

CIVIL RIGHTS

1. In Recognition of the Role of Black Veterans in the Civil Rights Movement

WHEREAS, there has been no war fought by or within the United States in which Blacks did not participate; including the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812, the Spanish American War, World Wars I & II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Douglas voiced his strong opinion in his autobiography, Life and Times of Frederick Douglas (1881): "I ... urged every man who could to enlist to get an eagle on his button, a musket on his shoulder, the star-spangled banner over his head, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States;" and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, Black soldiers, commonly referred to as the United States Colored Troops, were treated as second-class citizens; health standards were so dismal that they never had enough doctors, hospitals were terrible, and they never got enough rest and often died from neglect by White officers and medical personnel; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Galloway, after New Bern was made free after the Sherman March met with President Lincoln and organized 10,000 black men to serve in the Union Army from Eastern North Carolina and became one of North Carolina's first black state Senators; and

WHEREAS, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter were both born in the nineteenth century, a few years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, were gifted Harvard Graduates, and their fathers were former Civil War soldiers, or veterans. They were the first generation of freedom's children and founded the Niagara Movement in 1905; and

WHEREAS, James Monroe Trotter, who served in the Civil War with the proud 55th Massachusetts Regiment, was a leader in the fight for equal pay for Black troops; and after the war was the president of the Negro Ex-Soldiers' and Sailors' National Reunion Association in the 1880's, which held its national meeting in Boston, in August, 1887 at Boston's Tremont Temple attracting more than 300 veterans to the largest known assembly of black former soldiers and sailors after the civil war; and

WHEREAS, the seal of the Niagara Movement for the Boston meeting in 1907, attended by 800 delegates, symbolized the connection between the Black soldiers' sacrifices and African-American civil rights, or earned rights, as opposed to birth rights. To quote DuBois's *Black Reconstruction in America* (1935) "Nothing else made Negro citizenship conceivable, but the record of the Negro as a fighter," and

WHEREAS, in his July 1918 "Close Ranks," an editorial for the NAACP's *Crisis Magazine*, DuBois, whose ancestors had fought in the American Revolution, echoed

Frederick Douglas in his belief that World War I offered the Black soldier an opportunity to gain his stripes; and while many Black soldiers gave their all to the war, some winning medals for their bravery, the lynching did not stop and the schools, bathrooms and drinking fountains remained segregated; and

WHEREAS, the 369th Infantry, known as the Harlem Hell-fighters, fought the Germans during World War I as part of the French Army and served the longest stretch in combat – 191 days without replacement – never losing a foot of ground or a man as prisoner; and at the end of their service, the entire regiment received the Croix de Guerre – France's highest military honor from a grateful French nation; and

WHEREAS, Henry Johnson of the 369th Infantry Division, who died penniless and alone, after holding off the Germans and eventually fighting with a knife when he had no more bullets; displaying the dogged determination that was reflected in the post-war New Negro spirit that refused to ‘kowtow’; was awarded a Purple Heart by President Clinton and awarded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross by the Dept. of Defense; and

WHEREAS, in 1917, Charles Hamilton Houston entered World War I as a commissioned first lieutenant in the segregated 17th Provisional Training Regiment and as a Second Lieutenant overseas encountered racism, more virulent than he had ever known before; and later wrote: *“The hate and scorn showered on us Negro officers by our fellow Americans convinced me that there was no sense in my dying for a world ruled by them. I made up my mind that if I got through this war I would study law and use my time fighting for who could not strike back,”* and

WHEREAS, the post war New Negro Movement, later the Harlem Renaissance, confirmed that life for Blacks in the North was sharply affected by World War I because almost 300,000 Blacks after serving to preserve democracy in Europe, became committed to their own struggle for democracy at home; and

WHEREAS, Alain Locke, the first black Rhodes scholar, wrote about a “New Negro” who had returned from battle with a bold new spirit that helped spark a new mood in the Black community, where Blacks were willing to settle for nothing less than equal rights, human treatment, and active involvement in politics, business, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of World War II, when 75 percent of Black Americans resided in the South, 90 percent lived in poverty, only 25 percent had a high school education, one-third of employed Black men were sharecroppers or tenant farmers, and the majority of Black women labored as domestic servants or farmhands, Doris Miller, a lowly mess man attendant in the Navy, was catapulted to a national hero and an icon to generations of Blacks on December 7, 1941, after displaying heroism on board the USS West Virginia during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson, before he became a famous baseball player, was court marshaled in the Army for refusing to sit in the back of the bus; but when later acquitted wrote that “It was a small victory, for I had learned that I was in two wars, one against the foreign enemy, the other against prejudice at home;” and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the demand on the NAACP for assistance for Black soldiers who were unjustly convicted by court-martial, either because their officers

assumed their guilt regardless of the evidence, or because they wanted to ‘set an example’ for other black soldiers, was so great that they had to turn down most requests unless the case was deemed to be “of national importance to the Negro race;” and

