstatement of the federal and state parole system/statutes, as well as the retroactive application of such statutes to all prisoners, along with comprehensive statutory provisions for Good Time, Educational, and Work Incentive Credits.

6. *Crime and Justice*

WHEREAS, in just over four decades, the number of people incarcerated in America has increased nearly five-fold, from roughly 500,000 to 2.3 million; and

WHEREAS, the average prison stay in the United States is two years, with more than 600,000 people returning home from prison each year; and

WHEREAS, over half of the nation's prisoners are persons of color and incarcerated for non-violent offenses; and

WHEREAS, with the limited opportunities for employment or support, many ex-offenders cycle back into prison after committing new crimes; and

WHEREAS, America spends \$70 billion a year on its prisons, while dollars for prevention, treatment, education, and services to deal with the challenges that lead individuals to crime and imprisonment in the first place remain inadequate or non-existent; and

WHEREAS, serious and violent criminals comprise only a small portion of the extraordinary expenditures on prisons and jails; and

WHEREAS, a national survey of prison wardens revealed that half of their prisoners could be discharged at no greater perceived threat to public safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the leaders of the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics conduct a study on the racially and ethnically disparate impact of the field of crime and justice as it relates to families and communities of color, and provide recommendations to the challenges found; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon state legislatures to convene criminal justice task forces to enact provisions to substantially reduce their correctional populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its 1997 resolution addressing the disproportionate numbers of African Americans in the prison population, largely as a result of the sentencing disparity between crack and cocaine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its 1989 resolution addressing the disproportionate numbers of African Americans in the prison population, largely as a result of a deficiency in sufficient legal representation for these individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will engage local law enforcement agencies on the topic of the incarceration of African American and Latino youth, with the goal of ensuring due process in handling of detention as well as to prevent the harassment of people of color in public places; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP supports public audits of policies in schools, city, county, and state governments which identify policies responsible for the over incarceration of juveniles and adults; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon all states to replicate the practice of providing advisory pre-sentencing economic impact sanctioning statements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will work in low-income communities and communities of color to engage in re-entry work focused on the youth and families impacted by incarceration, while advocating for services needed during the re-entry process including education, jobs and entrepreneurial programs, and healthcare; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the prison system to identify best practices or blueprints of programs, to support the re-entry process of formerly incarcerated individuals, which should address:

- (A) The transferring of medical records immediately following the release of these individuals; and with specific documentation of the presence or absence of major killers and crippers: heart disease, stroke, mental health disease/illnesses, cancer, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, HIV, sickle cell anemia and other blood disorders, communicable diseases/illnesses; and
- (B) The medicinal needs and ensures an adequate supply, as well as provide a referral list of physicians and health-care providers in their community; and

- (C) The accessibility of medical, vision, dental and mental health services for these individuals; and
- (D) The accessibility of health-care, education, and employment, as well as provide a list of willing employers to these individuals; and
- (E) Drug rehabilitation.

7. A Call to End the War on Drugs, Allocate Funding to Invest in Substance Abuse Treatment, Education and Opportunities in Communities of Color for a Better Tomorrow

WHEREAS, 2011 marks the government's forty-year anniversary of the War on Drugs, which by all accounts is a "failed" policy and through its implementation has become the new Jim Crow; and

WHEREAS, in modern history, in 1993, South Africa's Apartheid Government imprisoned 851 black men per hundred-thousand and in 2008, under the United States' mass incarceration and the war on drugs, black men are imprisoned at the rate of 4,919 per hundred-thousand population; and

WHEREAS, the United States has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners, incarcerating more than 2.3 million citizens in its prisons and jails, at a rate of one in every 136 U.S. residents—the highest rate of incarceration in the world; and

WHEREAS, funds that should go into education and health are diverted to the war on drugs leaving public schools struggling and underfunded; Over the last 20 years, funding for prisons have increased 6 times the rate of higher education and K-12 funding over that same time period has decreased; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local costs of the war on drugs exceed \$40 billion annually and has cost \$1 trillion over the last forty years, yet most drug prices have fallen, while purity levels have increased dramatically, and drug abuse has not decreased at all; and

WHEREAS, when men and women who have been convicted of or admitted to a drug offense, they are then permanently prohibited from applying or receiving state or federal financial aid; and

WHEREAS, government health surveys consistently find that young whites use drugs at higher rates than young blacks; yet according to FBI uniform crime data, police in the largest counties and cities in nearly every state arrest young blacks at double, triple and even quadruple the rate of young whites; in many US cities blacks are arrested for possession at five, seven and up to ten times the rate of whites; and

WHEREAS, low level non violent drugs crimes now produces permanent, computerized, fingerprint and photograph criminal records on national databases; these criminal records are easily found on the internet by employers, landlords, credit agencies, banks, professional licensing boards, schools and colleges therefore undermining future employment and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, easily accessible criminal records become a stigma, a modern "scarlet letter" which constitutes a substantial obstacle to employment, education, and full participation in American society; the criminal records, even just for arrest, consign the young people of color who are targeted by drug war policing to a second class citizenship and a modern form of Jim Crow; and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars a year of U.S. federal government payments go to police, sheriffs and prosecutors to arrest and prosecute over a million people a year for non violent drug offenses; that funding, in Byrne Grant and other programs, other serious crimes, for public education budgets and in expanding alternatives to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP discourages illegal drug use of any type and recognizes that addiction is a chronic medical illness that is treatable; and

WHEREAS, the National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study shows substantial reductions in criminal behavior, with a 64% decrease in all arrests after treatment, making public safety a primary beneficiary of effective drug treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), only 35% percent of the federal drug control budget is spent on education, prevention and treatment combined, with the remaining 65% devoted to law enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, women are the fastest growing prison population in the U.S., increasing by over 700% since 1977, to 98,600 at the end of 2005. Drug law violations now account for nearly one-third of incarcerated women, compared to one-fifth of men; and

WHEREAS, when men go to jail, families get poorer, but when women go to jail, children go to foster care, therefore separating families and therefore impacting generations; and

WHEREAS, we the NAACP believe that the war on drugs has failed and advocates among federal, state and local governments to repeal the war on drugs and institute in its place a public health approach that concentrates on reducing drug abuse and its destructive consequences; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP advocates for the end of any law that prohibits anyone convicted or who has admitted to sufficient facts for a drug offense, from applying for or receiving state and federal financial aid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reinvest dollars saved from incarceration to treatment and education programs and a proportional share of taxpayers' money to privately-owned Black organizations/groups and Black faith-based groups in proportion with the Black prison population of the U.S.; and an approach that holds state and federal agencies accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate educational programs that teach our youth about drugs and other harmful substances available in society, and teach them to refrain from using any of these substances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate for meaningful ways to combat the disparate and unjust impact of the war on drugs, including abolishing mandatory minimum sentencing for drug related offenses, which remove any discretion from judges to take into account extraneous circumstances, and which have disproportionately impacted those who come from low income communities and communities of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP work to abolish Byrne Grant funding that provides incentives for law enforcement to target and make arrests in drug related crimes, which they disproportionately do in low income communities and communities of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate for the implementation of needle exchange programs which serve to reduce HIV, Hepatitis C, and other infections related to using unclean needles by providing clean needles to those who need them, therefore increasing overall public safety for all of our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate for the expansion of prevention and diversion programs as well as other policies whereby law enforcement officials are required to take drug offenders to treatment programs and social service providers instead of arresting and putting them on the path to incarceration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocates that U.S. policy should be measured not solely on drug use levels or the number of people arrested or imprisoned, but rather on the amount of drug-related harm reduced. This includes: substantially reducing drug overdose fatalities, substantially reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis, substantially reducing the number of nonviolent drug law offenders behind bars, substantially reducing the number of

people arrested for drug possession, and eliminating the racial disparities in drug law enforcement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate for a wide range of effective drug abuse treatment options (treatment on demand) that make supportive services available to all who need them, including: greater access to methadone and other maintenance therapies; specially-tailored, integrated services for families, minorities, rural communities and individuals suffering from co-occurring disorders; and effective community-based drug treatment and other alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent drug law offenders; and other policies that reduce public spending while improving public health and safety.

8. *Video Surveillance of Law Enforcement Traffic Detentions*

WHEREAS, African Americans are targeted and detained in traffic stops at a significantly higher proportion than their representation in the general population; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are often cited and arrested for alleged behavior during law enforcement encounters; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are often subject to elevated and lethal use of force during traffic detentions, including pepper spray, electroshock devices, batons and firearms; and

WHEREAS, written law enforcement incident reports are often in conflict with both physical and forensic evidence; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are less likely than the general population to be economically capable of engaging effective counsel to fight enhanced legal charges.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its 2001 resolution on advocating for the use of dash-cams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on the United States Congress to mandate and fund law enforcement vehicles to be retrofitted within five years with video and audio surveillance equipment that are functioning on a regular basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on the United States Congress to mandate and fund all law enforcement agencies to carry and use within five years gun-cams and Taser-cams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on the United States Congress to mandate within 5 years all new law enforcement vehicles be

equipped with video and audio surveillance equipment, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United States Congress mandate the use of video and audio surveillance equipment in all law enforcement detentions to protect the civil and human rights of all Americans.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. NAACP Supports Reform of the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE's) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to Help Low and Middle-Income Homeowners

WHEREAS, ensuring that all Americans have access to fair and sustainable credit opportunities is crucial to our Nation's sustained economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minority communities have long been underserved by the housing markets, targeted by predatory lenders, and denied opportunities to build housing wealth; and

WHEREAS, the subprime lending and foreclosure crises are manifestations of unequal access to banking and financial services, not simply an isolated anomaly or the fault of a few fraudulent lenders and borrowers; and

WHEREAS, the current policy debate surrounding the structure of our housing system, including the government-sponsored enterprises (GSE's) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, provides a unique opportunity to make improvements; and

WHEREAS, the future housing finance system must affirmatively establish pathways to homeownership for qualified borrowers and safe and affordable rental homes for all families; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a critical role to play in ensuring that the secondary market serves all borrowers in a fair and equitable manner. Without federal incentives or interventions, the housing finance system will not reach all segments of borrowers and geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, a balanced national housing policy that facilitates a stable, liquid secondary market—accessible to small and large lenders alike—and will extend

credit and capital on an equitable basis to all qualified borrowers and in all communities is necessary to ensure a fair and sustained economic recovery which reaches all segments of our society; and

WHEREAS, we need a financial system in which all players share accountability to protect consumers and the integrity of the system; and

WHEREAS, one of our primary objectives in revising the national housing finance system is to ensure the affirmative delivery of fairly priced capital to all Americans, including underserved borrowers and neighborhoods.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP supports a comprehensive reform of the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE's) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac which ensures that the housing finance system furthers our nation's fair housing goals by aggressively promoting nondiscrimination, residential integration, and equal access to the benefits of decent and safe housing and ownership opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate avoiding an overreliance on Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance since leaving an entire borrower segment and whole neighborhoods reliant on a single source of mortgage credit is bad policy for a number of reasons; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP supports integrated neighborhoods, in which clean, safe and affordable rental units and homeownership opportunities are available to all Americans. Additionally, the NAACP supports the creation of a pilot program to recapture homeowners and GSE's underwriting appraisal value and equity through cooperative endeavor – private sponsored, regional cooperative homeownership partnership structures.

EDUCATION

1. Supporting the Enactment and Enforcement of State Laws Teaching an Inclusive American History

WHEREAS, the NAACP has long supported the teaching of racially and ethnically diverse historical accounts of our great nation, including African-American history; and

WHEREAS, several states have added varying levels of African and African-American historical content to the standard history curriculum, but the level of implementation varies at the local level; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of diverse cultures and the totality of American history is necessary for students to succeed as informed democratic citizens, successfully graduate college or pursue fulfilling careers; and

WHEREAS, several other states such as Texas, have made efforts to erase black and other racial and ethnic minority history and replace it with an ideologically slanted curriculum that could interfere with students' graduating ready for college or careers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms the 2007 resolution stating that "All students, especially African-American students, will be able to read in their school history texts an accurate account of the contributions of African-Americans (in all fields of endeavor) to the settlement, growth, and development of this country;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will work in states to strengthen existing laws and require implementation of teaching all students a valid, historically accurate curriculum that includes African and African-American history and prepares all students for college and career success; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that where states do not have laws to ensure the teaching of a valid, historically accurate curriculum that includes African and African-American history among other historical perspectives and accounts, the NAACP will advocate for the creation of such laws with strong comprehensive implementation guaranteeing states' and districts' compliance.

2. Preserving the Federal Role in Safeguarding Education

WHEREAS, the NAACP has been a strong supporter of efforts to ensure that all children receive a high quality education; and

WHEREAS, the Congress is in the process of discussing the main civil rights law that governs education, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, several proposals under consideration would remove federal rules for all but the lowest performing schools as defined by average test scores; and

WHEREAS, before the most recent revision of the ESEA, the achievement of children of color and disadvantaged students was obscured when the federal government only required that schools be evaluated based on average test scores; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions would take us back to a state where the achievement of children of color in most schools would be hidden in averages; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed revisions, most schools would not be held federally accountable for closing achievement gaps.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will work aggressively to maintain the federal role in education monitoring, incentive-setting and enforcement, encouraging the federal government to use all the tools at its disposal to ensure that all students receive a high quality education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will work aggressively to ensure that every school is held accountable by state and federal laws and rules for delivering to each student a high quality education.

3. Supporting the Creative Use of Time to Expand Learning Opportunities

WHEREAS, the NAACP's education report focuses on the need to expand the school day and year to increase the educational opportunities available to students of color; and

WHEREAS, more time itself is not the answer - since research on simply extending learning time has been inconclusive - but a better use of time for high-quality learning opportunities can be a strong factor in fostering student academic growth; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is committed to increasing the numbers of high school graduates that are prepared for college and career success; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Educational Testing Service (ETS) study that focused on the achievement gap between Black and White students offered as a potential reason for the achievement gap that generations of Black youth growing up in poverty do not have access to resources (e.g., computers, summer enrichment camps, or even books or magazines at home) that are readily available to their more affluent peers; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning programs can provide opportunities for students to have experiences they would not be able to receive during a typical school day or in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, this is particularly important for rural communities, where students are likely to have far less access to resources like libraries, museums, youth centers, and community organizations than their urban and suburban peers; and

WHEREAS, solutions to this problem include developing partnerships with higher education institutions, providing transportation support, and exploring promising strategies for virtual participation in learning and enrichment activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its earlier resolutions supporting more time for more learning, the most recent of which was in 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAACP units will work aggressively at the local, state and federal levels to expand the school year and school day to increase the learning opportunities available to all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon educational entities on all levels to improve teacher capability to use more creative methodology in expanding learning opportunities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP units will work to expand the ways that time is used in schools, to accelerate learning, offer enrichment and workforce training; allow students to recover credit and incorporate community service learning into their studies for credit; and receive other services that expand their opportunities to learn.

4. State Budget Cuts on Education

WHEREAS, state budget cuts have become a widespread occurrence across the nation, affecting K-12 education and higher education; and

WHEREAS, these cuts have the greatest impact on disadvantaged students, within most school districts that have high numbers of low-income and minority students receiving less state funding than other districts; and

WHEREAS, there has been a proven correlation between race and the quality of education with the majority of minorities receiving their education in sub-par environments; and

WHEREAS, the importance of education is evident through level of education attained having a positive correlation with level of income; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the NAACP is to ensure the educational equality of rights of all persons.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly condemns the widespread cuts in various state education budgets across the nation associated with an increase in tuition at publicly funded higher education institutions and a decrease in financial resources for public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP direct all of its Units to take an oppositional stance to these detrimental state education budget cuts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP and its Units take necessary steps to alleviate the results of past implemented cuts and work through the legislative and electoral process to prevent further unfavorable state budget cuts to education in future fiscal years.

5. *Free Second Language Instruction and Courses*

WHEREAS, numerous entities, including but not limited to public schools and community colleges, provide classes to non-limited-English speaking populations free of charge, and

WHEREAS, foreign language instruction classes are only available to English speaking populations by course offerings, which require tuition or a fee; and

WHEREAS, most employers now want, or at least prefer, bilingual candidates; and

WHEREAS, most modern-day immigrant populations come to America already speaking two or more languages; and

WHEREAS, African Americans' are further disenfranchised by overwhelmingly speaking only one language; it would help to level the playing field by assisting African Americans to become more competitive in the job market, and

WHEREAS, it would assist African Americans to be able to better communicate with other ethnic communities and cultures by understanding their languages, leveling the playing field and bridging the gap that has resulted in cross-cultural conflicts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all public education entities providing free classes to non-limited-English speakers to learn English, also be required to provide free foreign language instruction classes to populations who only speak English.

6. *Civil Rights Education*

WHEREAS, some of the goals of the NAACP's educational initiatives are to:

- a. Teach students in America about the important role of the American Civil Rights Movement; and
- b. Foster among students an understanding of the complexity of racial, social, economic, and political challenges faced by all Americans; and

provide teachers the tools and resources to illustrate, practice, appreciate, and promote an understanding of the evolution of the civil rights movement; and

- c. Have students seek learning beyond the civil rights movement from afar; but, rather personally associate civil rights in their lives, and engage in honest dialogue with others and foster a positive climate for human relations; and
- d. Apply advanced scholarship and relatively recent trends in academic studies of civil rights movement history to effective teaching methods; and
- e. Formalize the national struggle for civil rights and teach that it is a beacon of hope for all Americans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP continue its efforts to pass legislation that establishes the U.S. Civil Rights Education Advisory Commission in the United States Department of Education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the legislation requires the advisory committee verify the inclusion of civil rights education in the states' history-social science framework and criteria for evaluating instructional materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. NAACP Support of Ensuring Safeguards to Reduce Air Pollution

WHEREAS, the NAACP has committed to ensuring safeguards to reducing air pollution in Resolutions in 1993, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2009 on the environmental and climate justice challenges in our communities; and

WHEREAS, sound principles of climate and environmental justice oppose processes that are damaging to the environment, increase inequity, and more severely impact communities of color and low income communities; and

WHEREAS, over 70 percent of African-Americans live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards; and

WHEREAS, in every one of the 44 major metropolitan areas in the U.S., African Americans are more likely than Whites to be exposed to higher air toxic

concentrations. As a result, African Americans are nearly three times as likely to be hospitalized or killed by asthma; and

WHEREAS, emissions from pollution include lead which has been tied to educational and behavioral challenges thereby impacting learning opportunities for children of color and potentially contributing to the school to prison pipeline; and

WHEREAS, emissions from air pollution include mercury which has been tied to negative birth outcomes and African American families already suffer from high rates of low birth weight babies and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, the presence of toxic facilities in communities have negative effects on property values, thereby negatively impacting the economic wellbeing and wealth development potential of communities of color which disproportionately host facilities that emit pollution; and

WHEREAS, many of the pollutants that affect human health and wellbeing are also advancing the progression of climate change and climate change disproportionately impacts the civil and human rights of communities of color through the increase in the frequency and severity of severe weather events, the shifts and reduction in agricultural yield and accompanying impact of availability and affordability of nutritious foods, as well as the rise in sea level with the resulting displacement of communities; and

WHEREAS, multiple policy initiatives have been introduced in Congress to defund and lessen the power of the Clean Air Act as well as to significantly reduce the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency which is tasked with monitoring and regulating pollution and other harms to the air that we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we live.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reiterates its support for the Clean Air Act as a critical bedrock policy for the protection of environmental and human health and wellbeing; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will put the power and resources of the Association's units and members behind protecting and defending environmental policies designed to provide safeguards to ensure that all communities are breathing clean air, ingesting clean water, and living and thriving on safe lands.

2. NAACP's Continuing Commitment to Uplifting Civil and Human Rights of Persons Affected by the Deepwater Horizon Macondo Well Oil Spill of 2010

WHEREAS, NAACP has committed to Resolutions on Environmental and Climate Justice in 1993, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2009 and these resolutions dictate sound principles of climate and environmental justice and oppose processes that are damaging to the environment, increase inequity in general, and most especially impact communities of color and low income communities; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Oil Drilling Disaster of 2010 spilled 205 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP passed an Emergency Resolution and Call to Action in response to the Oil Drilling Disaster at the NAACP 101st Convention; and

WHEREAS, the Oil Drilling Disaster resulted in economic devastation including significant spiking in rates of unemployment, foreclosure, property and business loss, insurance cancellation, ruined credit ratings, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Oil Drilling Disaster impacted public health, as evidenced by various symptoms such as skin lesions, gastrointestinal problems, difficulty breathing, and headaches, to name a few, as well as hospitalizations, toxicologists' tests with detection of significant rates of volatile organic compounds in the blood of oil spill clean-up workers and Gulf residents, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Oil Drilling Disaster continues to have socio-cultural results including: displacement of persons who have moved because of lack of jobs/business or out of fear of permanent detrimental health effects; and erosion of generations of cultural mores connected to land and water for Vietnamese American, Indigenous, Cajun, White American, and African American communities; and

WHEREAS, African Americans were differentially impacted because 1) pre-existing economic vulnerability meant that African Americans left existing low paid jobs due to promises, from recruiters, of well-paid, long term employment which ended up being short term (2-3 months), hazardous poorly safeguarded jobs with poor safety standards; and 2) pre-existing lack of political representation meant that systems of response did not properly incorporate their differential concerns and needs; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has engaged in multiple activities to address the civil and human rights violations resulting from the Oil Drilling Disaster including the following: released a statement calling for action; conducted and released two investigative studies; sent two letters to the BP CEO calling for action on behalf

of communities of the Gulf; sent correspondence to the Gulf Coast Claims Facility requesting systems reform; conducted multiple resource fairs to provide access to financial and social services for affected communities; resolved individual and community problems; catalyzed the establishment of the HBCU Consortium on Sustainability Research and Public Policy; and brokering multiple meetings with BP senior management and federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, the Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and others; and

WHEREAS, while inroads have been made, many issues remain unresolved and some circumstances are actually worsening; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling has resumed in the Gulf, and the risk remains that a similar catastrophe could occur again.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP commits to continuing to advocate for and engage in ongoing monitoring of the oil spill situation in the Gulf, provide assistance to affected communities in education and advocacy, as well as apply pressure to oil companies, and the federal, state and local government; for responsible policies and practices in regard to ongoing oil extraction and processing in the Gulf of Mexico.

HEALTH

1. NAACP Supports Reducing the Obesity Epidemic Through Intergenerational Chronic Disease Prevention Programs

WHEREAS, heart disease and stroke are the leading cause of death among African-Americans killing nearly 370,000 African-Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, nearly 4 in every 10 non-Hispanic African American adults have cardiovascular disease which leads to increased health care costs; the total direct and indirect cost of cardiovascular disease and stroke in the United States was \$503 billion in 2010; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans develop hypertension at an earlier age and are more prone to have substantially elevated pressures than other groups in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly three million African-Americans have been diagnosed with diabetes and millions more are likely to develop the disease in the coming years;

by comparison 4.9 million African-Americans aged 20 and older have undiagnosed diabetes; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans have high rates of three of diabetes' most serious complications: amputation, blindness and kidney failure; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Surgeon General estimates 300,000 deaths each year in the United States are associated with obesity; and

WHEREAS, African-American women have the highest rates of being overweight or obese compared to other groups in the United States. About four out of five African-American women are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, over the last two decades, the prevalence of obesity for African-American children has climbed from 13.4% to 24.4% ages 12 to 19; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans are more likely to reside in environments that do not promote physical activity or healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, promoting regular physical activity, increased consumption of fruits and vegetables as part of a healthy diet, and creating environments that support these behaviors are essential to addressing these problems of poor health across the population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP encourage units to educate and empower their respective communities on chronic disease prevention strategies that include healthy eating and regular physical activity to reduce morbidity and mortality rates of chronic diseases and critical health issues within the African-American community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will create on its national website, and implement an online training and education curriculum on health and wellness promoting lifestyle changes made available to all units, based on NAACP compiled best practices and evidence based research; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its earlier resolutions in 2003, 2009 and 2010 supporting obesity prevention and urges its units and members to adopt an intergenerational approach to Health and Wellness promotion to reduce obesity and chronic disease (including heart disease, stroke and diabetes) with the newly launched Project H.E.L.P (Healthy Eating, Lifestyles, and Physical Activity) program.