WHEREAS, strict racial segregation in the U.S. Army required the development of separate African-American flight surgeons to support the operations and training of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, a group of Black pilots who flew with distinction during WWII under the command of Captain Benjamin O. Davis, who would later become the first Black General of the U.S. Air Force, highly decorated and served for 42 years; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the 6888 (Six Triple Eights) first all-woman Black Postal Battalion, serving in England then France, were given the daunting task of clearing out a 2-year backlog of over 90,000 pieces of mail. After tremendous sacrifices and enduring many injustices, much to the amazement of their White officers, they not only succeeded in their mission, but completed it in 3 months, and went on to make a positive impact on racial integration in the military; and

WHEREAS, after serving overseas in the Army, Charles and Medgar Evers returned home to Mississippi, where in 1952 they began to organize voter registration drives for the NAACP; but in 1963 when they tried to register themselves to vote, they were turned away at the polling station by armed Whites who would do anything to stop them; Medgar was killed from a shot in the back on June 12, 1963, hours after President Kennedy gave a televised speech condemning segregation; and

WHEREAS, when Blacks came home after World War II, they were warned not to wear their uniforms because White police were beating Black soldiers and searching them and if they had a picture of a White woman in their wallet, they risked being killed; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Amzie Moore, who was drafted in the Army in 1942, whose job was to counter Japanese propaganda via media broadcast to remind Black soldiers of the difficulties and dangers they would face when they went home; ironically ended up after the war helping organize Blacks to resist a series of racist killings that had been designed to ensure that returning Black soldiers knew their place and did not disrupt the “southern way of life;” and

WHEREAS, in 1942, an estimated 18,000 Blacks gathered at Madison Square Garden to hear A. Phillip Randolph, one of the most prominent leaders in the fight for civil rights, kick off a campaign against discrimination in the military. But even after President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 desegregating the military on July 26, 1948, discrimination continued; and

WHEREAS, in early 1946 Walter White, NAACP Executive Director and a delegation of civil rights leaders briefed President Truman on the subject of racial violence against black veterans returning from WWII, and focused on the case of decorated black veteran, Isaac Woodard, who was beaten and blinded on a Greyhound bus in Batesburg, South Carolina while still in uniform. White’s memoir, “A Man Called White,” quotes Truman as exclaiming “My God, I had no idea it was as terrible as that! We’ve got to do something;” and

WHEREAS, Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr., who was also drafted into the Army during World War II, later stated that the Army perpetuated bigotry when it structured the vast civilian

army because “all of the enlisted men in my company were Black, but our officers were White;” and

WHEREAS, Rev. Benjamin Hooks, who served in the Army’s 92nd Division, found himself in the humiliating position of guarding Italian prisoners of war who were allowed to eat in restaurants that were off-limits to him. Such experiences helped deepen his resolve and that of other veterans, who like him later became civil rights leaders such as Whitney M. Young, Jr., Robert F. Williams and Rev. Hosiah Williams; and

WHEREAS, the 92nd Infantry Division, better known as the Buffalo Soldiers, the only Black segregated unit to see combat during the Italian campaign of 1944-45, can trace their direct lineage back to the 9th and 10th Cavalry units from 1866 to the early 1890s, whose bravery earned them 24 Medals of Honor. But for Vernon J. Baker of the 92nd, his Medal of Honor would not be awarded until 1997 – 52 years overdue; and

WHEREAS, former counsel to the NAACP, Thurgood Marshall, before the historic desegregation cases of 1954, spent weeks and months if not years on behalf of US troops during World War II and the Korean War investigating allegations of racism at court marshals and later concluded that “even in Mississippi a Negro gets a trial longer than those of many convicted black soldiers;” and

WHEREAS, Oliver L. Brown, WWII Army veteran in Brown v. Board of Education from Kansas, and Harry Briggs, WWII sailor in Briggs v. Elliott from South Carolina were the fathers of two of the five named plaintiffs in the historic school desegregation cases of 1954; and