2. Racial Disparities in the United States Maternal Child Health Care

WHEREAS, infant mortality is the death of a live born baby before he/she reaches its first birthday. The impact of infant mortality is considerable: There

are more than 28,000 deaths to children under one (1) year of age each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 infant mortality rate for the United States was 7.0 per 1000 for all races. There has since been a slight decline in the overall rate yet a glaring disparity persists for African Americans of at least 2- 3 times above the national average. In 2006 there were 13.4 deaths per thousand compared to the White rate of 5.6; and

WHEREAS, the United States infant mortality rate is higher than those in most other developed countries, and the gap between the United States and the rates for those with the lowest infant mortality appears to be widening. In 2004 (the latest year that data are available for all countries), the United States ranked 29th in the world in infant mortality, tied with Poland and Slovakia; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2010 target goal for the United States infant mortality rate was set at 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in the year 2000. The only race/ethnicity group to achieve the Healthy People 2010 target goal as of 2005 was the Cuban population; and

WHEREAS, two of the most common preventable reasons for infant deaths are prematurity and low birth weight. The percentage of infants delivered preterm (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) has been increasing since the mid -1980s, so that by 2004, one out of every eight infants in the United States was born preterm (12.5%). Nationally two to four times as many African American babies are born prematurely or of low birth weight compared to White babies; and

WHEREAS, infants born preterm have much higher mortality rates compared with term births (37–41 weeks of gestation). In 2004, nearly one-half or 46% of infant deaths to African American women and 41% of infant deaths to Puerto Rican women were due to preterm-related causes of death; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate for African American mothers with over 13 years of education was almost three times that of White mothers in 2005 and the disparities persist across all socio-economic and educational levels for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, preterm births cost society at least **\$26 billion or \$51,600 per premature baby** per year. This includes money spent on medical care for short- and long-term health conditions, educational expenditures and lost productivity for families of those babies who actually survive; and

WHEREAS, maternal mortality is the death of a woman related to pregnancy or childbearing and between two and three women die every day during pregnancy, birth or postpartum in the United States of America. There is also an alarming

increase in severe pregnancy-related complications that nearly cause death, known as "near misses" incidents; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 maternal mortality rate for the U.S. was 13.3 deaths per 100,000 women for all races. There has been an increase, in general, and a widening of the racial gap, in particular, to 3-4 times the national average. In 2006 there were 34.8 African American deaths per 100,000 compared to 9.1 for White and 10.2 for Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS, obstacles to care are widespread, even though the U.S. spends more on health care per capita than any other nation and pregnancy and childbirth-related hospital costs have now reached \$86 billion - more than any other type of hospital care; and

WHEREAS, nearly 13 million women of reproductive age (15 to 44), or one in five, have no health insurance. Minorities account for just under one-third of all women in the USA (32 percent) but over half (51 percent) of uninsured women; and

WHEREAS, women of color are more likely to experience discriminatory and inappropriate treatment and poorer quality of care. African American mothers were 2.5 times more likely than White mothers to begin prenatal care in the 3rd trimester, or not receive prenatal care at all. Burdensome bureaucratic procedures in Medicaid enrollment substantially delay access to vital prenatal care for pregnant women seeking government-funded care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms the 1992, 2002, 2006 and 2010 resolutions on women and children's health and will focus on eliminating financial barriers to health care, creating stronger policies for women's health and strengthening and improving the delivery of health services in the United States as well.

3. NAACP Supports School-Based Health Centers

WHEREAS, school-based health centers (SBHCs) are located on school grounds in public schools and are designed to serve all students with a focus on the uninsured and underserved; and

WHEREAS, SBHCs provide access to primary medical care, mental health services, preventive care, social services and youth development to nearly 2 million U.S. children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, out of the 1909 SBHCs located across the country, 57% of SBHCs are located in urban communities and roughly 70% of students using SBHCs are racial or ethnic minorities (26.2% of African-American, 36.8% of Hispanic, 4.4% of Asian-American, 1.7% Native American, 1.4% Other) who have historically

been under-insured, uninsured, or experienced other health care access disparities; and

WHEREAS, SBHCs serving middle and high school-aged students are more likely to provide on-site treatment for sexually-transmitted disease (68%), HIV/AIDS counseling (64%), and diagnostic services such as pregnancy testing (81%); and

WHEREAS, African American children are less likely to have access to preventative care and more likely to have emergency room visits than their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that high-school SBHCs users had a 50 percent decrease in absenteeism and 25 percent decrease in tardiness two months after receiving school-based mental health counseling; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that African American male SBHC users were three times more likely to stay in school than their peers who did not use an SBHC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms the 1992 resolution on women and children's health supporting the use of school based and school connected health services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NAACP will promote and work with existing organizations, state and local officials, and others to encourage increased funding and implementation of school-based health centers nationwide.

4. NAACP Commemorates 30 Years in the Fight Against the HIV/AIDS Epidemic and Rededicating Itself to Mobilizing its Units and Providing Leadership in the Black Community on this Crisis

WHEREAS, June 5, 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the first diagnosed case of AIDS, in the United States, which was reported to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) June 1981; and

WHEREAS, every 9½ minutes, someone in the United States is infected with HIV; and

WHEREAS, African Americans represent 12-13% of the population but account for nearly 50% of the new HIV infections in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2009 research report entitled "*HIV Surveillance Report*" published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 32 Black women and 1 in 16 Black men will be diagnosed with having HIV during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among Black women ages 25-34 years old and the second leading cause of death of Black men ages 35-44 years-of-age; and

WHEREAS, Black women are disproportionately affected representing over 50% of new infections nationally; and

WHEREAS, the HIV/AIDS crisis is rising among youth and seniors over the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, young Black MSM (men having sex with men) ages 13-29 represent 52% of new HIV infections; and

WHEREAS, 70% of all HIV infection is from heterosexual sex; and

WHEREAS, for definitive change, interventions must occur at the societal, community and individual levels for the greatest impact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP and local units join forces with partnering health, civic and civil rights groups to publically speak out in support of strategic programs and resources that promote regular HIV testing and prevention education in their respective communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP continue supporting federal and state policies that promote holistic approaches towards medical, economic, legal and housing components for HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP, through its active units, will mobilize communities to reduce stigma, discrimination, myths, and shame around HIV/AIDS by promoting inclusion and acceptance of all people regardless of how the HIV virus was contracted and regardless of their HIV status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will advocate that the state and federal government secure available resources to maintain the current AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and reduce the amount of federal funding cuts to this program; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP commemorates 30 years in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic and rededicates itself to providing leadership, mobilizing its units and strengthening the capacity of our national and community partners in education and advocacy that are committed to ensuring the eradication of the spread of HIV/AIDS in African American communities and throughout the world.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. *The NAACP Youth & College Division is Honoring Our Elders and Renewing Our Determination*

WHEREAS, the NAACP Youth & College Division is celebrating its 75th Anniversary as a division of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Youth & College Division continues to exercise its "voice" in the struggle for racial equality, social justice and civil rights in our communities throughout the United States of America through community involvement and college activism; and

WHEREAS, young people have received a place at the NAACP Board table, thanks to youth delegate Juanita E. Jackson who in 1936 asked and received a majority of support for the formation of the NAACP Youth & College Division; and

WHEREAS, developing future leaders to one day step up and step into the roles of the adults in the local units, state units and national office has been on-going; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Youth & College Division continues to focus on seeking and finding youth from diverse communities to join our association and assume leadership in civil rights advocacy and activism; and

WHEREAS, the "youth of yesterday" are now our elders, role models, teachers and leaders in this great organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the local units, state units and college chapters that make up the NAACP Youth & College Division express appreciation to the elders in our association, ages 55+ for their tireless efforts over our 75 years as a division and 102 years as an association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that officers and members in the NAACP Youth & College Division solemnly affirm to develop the skills, talents and abilities needed to speak out and mobilize into action wherever injustice and inequality exist; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP Youth & College Division calls upon all youth units and college chapters to continue to work independently and side by side with our adult branches to make our association stronger and more determined as we move forward and face the challenges ahead.

2. *Renewing the NAACP Youth & College Division's Partnership with the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO)*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People created the NAACP Youth & College Division 75 years ago with the mission to inform youth of the problems affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance the economic, education, social and political status of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities and their harmonious cooperation with other peoples; to stimulate an appreciation of the African Diaspora and other people of color's contribution to civilization; and to develop an intelligent, militant effective youth leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-Academics, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), is an initiative of the NAACP founded in 1978, by renowned author and journalist, Vernon Jarrett, which provides a forum through which African American youth demonstrate academic, artistic, and scientific prowess and expertise, thereby gaining the same recognition often reserved for entertainers and athletes; and

WHEREAS, both programs seek to empower youth across the nation and throughout the association; and

WHEREAS, both programs increase involvement and participation in the association.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP Youth & College Division and ACT-SO will work together to increase interest in both programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ACT-SO will work towards making all participants' members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAACP Youth & College Division units will aid in recruitment of members to participate in ACT-SO; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that partnering these two programs will create well-rounded leaders to lead us now and into the future.

3. *In Support of a Paperless Reporting Process for Units*

WHEREAS, we live in a culture that is increasingly environmentally friendly, generally referred to as "being green"; and

WHEREAS, NAACP units are required to turn in several reporting forms, including but not limited to quarterly reports, membership forms, and annual financial reports; and

WHEREAS, units on average use thousands, if not millions of pieces of paper to send reporting forms to the national office and their respective state offices; and

WHEREAS, the option for units to electronically submit their reports would save time and money, which are both highly valued.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will seek to find ways to reduce the amount of paper reporting forms; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will work to identify an online mechanism and tools that will enable units to input data for various reporting forms; and

BE IT FINALLY RESLOVED that the NAACP will strive to reduce its ecological footprint in an effort to go green and secure a more sustainable environment for future generations.

4. Youth & College Division Units Election

WHEREAS, NAACP Youth & College Division units currently have elections between March 15 and May 1; and

WHEREAS, the regular semester for many colleges and universities ends prior to May 1; and

WHEREAS, most college students are not on campus during the summer months.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP Youth & College Division election period be extended and held from March 1 to April 15.

5. Unit Run-Off Elections – Amendment to Article IX, Section 2(g), 3(g), 4(e) and 5(e) (Election of Officers and Executive Committee and Delegates) of the Bylaws for Units

WHEREAS, NAACP units elect officers and at-large Executive Committee members either biannually for adults and annually for Youth Councils and College Chapters; and

WHEREAS, occasionally there is a tie vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following sentence and language be added to the respective sections of Article IX, Section 2(g), 3(g), 4(e) and 5(e) of the BYLAWS FOR UNITS which provides specific guidance for runoff elections:

“Should a run-off election be necessary, that election shall occur on the following date at time certain (at least 1 hour) at this location, Run-off elections shall be conducted not less than ten (10) days after the original election.”;
and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this change shall be added at the end of the section concerning written notice of elections for Branches, Prison Branches, and all Youth & College Units: Article IX, Section 2(g); Article IX, Section 3(g); Article IX, Section 4(e); and Article IX, Section 5(e) of the Bylaws for Units.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. *Support for Recovery of Cote D'Ivoire*

WHEREAS, the internationally recognized and democratically elected President of Cote d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, has taken his office but only by the use of force from the United Nations troops with French military support and the private militia of his party; and

WHEREAS, the previous President insisted that he had won the election, which in turn triggered a violent conflict between supporters of both men, with armed struggle between the Army and the militia of the party of now President Ouattara; and

WHEREAS, this conflict provided an impetus for violent elements within Cote d'Ivoire, whose motivation was non-demonstrative and only self serving, to run rampant; and

WHEREAS, the resulting anarchy resulted in innocent civilian deaths, wanton property destruction, villages burned, institutions (including universities) ransacked, and refugees fleeing into adjacent countries, such as Liberia, which had very limited resources to assist them; and

WHEREAS, there has also been the disruption in food supplies, potable water, medicine and power resulting in unnecessary deaths, diseases and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the country remains deeply divided with much fear and mistrust which has resulted in a further division among religious, ethnic, tribal and geographic regions, and lack of security continues particularly for ethnic groups where the previous presidents had support; and

WHEREAS, Cote d'Ivoire was formerly one of the economic centers in West Africa and a regional power due in large part to its political stability; and

WHEREAS, the United States supported the United Nations and the African Union in recognizing the now installed President Ouattara following the election and has provided \$54 million in humanitarian assistance since the election.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP commends the United State for the assistance it has recently provided Cote D'Ivoire and urges its communication with specific emphasis on issues of security and reconciliation (including investigation and addressing atrocities regardless of which side perpetuated them) and to expand its current areas of concern to re-establishing the severely damaged education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the United States to work with regional West African institutions, the African Union and the United Nations to pursue these goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP use its Non Governmental Organization (NGO) status at the UN to follow this issue and urge the UN to give it a high priority; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP works to educate its units on the complex issues in Africa to raise awareness and counter the over-simplistic views and misinformation so often dominating in the mass media.

LABOR/EMPLOYMENT

1. *Manufacturing and Union Labor Policy*

WHEREAS, unions have consistently led the struggle to provide a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, for better wages, benefits and advancement opportunities

based on skills, knowledge, hard work and seniority rather than race, religion, cronyism or other discriminatory factors, and

WHEREAS, the right of workers to join unions and to bargain collectively with employers is an internationally-recognized human rights and a cornerstone of a free and democratic society. With unions, workers have a voice on workplace issues and are able to negotiate collectively to achieve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, gain healthcare, pensions and other benefits to protect their families and ensure safe healthy working conditions; and

WHEREAS, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) was enacted in 1935, during the Great Depression, to protect the right of American workers to unionize. It plainly states that our national interest is best served by "encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and freedom of association;" and

WHEREAS, over the years, the rights protected by the NLRA were diminished by aggressive employer-sponsored anti-union campaigns, ineffective penalties for employers who violated the NLRA, and anti-union presidential appointees to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). As a result, it became nearly impossible for millions of workers to successfully organize by going through a Board-conducted election, and nearly as difficult to reach a first contract after winning a representation election; and

WHEREAS, many employers, coached by an army of anti-union consultants, took advantage of loopholes in the National Labor Relations Act, or simply violated the law to spy on, harass, pressure, threaten, intimidate, suspend, fire, deport, and otherwise victimize workers who attempted to exercise their right to unionize. Many manufacturing companies threatened and intimidated workers in organized drives by predicting the workplace would close or move if workers voted for the union; and

WHEREAS, employer interference did not and has not ceased once a union had been chosen: one- third of workers who demonstrated majority support for union representation lacked a collective bargaining agreement one year later; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these anti-union campaigns and weak labor laws, the percentage of American workers who are unionized has plummeted to an all-time low. The loss of manufacturing jobs to a service-based economy which threatens the status of many middle class workers destroyed American's middle class and has taken a tremendous toll on the earning power and standard of living of racial and ethnic minority families; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2003, the labor movement mounted a major Congressionally focused educational campaign to enact the Employee Free Choice Act, to restore the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively, free from employer intimidation and coercion. The Act allows workers to choose

to organize by a simple majority sign-up, without the employer- imposed delays and intimidation, provides for timely mediation and arbitration in the event bargaining for a first contract breaks down, provides stronger penalties for labor law violations and delivers much greater enforcement of the laws; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, for African Americans in the 15 lowest-paying occupations, unionization raises wages by about 14%; for the same group of workers, unionization is also associated with a 20% greater likelihood of having health insurance and a 28% greater likelihood of pension coverage; and

WHEREAS, 25% of all African American college graduates work in the public sector, the majority of whom are union members; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, full-time African American workers who are union members earn 31% more than their non-union counterparts (\$772 per week for union workers compared with \$589 for non-union workers); African American men who are union members earn 37% more than their non-union counterparts (\$829 compared with \$606); and African American women who are union members earn 27% more than their non-union counterparts (\$729 compared with \$574); and

WHEREAS, in 1961, when Martin Luther King Jr., addressed the AFL-CIO Fourth Constitutional Convention in Bal Harbour, Florida, he spoke of the “unity of purpose” between the labor movement and the movement for civil rights. He said: “Our needs are identical with labor’s needs: decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community....The duality of interests of labor and Negroes makes any crisis which lacerates you a crisis from which we bleed”; and

WHEREAS, numerous prominent economists, including three Nobel laureates, have signed onto a statement in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act. Citing the recent unprecedented growth of inequality in household income and the urgent need to give workers more bargaining power, they said, “In recent decades, most bargaining powers have resided with management. The current recession will further weaken the ability of workers to bargain individually. More than ever, workers will need to act together. As economists, we believe this is a critically important step in rebuilding our economy and strengthening our democracy by enhancing the voice of working people in the workplace.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms the declaration made at its annual meeting in February, 2011, that we will advocate for and fight to protect the rights of workers to engage in the process of collective bargaining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP, and its members, will strive to restore the original intention of the National Labor Relations Act to encourage unionization and collective bargaining by guaranteeing workers the right to organize; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP, and its members, will work to educate our friends, family, the general public, and Congress about the continued need to strengthen the right of workers to organize, free from employer interference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reiterates its strong support for the Employee Free Choice Act to allow workers to make a personal choice to organize without relentless and often unlawful attempts by management to affect their decision by use of threat and intimidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP, and its members advocate for NLRA coverage for all private sector workers, including teaching and research assistants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP, and its members support efforts in states to provide collective bargaining rights to all state and local government employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP publicly state its opposition to attacks on any and all unions, whether in the public or private sectors, by declaring that workers have rights to be organized into unions and those unions' rights to collective bargaining are sacrosanct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all NAACP Branches and Youth Units be instructed to hold forums on the history of the labor movement in this country and its relationship with the NAACP, the context within which attacks on unions are occurring and to participate in demonstrations, locally, statewide and nationally, that serve to support struggles on the part of unions to preserve existing contracts and/or to defend the right of unions to exist without interference or obstruction; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP call on all its units to join in public protests and rallies in support of public and private employees and their efforts to maintain or preserve their rights to union representation and collective bargaining.

LEGISLATIVE

1. NAACP Supports the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band Association as they Petition the Office of Federal Acknowledgement in Becoming a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

WHEREAS, the mission of the NAACP, a national civil rights organization, is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all citizens, and will continue to fight for justice until all, without regard to race, gender, creed or religion, enjoy equal status; and

WHEREAS, people of African and Indian descent began to live and intertwine in the Muscogee Creek Nation, an indigenous Indian nation, prior to the 19th century as Black Indian slaves, free Black Indians, and in some instances tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the 1830s, members of the Muscogee Creek Nation were removed from their lands in the southeastern United States and forced to migrate to Indian Territory, what is now Oklahoma. This migration is known as the Trail of Tears. Among those persons forced to migrate were the Black Indian slaves of the Creeks, and free Black Indians; and

WHEREAS, in 1861, during the Civil War, some of the Black Indians, or African Creeks, joined the Union Army as soldiers. Later, they would be known as Loyal Creeks and/or Freedmen; and

WHEREAS, following the Civil War, the United States re-established relations with the Muscogee Creek Nation through the Treaty of 1866. Article II of this Treaty declared to adopt the "persons of African descent...residing in said Creek country... and their descendants... shall have and enjoy all rights and privileges of native citizens... and the laws of said Nation shall be equally binding upon and give equal protection to all such persons, and all others, of what-so-ever race or color, who may be adopted as citizens or members of said tribe"; and

WHEREAS, later, Congress passed the Curtis Act, June 28, 1898 (30 stat. 495). This act allowed the United States government to terminate the Muscogee Creek Nation tribal government by taking away ownership of the land which was held in common by the Muscogee Creek Nation and replacing it with individual ownership of 160 acres per Muscogee Creek Nation citizen. To accomplish this task of allotting 160 acres parcels, Congress established the Dawes Commission to find, identify, and enroll all citizens of the Muscogee Creek Nation eligible for land allotment; and

WHEREAS, the Dawes Commission divided the Muscogee Creek Nation by creating two separate rolls of citizens: 1) the "Creek Nation Creek Roll or Creek Nation Indian Roll," (also known as the by blood roll), which was purportedly composed of Muscogee Creek Nation citizens with Creek Indian blood; and 2) the "Creek Nation Freedmen Roll," which was purportedly composed of Muscogee Creek Nation citizens who were persons identified or defined as Freedmen and not listing their Creek Indian blood. In fact, "in cases of mixed Freedmen and Indian parents, which was common among the Creek...the applicant was always enrolled as a Freedmen and not given credit for having any Indian blood;" and

WHEREAS, the Dawes Commission separated families by enrolling full siblings with different blood degrees and enrolling some family members on the Creek by blood roll and others on the Freedmen roll. The blood degree or blood quantum was originally to be used only for land allotment purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 1979 the Muscogee Creek Nation established a new Constitution which eliminated the Freedmen from citizenship, by violating the 1866 treaty and laws governing the relationship between the United States Government and the Muscogee Creek Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Creek Freedmen Indians or African/Black Creek Indians association was organized and is continuing to establish our unique identity as members of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band Association, and to protect our identity from principalities and powers that seek to eliminate it; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP National Resolution Committee adopted an emergency resolution in 2007 supporting the rights of Black Cherokee Freedmen in their plight to be recognized as tribal members with the same rights as other Cherokee Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP National Resolution Committee adopted a resolution in 2010 in support of Native American Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band Association submitted a letter dated May 22, 2010, to Mr. Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Office of Federal Acknowledgement, Washington, DC, petitioning to become a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon member branches to inform themselves concerning the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band Association petition, and to support local and national efforts of the Freedmen Band to call attention to their issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP offers to facilitate a fair resolution in the support of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band, by means of education and fact finding to address the history and current impact of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band and promote understanding of tribal sovereignty; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP is committed to immediately help publicize the plight of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen during its National Convention in Los Angeles in 2011.

2. NAACP Opposes Attacks by State Legislators as Well as Members of the United States Congress on the Rights of Citizenship as Guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution

WHEREAS, the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was originally adopted in 1868, after the Civil War to clarify the legal citizenship status of former slaves and others, as one of the "Reconstruction Amendments"; and

WHEREAS, the "Reconstruction Amendments" to the U.S. Constitution are the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments; and were adopted between 1865 and 1870, the five years immediately following the Civil War. The Amendments were important elements in implementing the Reconstruction of the American South after the war. Their proponents saw them as transforming the United States from a country that was (in the words of Abraham Lincoln) "half slave and half free" to one in which the constitutionally guaranteed "blessings of liberty" would be extended to the entire male populace, including the former slaves and their descendants. The Thirteenth Amendment (both proposed and ratified in 1865) abolished slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment (proposed in 1866 and ratified in 1868) included the Citizenship, Privileges or Immunities, Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. The Fifteenth Amendment, (proposed in 1869 and ratified in 1870 under the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant) grants voting rights regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude"; and

WHEREAS, the "Citizenship Clause" of the 14th Amendment was intended to overrule the Supreme Court's *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 which said that people of African descent imported into the United States and held as slaves (or their descendants, whether or not they were slaves) were not protected by the Constitution and could never be U.S. citizens, and it was also in response to the "Black Codes" enacted by southern states after the Civil War which were laws used to control the labor, migration and other activities of newly-freed slaves and effectively placed severe limitations on the basic human rights and civil liberties of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the 14th Amendment was to ensure citizenship to newly emancipated slaves. In doing so, the authors of the 14th Amendment established and solidified, once and for all, the concept of birthright American

citizenship to “all persons” born in the United States, even those of former servitude; and

WHEREAS, before the 14th Amendment was enacted, most African Americans were not considered full citizens of the United States, as they were consistently refused the full privileges, rights and immunities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment states, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside”; and

WHEREAS, constitutional citizenship as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment was intended to put citizenship above the preferences and prejudices of any politician or era, and to ensure that all those born on United States soil are treated equally with full rights of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in the more than 140 years since its adoption, the boundaries of the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution have been tested in several legal cases; and

WHEREAS, in the late nineteenth century, the questions surrounded the children of Chinese laborers brought to this country primarily to help build the railroads. In one such case, *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, in 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Ark had, under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution acquired U.S. citizenship at birth; and

WHEREAS, currently there are attacks on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment by right-wing extremist state and federal legislators who are opposed to extending citizenship rights and protections of children born in the United States whose parents are not American citizens; and

WHEREAS, the principle of birthright citizenship for every individual born in the U.S., however, has been consistently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, and legislator’s attempting to corrode these crucial rights as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment have proven to be a losing legal argument and waste of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that abolishing one of America’s founding principles is neither a correct nor just route; and

WHEREAS, altering the 14th Amendment is a dangerous concept and could well lead to a caste system where some are granted all the rights of a citizen and some are not; and

WHEREAS, changes to the Citizenship Clause of the Constitution could divide the American people into at least two separate classes, would defy over a

century of Supreme Court decisions, and would be contrary to the democratic principles we have fought so hard to earn and protect.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP strongly, vociferously and consistently oppose efforts at the local, state or federal level to change or amend any portion of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, including the Citizenship Clause.

3. The NAACP Supports the Complete Elimination of Racial Disparities Associated with Crack Cocaine Convictions

WHEREAS, after 18 years of NAACP congressional advocacy, on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the *Fair Sentencing Act* into law; and

WHEREAS, this important legislation reduces the disparate mandatory minimum sentence for a federal conviction of crack cocaine possession from 100:1 down to 18:1; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the unwarranted disparity in sentencing, African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans have been incarcerated at massively disparate rates; in 2006, 82% of those convicted and sentenced under federal crack cocaine laws were African American, even though African Americans make up only 15% of the population; and

WHEREAS, everyone seems to agree that crack cocaine use is higher among Caucasian Americans than any other racial or ethnic group – the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that more than 60% of those who use crack cocaine are white. Yet in 2006, 82% of those convicted and sentenced under federal crack cocaine laws were African American. When you add in Hispanics, the percentage climbs to above 96%; and

WHEREAS, since enactment of the original law mandating 100:1 sentencing disparity, the 100:1 ratio has had a devastating and disproportionate impact on African American and Hispanic communities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the *Fair Sentencing Act* will result in 4,000 fewer Americans being imprisoned in 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP supported this legislation as an important first step toward completely eliminating this racially discriminatory sentencing disparity; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP appreciates all of the hard work that has gone into this legislation, as well as the fact that it is the first time Congress has moved to reduce any mandatory minimum sentence in over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP also recognizes and appreciates that everyone involved in the negotiations, most particularly Senators Durbin (IL) and Sessions (AL) as well as Representatives Bobby Scott (VA) and Dan Lungren (CA), seem to agree that the 100:1 sentencing disparity has had a hugely unfair and racially discriminatory impact on African Americans, Hispanic and other racial and ethnic minority Americans; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2002 the Sentencing Commission sent recommendations to Congress indicating the crack penalties that were based on beliefs about the drug's pharmacological association with violence were inaccurate; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have concluded that the physiological and psychotropic effects of crack and powder cocaine are the same, and the drugs are now widely acknowledged as pharmacologically indistinguishable; and

WHEREAS, incarceration rates in the United States are at historic highs, with a disproportionate number of prisoners in the United States being persons of color; and

WHEREAS, by applying the *Fair Sentencing Act's* crack cocaine penalties to all defendants, including those whose conduct predates the legislation's enactment, you will ensure that defendants are not sentenced under the old discriminatory sentencing disparity which was determined by even the U.S. Congress to be unfair; and

WHEREAS, if both the statute and guideline changes were made retroactive, U.S. Sentencing Commission estimates that as many as 24,000 people would be eligible to apply for and potentially receive relief over a 30-year period. Within the first year of retroactive implementation, as many as 7,000 people could be eligible for early release generating a cost savings of over \$200 million in the first year alone; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP celebrates the work of the President and Congress to pass the Fair Sentencing Act and reduce the racial disparities between crack and powder cocaine sentences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we will continue to push for the complete elimination of these disparities between crack and powder cocaine sentencing by making the crack cocaine sentencing equivalent to the current powdered cocaine range; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED until such a time that sentences for crack and powder cocaine are equalized, the NAACP supports the application of the sentencing guidelines as established under the *Fair Sentencing Act* to be applied

retroactively to everyone convicted of crack cocaine possession, including those whose convictions predate enactment of the *Fair Sentencing Act*.

4. NAACP Calls for a Federal Budget that is Fair and Equitable and Does Not Harm Low and Middle-Income Americans

WHEREAS, a nation's budget is perhaps one of the best reflections of the priorities of her people; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has consistently supported federal budgets which are fair to all Americans, puts our fiscal house in order and does not rely on cutting essential services to low- and middle-income Americans to reduce our national deficit; and

WHEREAS, our nation's communities of color have been hit disproportionately hard by the effects of the current recession, and even as we slowly emerge from this economic disaster, our communities continue to experience disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, home foreclosure, educational disadvantages and economic hardship. As a result, vulnerable communities are increasingly relying on public programs to meet their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, since 1981 the Congressional Black Caucus has crafted and offered an alternative budget which has consistently made significant investments in education, job creation and training, economic development, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, and advanced research and development programs that will accelerate the economic recovery while, at the same time protecting the social safety net without cutting Social Security, killing Medicaid, or making seniors contribute more to Medicare; and

WHEREAS, in the final version of the budget for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 (which began October 1, 2010 and will continue through to September 30, 2011), which was signed into law on April 15, 2011, there were a number of programs whose funding was either reduced or eliminated which will result in hardships for those among us who are most vulnerable. These cuts include:

- Head Start was targeted for one of the biggest reductions, a \$1 billion cut below fiscal 2010. The massive cuts to the Head Start Program will remove 218,000 low income children and families and close more than 16,000 Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms across the country. It will leave 55,000 teachers, teacher assistants, and related staff without jobs;
- The Pell Grant scholarship maximum award will be reduced by \$845, from \$5,550 to \$4,750, about 15%. Many of the 9.4 million students who are projected to receive a Pell Grant in the 2011-2012 school year will see a lower grant award, requiring them to take on more loans for their college

tuition. Pell Grants provide the basic foundation of federal student aid and currently help more than 8 million students afford to attend college;

- A reduction of \$600 million in funding to community-oriented policing. Such a cut will require a complete elimination of the hiring programs. Over the years, COPS has funded the hiring of more than 122,000 state and local police officers and sheriff's deputies in communities across America. This proposed cut will prevent the hiring and rehiring of over 3,000 fewer law enforcement officers;
- A cut of \$1.3 billion of funding previously allocated to support Community Health Centers. These types of facilities are widely utilized in low income areas and oftentimes, are the backbone of health care services in the areas in which they are located. Without them, quality health care for many poor and disadvantaged Americans will be out of reach;
- A reduction in Title I education funds, which help school districts with low-income students, of \$693.5 million. The cut to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will mean 2,400 schools that serve nearly 1 million disadvantaged students would lose funding for teachers, tutors, and after-school programs. Nearly 10,000 teacher aides could lose their jobs;
- \$758 million will be cut from the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, which supplements nutrition for low-income and disadvantaged women and children;
- A complete elimination (\$88 million) of funding for the HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Programs;
- Job training programs will be cut by \$2 billion;
- A reduction of nearly \$2 million dollars from the Minority Business Development Agency;
- The key Education Department program for historically black colleges and universities will lose \$85 million of the \$266 million it received in 2010, or about a third of it;
- The entire Title X provision, which funds family planning resources such as Planned Parenthood, will be eliminated, a cut of \$327 million. Family planning funding has been an essential tool for many communities, especially in low income areas;
- Juvenile justice programs will be reduced by \$2.3 million;
- A 78% reduction in federal funds for Hispanic-serving colleges;
- A complete elimination of Federal support for several other programs for minority-serving colleges, including tribal colleges and institutions that serve significant numbers of black and Asian students;
- The elimination of \$103 million for the Tech-Prep Program for vocational education, which heavily benefits community colleges;
- An elimination of funding for the creation and support of statewide education data systems;
- The EPA's budget is reduced by \$1.6 billion from fiscal year 2010 levels; and

- High-speed rail programs will be cut by \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the President are now turning their attention to the federal budget for fiscal year 2012, which begins October 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a "budget resolution", which although non-binding is seen as a blueprint for the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, the House-passed budget resolution for fiscal year 2012, which the NAACP opposed, contains massive spending cuts—totaling more than \$4.3 trillion—that disproportionately impacts critical initiatives serving our nation's most vulnerable communities, including racial and ethnic minority children, jobless workers, and low-income families; and

WHEREAS, included in this budget blueprint were also several proposals which the NAACP ardently opposes, including:

- A complete repeal of the 2010 health care reform law;
- A plan to privatize Medicare;
- Turning Medicaid into a block grant program, which would pay less than it currently does for fewer services;
- Cutting \$750 billion from programs that serve low and moderate income families, including public education, job training programs, and other vital services, including reducing Pell grants to 2008 levels;
- Cut \$127 billion from SNAP (formerly called food stamps) in a six-year period (2015 through 2021). This proposal to block-grant and reduce funding represents a cut of 25 percent in food benefits for some of the most vulnerable Americans. States will be forced to cut benefits to some households or create waiting lists for needy families;
- Preserve tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, and in fact give an additional \$4.2 trillion in tax breaks to millionaires and corporations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reiterates its call, as expressed in resolutions from 1974, 1981, 1984 and 1994 to Congress and the President to enact a budget that does not cut civil and human rights protections or reduce or eliminate the government's human needs assistance to the most vulnerable among us; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP supports an approach which considers revenue, expenditures, entitlements and defense spending when reducing our national deficit; one that includes responsible decisions to raise new revenue by broadening the tax base; strategically assessing cuts to our largest expenditures, including military war spending; and making our tax system more fair and closing tax loopholes and preferences which contributed to a significant loss of American jobs.

5. *Autonomy for the District of Columbia*

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded on the principle of no taxation without representation, yet American citizens residing in the District of Columbia pay federal income taxes and serve in war without representation in the U. S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, for more than 200 years, District of Columbia residents have been denied voting representation in the U.S. Congress, the very body that has the ultimate authority over the city's executive, judicial and legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, the disenfranchisement of the citizens of the Nation's Capital is contrary to the spirit of liberty and democracy on which the United States was founded; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has used riders on the District of Columbia's local budget, which Congress must approve, to interfere with the District government's decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP supports the right of all people to participate in their own government, and calls on the Congress to adopt such legislation as may be necessary to grant the residents of District of Columbia full democracy in our national legislature and local control over its local matters; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP upholds the principles of liberty and democracy, and indicates its support for the principle that all American citizens shall elect and be represented by voting representatives in the national legislature, including citizens of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, congressional interference with the District government's local laws had become so severe that on April 11, 2011, forty-one D.C. residents, including the mayor, six members of the D.C. City Council and two members of the D.C. Branch NAACP, were arrested near the Dirksen Senate Office Building while protesting such interference with respect to the lack of voting rights and budget autonomy; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP calls on Congress to refrain from using its plenary power to advance issues contrary to the will of the District of Columbia's elected government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP hereby encourages its units to advocate that their legislatures pass a resolution to express support for autonomy of the residents of the District of Columbia, in their campaign to right a historic wrong and realize fully the promise of American democracy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that by adoption of this Resolution, the NAACP urges the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to initiate immediate legislative action to provide voting rights and full democracy for the more than 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia.

6. *Joint Legislative Resolution in Honor of Michael Joseph Jackson*

WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958 -June 25, 2009) was a legendary American recording artist, entertainer and humanitarian. As the "King of Pop," Jackson is recognized as the most successful entertainer of all time by Guinness World Records. His amazing contributions to music, dance and fashion, along with a much publicized personal life, made him a global figure in popular culture for over four decades; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, Jackson became a dominant figure in popular music and the music videos for his songs including "Beat It", "Billie Jean" and "Thriller", were credited with transforming that medium into a powerfully popular art form and promotional tool, which catapulted a then new television channel, MTV, into fame and success. Videos such as "Black or White" and "Scream" made him a staple on MTV in the 1990s. Through stage performances and music videos, Jackson popularized a number of dance techniques, such as the robot and the moonwalk. His distinctive musical sound and vocal style have influenced numerous hip hop, pop, contemporary R&B and rock artists; and

WHEREAS, Jackson is one of the few artists to have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice and some of his other achievements include setting multiple Guinness World Records; 13 Grammy Awards (as well as the Grammy Legend Award and the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award); 13 NAACP Image Awards (including the H. Claude Hudson Medal Of Freedom Award, the Olympic Medal Of Friendship Award and the Leonard Carter Humanitarian Award); 26 American Music Awards (more than any other artist, including the "Artist of the Century"); 13 number-one singles in the United States in his solo career (more than any other male artist in the Hot 100 era); and the estimated sale of over 800 million records worldwide. Jackson won hundreds of awards, which have made him the most-awarded recording artist in the history of music; and

WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Jackson's greatest legacy will be his work as a tireless humanitarian, philanthropist and advocate for social justice, donating and raising hundreds of millions of dollars for beneficial causes and supporting more than 39 charities. Jackson's heart and spirit for healing the world were not only evident in his music, but his selfless deeds; and

WHEREAS, Michael Jackson's humanitarian acts of kindness and compassion are simply too numerous to mention herein, but extremely worthy of honor and

memorializing by the United States of America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP begin efforts to pass a joint resolution in the United States Congress, which would honor Michael Joseph Jackson as a legendary American recording artist, entertainer and humanitarian - one of the greatest of all time, and call upon the United States National Parks Service to explore the feasibility of establishing a historic site in honor of Michael Joseph Jackson.

7. Passage of Legislation to Award Doris (Dorie) Miller Medal of Honor

WHEREAS, Doris Miller, known as "Dorie" to shipmates and friends, was born in Waco, Texas, on 12 October 1919, to Henrietta and Conery Miller; and

WHEREAS, following training at the Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Virginia, Miller was assigned to the ammunition ship USS Pyro (AE-1) where he served as a Mess Attendant, and on 2 January 1940 was transferred to USS West Virginia (BB-48), where he became the ship's heavyweight boxing champion; and

WHEREAS, in July 1940 he had temporary duty aboard USS Nevada (BB-36) at Secondary Battery Gunnery School and returned to USS West Virginia and on 3 August, and was serving in that battleship when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941; and

WHEREAS, Miller had arisen at 6 a.m., and was collecting laundry when the alarm for general quarters sounded; and

WHEREAS, during the attack, Japanese aircraft dropped two armored piercing bombs through the deck of the battleship and launched five 18-inch aircraft torpedoes into her port side; and

WHEREAS, he headed for his battle station, the antiaircraft battery magazine amidship, only to discover that torpedo damage had wrecked it, so he went on deck; and

WHEREAS, because of his physical prowess, he was assigned to carry wounded fellow Sailors to places of greater safety. Then an officer ordered him to the bridge to aid the mortally wounded Captain of the ship; and

WHEREAS, he subsequently manned a 50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun until he ran out of ammunition and was ordered to abandon ship, reportedly shooting down three enemy aircrafts. Miller described firing the machine gun during the battle, a weapon which he had not been trained to operate: "It wasn't hard. I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about fifteen minutes. I

think I got one of those Jap (Japanese) planes. They were diving pretty close to us"; and

WHEREAS, Miller was commended by the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox on 1 April 1942; and

WHEREAS, on 27 May 1942 he was presented the Navy Cross, by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet onboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV-6) for his extraordinary courage in battle. Speaking of Miller, Nimitz remarked: "This marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race and I'm sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP encourages the Congress to initiate a thorough review of the facts supporting the heroic feats of Doris Miller at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 to determine if legislation should be enacted that will allow a Medal of Honor to be awarded despite the fact that the statutory time limit has been exceeded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP supports the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Doris Miller, whose extraordinary action at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, showed tremendous disregard for self and were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflected the utmost credit on him, his family and the United States Navy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP supports and encourages all people to write and call their congressional representative seeking their support for Doris Miller to be awarded the Medal of Honor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP encourages all people to write and call the President of the United States seeking his support for Doris Miller to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

8. *Call for Universal Suffrage in the United States*

WHEREAS, all citizens across the country should have an equal chance to participate in the voting process; and

WHEREAS, various states across the Nation are putting up barriers to exclude Americans from voting, including photo ID requirements and felony disenfranchisement laws; and

WHEREAS, almost 4 million Americans, or 1 in 50 American adults, are not allowed to vote because they have been convicted of a felony; three fourths of these Americans are no longer in jail; and

WHEREAS, 13% of African American males – 1.4 million – are prohibited from voting due to felony disenfranchisement laws; and

WHEREAS, up to 21 million Americans, or 11% of the entire voting-eligible population, do not have government-issued photo IDs. A disproportionate number of these people are racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly or low-income Americans. A full 25% of African Americans who would otherwise be eligible to vote do not have a qualified photo ID.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP demands an America where all adult citizens 18 years of age and older including those who are incarcerated can freely vote their conscience in choosing their elected representatives.

9. NAACP Supports a Reduction in Military Spending By the Federal Government

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in fiscal year 2011 the federal deficit will be over \$1.5 trillion, which is more than 10% of our Nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, in response to this historically high deficit, many Members of Congress are proposing reductions in federal spending on programs which are intended to help the most vulnerable among us, as well as many middle-class Americans; and

WHEREAS, if these proposed funding cuts were to become law, there would be a massive reduction in essential services to all Americans in areas including education, health care, housing, transportation and public safety; and

WHEREAS, due to concerns about federal spending and the deficit, a large number of Americans' needs will go unmet for the foreseeable future as government spending is frozen, if not cut; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, the United States spent almost \$700 billion on defense; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense budget accounted in fiscal year 2010 for about 19% of the United States federal budgeted expenditures and 28% of estimated tax revenues. Including non-DOD expenditures, such as veterans' care and the maintenance of America's nuclear arsenal, defense spending was approximately 28–38% of budgeted expenditures and 42–57% of estimated tax revenues. According to the Congressional Budget Office, defense spending grew 9% annually on average from fiscal year 2000–2009; and

WHEREAS, by the end of 2008, the United States had spent more than \$900 billion solely on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, much of which was spent "off

budget", or outside the federal budget. This amount does not include additional costs, such as caring for the more than 33,000 veterans of these two wars; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has established policy in opposition to the war in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1967 at the Riverside Church in New York, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor -- both black and white -- through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam, and I watched this program broken and eviscerated, as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So, I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP continues to support a holistic review of every aspect of the federal budget, including spending on defense programs, when trying to address and reduce our national deficit; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP supports the timely withdrawal of American troops from areas of conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq in a safe and responsible manner and the rededication of those monies spent on these wars to programs that provide basic assistance to the most vulnerable, infrastructure and job creation.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

1. To Include Veterans as a Targeted Group Within the NAACP National Priorities

WHEREAS, Black veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces have served this country through all wars and military conflicts and continue to provide a unique and vital service to the nation as a whole in the preservation of freedom and liberty enjoyed by all who reside within its borders; and

WHEREAS, Black veterans were in the forefront of the leadership of the Civil Rights Movement and have a long history of actively participating in the NAACP, and ultimately transforming the face of America; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has advocated for the civil rights of Blacks, African Americans, Colored People, and Minorities since its founding in 1909; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has adopted a number of national priorities for advocacy to include Civic Engagement, Economic Opportunity, Education, Health, and Justice; and

WHEREAS, Black veterans face many challenges in acquiring the services and benefits they have earned and deserve including voting rights, economic opportunity, education, health, and justice; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP, along with its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States, are frontline advocates committed to raising awareness for political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, Black male veterans are disproportionately more homeless and unemployed than any other ethnic group who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Congress acknowledged that veterans of the United States Armed Forces have been and continue to be vital to the small business enterprises of the United States, though too little is still being done to assist veterans, particularly service-disabled veterans, in playing a greater role in its economy; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP's National Education Program strives to ensure that all students have access to an equal and high-quality public education by eliminating education-related racial and ethnic disparities in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service manages the use of Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOPs) Specialists that provide intensive services to meet the employment needs of disabled veterans and other eligible veterans, and particularly veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, homeless, or who have other barriers to employment. However, the unemployment rate among younger veterans is still higher than those for non-veterans, and most veterans are still not receiving priority of service as prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, the recent sub-prime mortgage crisis has caused many veterans securing homeownership to face exploding monthly payments on adjustable rate mortgages or the prospect of foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served in the military since the disaster on 9/11 are entitled to a public education at an institution of higher learning; however, the system for administering those benefits is still struggling to kept pace with the increased costs of tuition, living expenses, and educational books and supplies; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is committed to eliminating the racial and ethnic disparities in our health care system that plague people of color in the United States because Black Americans continue to have the highest incidence, prevalence and mortality rates from chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, as well as issues like HIV and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, Black Veterans have more health problems (diabetes, prostate cancers, high blood pressure), die younger, and are often systematically denied the same level of services and benefits as their White counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP advocates for smarter, results-based criminal justice policies to keep our communities safe, including treatment for addiction and mental health problems, judicial discretion in sentencing, and an end to racial disparities at all levels of the system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that the recent and ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced increased numbers of seriously injured veterans with brain injuries, mental and post traumatic stress disorders that can contribute to drug and/or alcohol addiction, obesity, depression and criminal behavior; and while some facilities of the VA Health Administration provide exemplary substance abuse disorder treatment, the availability of such treatment is inconsistent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP include Black veterans as a targeted group within each of its National Advocacy Priorities; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP call on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that it fills its VA Medical Center Minority Veterans Affairs Coordinator positions with full time dedicated personnel who have a health background; use its Armed Services and Veterans Affairs committees throughout all of its units across the Nation to identify resources, services, and programs in the community that will help assist and educate veterans with health care, education, mental health and PTSD, entrepreneurship, employment, housing and homeownership, issues unique to women veterans, homeless veterans, and formerly incarcerated veterans, and provide information and access to VA benefits; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP, through its national and state conventions, and regional conferences, demonstrate its commitment to the plight of veterans by conducting annual workshops on Veterans Affairs as agreed to in

its 2004 Resolution on Support for Black Veterans, in order to raise the level of awareness of the NAACP members and the American citizenry of the need to support our veterans when they return back into our communities.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

CIVIL RIGHTS

1. NAACP Calls for Criminal and Civil Investigations of Allegations of Probation Departments and Education Departments Nationwide When There are Allegations of Massive Civil Rights Violations

WHEREAS, between December 20, 1860 and June 8, 1861, eleven slaveholding states felt so entitled to their rights to human and slave ownership that they officially seceded from the United States of America, formed their own republic, established their own constitution, and ultimately sparked the Civil War on April 12, 1861, upon the firing on Fort Sumter, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, these secessionist efforts were intended to dissolve the union of the United States, which had become increasingly more intolerant of slavery, and to disavow the newly elected presidency of Abraham Lincoln, who believed that the Union could not exist half free and half slave; and

WHEREAS, Confederate preservationists insist on diminishing the role that the institution of slavery played in secession and the Civil War by erroneously claiming that the War Between the States was not about slavery, but about "states rights and independence," a claim which is belied by, each seceding states' own historical documentation as recorded in its 'Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession' clearly and precisely delineating the right to maintain the institution of slavery as the resounding justification for their contemptuous action; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Confederate States of America, adopted on March 11, 1861, mirrored the U.S. Constitution in many ways, but provided for the explicit protection of the right to own slaves as well as espoused a stronger philosophy of states' rights; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3 of the United States Constitution clearly states that, "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.", and accordingly, the actions of the Confederate States involved in firing on Fort Sumter and those supporting states, committed a treasonous act against the United States of America in addition to the perpetration of a crime against humanity by its insistence on maintaining slavery; and

WHEREAS, commemorations of the sesquicentennial of the anniversary of the Confederacy, which kicked-off on April 12, 2011, 150 years to the date of the

firing at Fort Sumter, have been planned throughout the United States, especially in former Confederate states; and

WHEREAS, many of the war's bloodiest battles were fought during the summer months, including the battle of Gettysburg, which was fought from July 1 – July 3, 1863 and the battle of Fort Wagner, on Morris Island, South Carolina, which began on July 18, 1863, and was led by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, one of the first major American military units made up of African American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1861, President Lincoln convened a special session of Congress to officially ask for help in conducting and funding the war and to discuss the reasons which led to the conflict; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2011, the NAACP sent a letter to President Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar urging them “and every other employee of the federal government, to work hard to ensure that the occasion of the Civil War’s sesquicentennial is not used to romanticize or otherwise endorse, in any way, one of the primary contributing factors to the conflict and southern succession, the enslavement of African Americans”; and

WHEREAS, both President Obama and Secretary Salazar are to be commended for their actions to date which set the appropriate tone for commemorating the civil war and its causes, including the statement made by Secretary Salazar at the beginning of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the onset of the Civil War at Fort Sumter at which he said, “The sesquicentennial of the Civil War is a time to commemorate those who fought and died during this pivotal era in American history. At the same time, it is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the ongoing march for freedom and equality for all people.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP is vehemently opposed to any federal, state or local government-led veneration of any kind of the Confederate States of America, as there is no place in today’s society for the celebration of treason, slavery, or the atrocious blood bath which occurred on American soil; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that both President Obama and Secretary Salazar encourage the entire Department of Interior workforce, as well as anybody else who is involved in the sesquicentennial commemoration, to remain vigilant and to ensure that the federal government does all it can to stay true to the message that has heretofore been transmitted of commemorating those who fought and died in this American tragedy and calling on all Americans to use this opportunity to renew our Nation’s commitment to freedom and equality.

2. NAACP Calls for Addressing the Plight of African American Males

WHEREAS, African American males make up approximately 6.4% of the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, African American males have been the least represented in the American success story and triumphs in the American experience; and

WHEREAS, even as America celebrates the election of President Barack Obama, the first African American male president of the United States, the plight of the majority of African American males is still quite dire; and

WHEREAS, African American males between the age of 18 and 24 are still more likely to be under the supervision of the American "justice" system than our country's higher education system; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of African American males will be under the control of the American criminal justice system by the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate among African Americans in the United States is always double the national average; African American males in many communities at the most pivotal time in their employment development see unemployment rates in many of America's most populated cities at exceeding 50%; and

WHEREAS, African American males presently make up over 40% of our U.S. prison population; and

WHEREAS, African American males between the ages of 15 and 24 are more likely to die of gunshot wounds than automobile accidents or natural causes; and

WHEREAS, African American males are more likely to be sentenced to death in criminal offenses at a rate that exceeds any other racial or ethnic minority group; and

WHEREAS, African American males are much more likely to die of prostate cancer and thrombotic disorders such as heart attack and stroke at rates that exceed their white counterparts by 10 – 12%; and

WHEREAS, the net worth of the African American community and African American males was just reported to be one-twentieth that of their white counterparts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on all of America's institutions, including but not limited to its governmental sector, its private sector

and its philanthropic sector to work to craft a comprehensive strategy to bring a comprehensive solution to this all too long enduring dilemma; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NAACP units at the local and state levels as well as the National organization, shall work comprehensively to craft and implement a tailored solution that recognizes the extraordinary nature of this continuing challenge to the American people and rejects the faulty approach that has been applied heretofore, which uses a "one-size fits all" solution that has not worked.

COMMEMORATIVE

1. NAACP Honors Mrs. Clara Shephard Luper, Leader of the NAACP Youth Council's "Sit-Down" Movement

WHEREAS, this year the NAACP celebrates 75 years of loyal dedicated service by our national Youth and College Division; and

WHEREAS, one of the better known and more effective advisors of an NAACP Youth and College Chapter was Clara Shepard Luper, a high school teacher who advised and mentored members of the Oklahoma City NAACP Youth Council from 1957 through 1964; and

WHEREAS, the report of the NAACP National Youth Work Committee dated July 13 – 19, 1959 reads:

"We can all be justifiably proud of the tremendous gains made by our Youth and College Division during the past year. During this period several NAACP youth councils conducted a series of "sit-down" protests against continued segregation of Negro customers in places of public accommodation such as restaurants, soda fountains, skating rinks, and drug and department stores. The dramatic nature of these protests coupled with the smashing victories scored by our youth in opening doors previously closed, served to emphasize to the American people that Negroes – young and old – will no longer tolerate, nor accept, second-class citizenship.

Youth councils participating in these protests received national and international attention - and acclaim for their efforts. Reports of the Oklahoma City protest, which was by far the most successful with 51

stores capitulating to the council's efforts, were carried in almost every major publication and newspaper including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, the Times of London, Times of New Delhi,, Times of Tokyo, Life, Look and even U.S. News and World Report. The protests served further to indicate some of the very important roles which youth can play in helping to eliminate segregation and discrimination. As a result of these efforts the Youth Division was, for the first time, recognized by a large segment of the nation's press as being as important and integral part of the association's work.

Credit for these outstanding achievements must be given to the officer's members, and of course, those wonderful adult advisors to the councils involved in these actions. It is most fitting and proper at this time that we pay tribute to the leaders of those youth councils which participated in the "sit-down" protests. They are: (1) Oklahoma City, Barbara Posey, youth, Mrs. Clara Luper, adult advisor;" and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Clara Shepard Luper, known to many as the "Mother of the Oklahoma Civil Rights Movement", passed away on June 8, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Luper and the NAACP Oklahoma City youth Council became an agent of change for civil and human rights on the morning of August 19, 1958 by staging their first "Sit Down" at Oklahoma City's Katz Drug Store; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Council Members, working under Mrs. Luper's guidance, walked into the store to order soft drinks and when they were refused service started to demonstrate their discontent with segregation by launching what is now known throughout the world as the beginning of the nation's "Sit-down" movement; and

WHEREAS, when the NAACP recognized Mrs. Luper for her achievement in 1959, the official convention notes of the NAACP indicate that at least one of the founders of the sit-ins that began later in North Carolina, who we applaud for their courage, commitment and dedication was present, as confirmed by the Library of Congress records, and that the Oklahoma City sit-ins were an inspiration for the sit-ins movements in North Carolina that started in 1960.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates meeting during the 102nd NAACP Annual convention, in recognition of the 75 years of service from the Youth and College Division hereby pay tribute and honor one of the Youth and College Division's leaders, Mrs. Clara Shepard Luper, leader of the "Sit-Down" movement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP National Board of Directors shall work with the NAACP Youth and College Division to develop an annual award

honoring Mrs. Clara Shepard Luper to be given on an on-going basis to recognize an outstanding Youth and College Division Advisor.

EDUCATION

1. NAACP Reaffirms its Position on Charter Schools and Expresses Support for the NAACP Work Around the Country Including the New York, North Carolina, Missouri and Other State Conferences of Branches in their Efforts to Bring a Quality Education to all Public School Students

WHEREAS, throughout our existence, the NAACP has fought for access to a high-quality public education for all children. For many years, we fought against segregation, rejecting the notion of "separate but equal"; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP remains vehemently opposed to any dual educational system which ensures a quality education for a fortunate few, at the expense of and the detriment to the vast majority of other public school children; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the NAACP the NAACP passed a resolutions stating, in part, "that the NAACP rejects the emphasis on charter schools as the vanguard approach for the education of children, instead of focusing attention, funding, and policy advocacy on improving existing, low performing public schools and will work through local, state and federal legislative processes to ensure that all public schools are provided the necessary funding, support and autonomy necessary to educate all students"; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other groups filed a lawsuit in May 18, 2011 in Manhattan Supreme Court to stop the closing of 22 New York City public schools and block 17 charter schools from opening or expanding; and

WHEREAS, the fact that a smattering of minority students is included amongst the ranks of the charter schools privileged, does not deter the NAACP from its objective to promote the highest standard of education for all; and

WHEREAS, while the NAACP does not begrudge parents and children who are enrolled in charter schools, the organization cannot condone the marginalization of the masses in the process and lose sight of the bigger picture, which casts a much wider and fairer net to include the nation's most vulnerable families, and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit filed by the New York State Conference of the NAACP is of the significance of the landmark 1954 Brown v Board, in as much as charter schools are a separate, private entity, funded with public dollars and often times housed in the same public buildings ,but operating under a different and often unequal set of rules.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its 2010 Resolution on Charter Schools and commends the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches, the North Carolina State Conferences and Branches and others on their tenacity in standing for the rights of all parents and children by legally challenging their unjust public education system, funded by taxpayers dollars, to develop the fullest potential of all their students.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP stands unanimous in its support of the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches and its President Hazel Dukes, the North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches and its President Rev. Dr. William Barber and others for fighting for high quality public education for all public school students and will not be dissuaded by the vicious attempts to undermine their noble and continuous missions on behalf of America's students.

LEGAL

1. NAACP Supports U.S. Court of Appeals Ruling Affirming Diversity in Higher Education

WHEREAS, diversity in the classroom is a core value of the NAACP. It promotes academic excellence, and it prepares students for success in an increasingly diverse workforce and global society; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the NAACP applauds and strongly supports the recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, holding unconstitutional Proposal 2, the anti-affirmative action initiative in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, proposal 2, like its Ward Connerly-sponsored counterparts in California (Prop 209) and Nebraska, fatally undermines diversity in higher education and disadvantages students from underrepresented minorities in the admissions process; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court – in Grutter v. Bollinger – has affirmed the value of a flexible, individualized and holistic process to enroll a truly diverse student population, thereby respecting racialized experiences, and treating equally the experiences of all groups and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, schools in the three states where initiatives like Proposal 2 have been enacted are therefore competitively disadvantaged in the character and status of the education offered.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the Attorney General of Michigan to forego any further appeals in the Sixth Circuit case.

LEGISLATIVE

1. Requesting the MOVA Band of Choctaw Indians be Given Full Federal Recognition by the United States of America

WHEREAS, the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians is an Indian Tribe as formally recognized by the State of Alabama in 1979; and

WHEREAS, the MOWA Choctaw Tribal council is the duly elected and authorized legislative branch of the government of the MOWA Choctaw People; and

WHEREAS, the MOA Band of Choctaw Indians has petitioned the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the Federal Acknowledgement Regulations for status as a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, instead of providing a fair and unbiased review of the formal record as is required by law, the Bureau of Indian Affairs yielded to both political pressure from the more powerful consortia of Federal tribes who opposed their recognition in tandem with the economic motivations of outside interests by refusing to evaluate the petition fairly and to render the proper decision which would be to restore all rights of the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians by granting Federal recognition to the MOWA Choctaw people; and

WHEREAS, the MOWA Choctaw people have the indissoluble support of a significant number of independent experts and former BIA officials who were astounded by the agency's flawed decision; and

WHEREAS, legislation providing federal recognition to the MOWA Choctaw tribe was recently introduced in the House of Representatives, where a hearing is pending in the near future, and companion legislation is expected to be introduced in the United States Senate before the August district work period; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has historically and continues to make right what is wrong by seeking justice as an advocate for disadvantaged people in need of help from the more powerful who wish to further promote their own economic and political agendas at the expense of less fortunate minority people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate on behalf of MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians to receive their full Federal recognition from the US Federal Government for legal and restoration of their rights as a Native American tribe.

2. NAACP Supports Full Enforcement of the Clean Air Act

WHEREAS, NAACP has committed to Resolutions on Environmental and Climate Justice in 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2011, the NAACP released a seminal report entitled "*Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People*" which clearly demonstrates the impact of coal pollution on our entire nation as well as racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 71% of African Americans live in areas in violation of air pollution standards; race, over income, is the #1 predictor of whether a person is located near a polluting facility; an African American making \$50,000 per year is likely to live in an area cited for air pollution than a White American making \$15,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, coal combustion also emits mercury, arsenic, lead, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur dioxide, toxins that are linked to birth defects, learning challenges and ADD, and respiratory illness such as asthma, COPD, and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, mercury from these power plants accumulates in local waterways and poses a direct risk to people when they eat contaminated fish and a study in Detroit found that African Americans are disproportionately negatively impacted by the risk of eating fish contaminated with mercury because of high levels of subsistence fishing and lack of information on fish advisories; and

WHEREAS, a report on power plant pollution found that emissions from all power plants in the U.S. (both coal and other fuel sources) are responsible for 30,000 premature deaths, 7,000 asthma-related emergency room visits, and 18,000 cases of chronic bronchitis each year, asthma affects African Americans at a 36

percent higher rate of incidence than White Americans and African Americans are hospitalized for asthma at three times the rate of White Americans and die of asthma at twice the rate of White Americans; and

WHEREAS, the National Academies of Science's Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Committee on Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020 has sited physical environments that promote good health as one of the top five overarching goals and reduction in the number of days the Air Quality Index(AQI) exceeds 100 as leading objective of Healthy People in 2020; and

WHEREAS, emission of greenhouse gases is the leading driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Coal combustion is the #2 largest producer greenhouse gases and is responsible for 35% of all greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, from cradle to grave, ground to ash, the damages coal causes to our environment and society are enormous, according to EPA, the average health risks to the public due to metals (including arsenic, nickel, chromium and selenium) from power plant waste disposal units could be up to 10,000 times higher than EPA's allowable risk levels for cancer and other illnesses, children living in the vicinity of power plants have the highest health risks, adults are also at risk from contaminated groundwater and from inhaling dust from the facility, mineworkers and their families also often reside in the communities where the coal is being mined, additional health risks and dangers to residents of coal mining communities include injuries and fatalities related to the collapse of highwalls, roads and homes adjacent to or above coal seams being mined; the blasting of flyrock offsite onto a homeowner's land or public roadway; injury and/or suffocation at abandoned mine sites; and the inhalation of airborne fine dust particles off-site; and

WHEREAS, the increase and the severity of extreme weather events that result from Climate Change disproportionately impacts African American communities because of pre-existing economic, social and political vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, the decrease in agricultural yields that result from climate change disproportionately impacts African Americans who already suffer from high rates of hunger and obesity through challenged access to affordable, nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, there are healthy and sustainable alternatives to the current overreliance on coal for energy; and

WHEREAS, meaningful climate change policy can create real public benefits including millions of good green-collar jobs and build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soon to come out with updated ozone standards based on evidence from over 1,700 studies of health impacts of ozone which concludes that between 4,000 and 12,000 lives could be saved each year by cleaning up ozone pollution to 60 ppb, a 60 ppb standard will prevent 58,000 asthma attacks and 21,000 hospital and emergency room visits annually; and

WHEREAS, this year the EPA is slated to release the first proposed New Source Performance Standards for power plants and refineries which target the two largest industrial sources of pollution, would be the first ever limits on green house gas pollutants from these sectors; and

WHEREAS, this year the EPA proposed a critical air quality standard to protect Americans against life-threatening air pollution such as mercury and arsenic from power plants which, based on state-of-the-art technology, will prevent as many as 17,000 premature deaths and 11,000 heart attacks a year, prevent 120,000 asthmas attacks and about 11,000 cases of acute bronchitis among children annually; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental and Climate Justice Program of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has conducted tech-ins and town hall meetings to educate 21 local units and their communities about the hazards of the coal fired power plants in their communities, has mobilized over 200 comments from these local communities to be submitted to EPA on the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule; and

WHEREAS, Congress has, in 2011, launched several attacks with increasing ferocity on the Clean Air Act and on the ability of the U.S. EPA to enforce strong protections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will call on our nation's elected leaders to support the Clean Air Act and efforts to improve it, oppose efforts to weaken it, postpone, or prevent implementation of the Clean Air Act, undermine the ability to guarantee clean air and healthy communities for this generation and the next; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will support efforts which mitigate impact of coal pollution, including negotiating with plant owners to put in pollution controls and /or convert coal plants to clean forms of energy generation, encourage communities to invest in energy efficiency methods so that such harmful processes won't be as much in demand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP supports an updated strong final Ozone rule, a standard in the 60-70 parts per billion (ppb) range, preferably at the lower end of the range; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge the final Mercury Air Toxics Rule to be released in November of this year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will support units to increase community involvement in ensuring that energy related policies and practices do no harm, work with the philanthropic community to support grassroots community organizing as communities become informed and wish to take action on advancing policies and practices to ensure that the US shifts to energy efficiency and clean energy while strengthening regulations to safeguard communities from polluting facilities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support its units in working to improve corporate responsibility in energy production by ensuring that risks are mitigated while community economic and energy needs are being met.

3. NAACP Supports Lifting the Debt Ceiling Through at Least 2013

WHEREAS, as politicians in Washington debate the looming federal deficit, issues surrounding the debt ceiling cap are being discussed; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2011, if the debt ceiling is not raised, the U.S. economy will go into default and the United States will take in only about \$180 billion in revenues and will have obligations of over \$300 billion to meet its debts and keep the government functioning; and

WHEREAS, many believe this approach is simply a magician-style "slight of hand", or backdoor way to get the draconian spending cuts they want by diverting Americans' attention away from the crucial budget with a "debt ceiling" debate which should be discussed on different tracks; and

WHEREAS, a large part of our deficit and debt problem is the result of the reckless tax cuts of the 1990's for the wealthiest Americans in which resulted in over \$400 billion a year of lost revenues, which was a large contributor to a national deficit of more than \$4 trillion; and

WHEREAS, if the debt ceiling is not raised, there will be negative consequences to our national economy, including an increase of interest rates on mortgages, credit cards, and car loans, a loss of value for 401(k) and other retirement savings plans and a potential delay in pay checks for our military as well as Social Security payments and Veterans benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP support a lifting of the debt ceiling through at least the end of 2013; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the best solution to our deficit crisis is a balanced approach of spending cuts and revenue increases.

4. NAACP Decries Efforts to Disenfranchise Millions of Eligible American Voters, Disproportionately African Americans and Other Racial and Ethnic Minorities

WHEREAS, since the beginning of 2011, anti-democracy extremist state legislators across our Nation have been promoting various legislative initiatives which would have the result of disenfranchising millions of eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, during recent legislative sessions all over the country, lawmakers have proposed, and often passed regressive so called "voting laws", re-framing our democracy to the pre-1965 Voting Rights Act and worse; and

WHEREAS, these disenfranchising proposals include bills which would make it harder for ex-felony offenders to vote; a shortening or a termination of early voting periods, same day registration, and Sunday voting; place onerous restrictions on voter registrations by non-partisan third-parties, such as the NAACP, the League of Women Voters and other non-partisan organizations and groups; place stringent requirements on individuals who have moved or changed their name; and photo identification requirements; and

WHEREAS, a disparate number of disenfranchised voters are African American and other racial and ethnic minorities, seniors, students, low-income Americans, disabled Americans, women and members of the military; and

WHEREAS, for example up to 21 million Americans, or 11% of the entire eligible voting-age population, do not have government-issued photo IDs. A full 25% of African Americans who would otherwise be eligible to vote do not have a "qualified" photo ID; and

WHEREAS, the photo ID laws and the felony disenfranchisement laws, and other policies and practices of the United States deny the right to vote to a large segment of its minority population in a manner inconsistent with the general principles of international human rights law as codified in international obligations by which the United States is bound, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (ADRDM); and

WHEREAS, these disenfranchising laws are, sadly, gaining steam: since late spring several states have seen forward movement on these proposals and in

several more states the legislatures are expected to consider these anti-democratic initiatives this fall; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has strong existing policy in support of ex-felon re-enfranchisement immediately upon release from prison; in support of same-day registration; in support of early voting; and in opposition to discriminatory photo ID requirements for registering and voting; and

WHEREAS, while supporters of these disenfranchising initiatives purport to be combating "voter fraud," numerous studies have shown this is not factually accurate, and if it were, these proposals would do nothing to combat them; nothing in the legislation addresses actual documented problems of election and voter fraud, such as the improper purges of voters, distributing false information about when and where to vote, stuffing ballot boxes, and tampering with registration forms, the vast majority of which are perpetrated by corrupt election officials, not voters; and

WHEREAS, many of these proposals appear to be a blatant partisan attempt to change the political outcome of elections. In North Carolina, for example, an estimated 270,000 African American voters lack a qualifying photo ID; the Presidential victor of North Carolina in 2008 won the state by less than 14,000 votes; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was instrumental in passing the 1965 Voting Rights Act and subsequent reauthorizations, as well as the Motor-Voter Act of 1993 and the Help America Vote Act of 2001. These laws have proven themselves to be catalysts of a new era of democracy, resulting in the prohibition of the federal, state or local governments from denying and oppressing citizens the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2011, the US House of Representatives failed to pass H.R. 672, an extremist bill to eliminate the NAACP-supported and much needed Election Assistance Commission, which was created by the NAACP-supported *Help America Vote Act* in 2001. This bipartisan commission was established to act as a clearinghouse of information and as a resource to state and local election officials who want to employ the most current technology and best practices when overseeing elections. The Election Assistance Commission also oversees voting-system testing and certification. Through research, grant-making and the development of voting guidelines, the Election Assistance Commission is helping many groups, which had heretofore been disenfranchised gain their Constitutional right to vote, including racial and ethnic minorities, members of the Armed Services (especially those serving overseas), disabled Americans and senior citizens. Since its creation the Election Assistance Commission had been admirable, especially in light of the fact that it has never been adequately funded; and

WHEREAS, these disenfranchising proposals fly in the face of the NAACP's struggle that all eligible Americans may cast a free and unfettered vote and be assured that vote will be counted; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan Public Act 4 of 2011 vastly expands the powers of the Emergency Manager and allows complete authority in the designated local municipality, without transparency or accountability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on all units to identify and fight against these disenfranchising proposals at the local, state and federal levels through civic engagement, advocacy and efforts to educate the people of the jurisdiction of the true impact of these anti-democratic proposals and initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urge its Units to oppose any proposed or pending local, state or federal legislation, that makes it harder for citizens to vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP respond to these attempts to take away our democratic right to vote through an aggressive campaign of voter registration, education, get-out-the-vote and voter protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its support for the Federal Election Assistance Commission and calls on Congress and the President to fully fund this important federal agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP utilize its NGO status at the United Nations to coordinate strategies and approaches to leverage the international community in the struggle to eliminate disenfranchising practices within the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP develop a "This is My Vote" campaign to culminate on Election Day – Tuesday, November 6, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP staff shall conduct in-depth voter registration and education trainings at State Conference conventions across the country, as well as trainings on voter turnout and election protection at the 2012 Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institutes (CRATIs), with phase II of the campaign to be launched at the 2012 annual convention in Houston, Texas; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that by the King Holiday in 2012, NAACP units will be expected to launch a local voter registration and education campaign with clear, measurable and realistic goals.

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