WHEREAS, the significance of black military World War II and Korean War heroes and heroines such as Pvt. Sarah Keys and WAC officer Dovey Roundtree’s triumphs in the courts against discrimination in interstate transportation (Keys v. North Carolina Coach Company, 1955), another landmark civil rights case that was decided six days before Rosa Parks’ historic protest of state Jim Crow laws on Montgomery buses cannot be minimized. Keys v. North Carolina Coach Company, along with companion train desegregation case, NAACP v. St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company, represent a milestone in the legal battle for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. First Class Earl Dantzler was one of a number of Black Prisoners of War (POWs) during the Korean War who served in the Army’s 503rd field artillery unit with then-Corporal Charles Rangel, upon returning in uniform to his hometown of Richmond, Virginia, was immediately told to get to the back of the bus. Charles Rangel, now Congressman, later stated that “the greatest fight you will ever fight is not against the common enemies of America aboard, but right here fighting for your own civil rights;” and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his address at Riverside Church on April 4, 1967, condemned the American hypocrisy in Vietnam for dashing the hopes of the poor at home while sending their sons, brothers and husbands to fight and to die in highly disproportionate numbers 8,000 miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia that they did not have in Southwest Georgia or East Harlem; and

WHEREAS, today, forty years after the war in Vietnam, Black veterans suffer at a disproportionate rate with hypertension, kidney dysfunction, respiratory disease,

substance abuse, cancer, HIV/AIDS, PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and other mental illness; are plagued by less than honorable discharges, health disparities and are disproportionately represented among the homeless veterans population nationally; and

WHEREAS, Black veterans who were in the forefront of the leadership of the Civil Rights Movement; their strong resolve to address the paradox of military service abroad and the denial of basic rights at home, brought deeper meaning to the word ‘Democracy,’ and through their example motivated others to join and actively participate in the NAACP and other civil rights organizations, and ultimately transform the face of America; and

WHEREAS, the veterans of the nation’s wars sowed the seeds for today’s bountiful harvest whereby the Niagara Movement, the NAACP, and the latter-day civil rights movement all share a common ancestry, the Civil War; and if there were no Civil War, there could be no Civil Rights Movement; and without a Civil Rights Movement, there could be no Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP educate all of its members, their families, and our communities about the difficult challenges Black veterans faced when returning home, particularly in the South, their military sacrifice and patriotism, in fighting for equal rights and the dignity of a people; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP direct its Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees and its National Veterans Representative to help elevate the level of awareness of the Role of Veterans in the Civil Rights Movement and of the need to provide advocacy, service, and support for our veterans when transitioning back into our communities, this year and every year thereafter, through its National and State Conventions, Regional Conferences, and Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Dinner.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

1. *Ending State Rollbacks*

WHEREAS, “Affirmative Action” is defined as steps taken in the areas of employment, education and public procurement practices to overcome the current effects of past discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the present effects of past discrimination are evidenced by:

1. Overt policies which deny participation based on an individual’s membership in a protected class;
2. A member of a “protected class” is defined as an individual within an employment, education and public procurement practices; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has consistently supported Affirmative Action programs and opposed attacks on Affirmative Action, including resolutions in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2005.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reiterates and reaffirms its continuing support for Affirmative Action as there is a clear and continuing need for Affirmative Action programs, and opposes any efforts to roll back or otherwise weaken existing Affirmative Action programs.

COMMEMORATIVE

1. *First National Monument*

WHEREAS, the abolition of the Atlantic African slave trade in 1808 ended a painful chapter in this nation's history; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2009 the First National Monument was dedicated in Darien, Georgia which is recognized as one of the locations for which the largest slave trade occurred, according to the inscription of the monument; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the Centennial of the NAACP, it is a fitting tribute to recognize and acknowledge the abolition of the slave trade and to honor the lives of countless slaves who came before us all across the nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly commemoates the First National Monument in Darien, Georgia; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge its units to identify and recognize slavery monuments in communities throughout the nation.

2. *Regarding the Civil Rights Pioneers Commemorative Stamps*

WHEREAS, February 12, 2009 was the 100th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service has released a Civil Rights Pioneers Commemorative Stamp series in honor of the contributions and achievements of the twelve leaders pictured on the stamps; and

WHEREAS, many of the civil rights pioneers in the commemorative stamp series were heroic leaders of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of civil rights leaders in United States history sets an outstanding example of the power of the people to bring about freedom and equal opportunity in our nation, states and localities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP expresses its appreciation to the United States Postal Service, art director Ethel Kessler, and stamp designer Greg Berger for publishing the Civil Rights Pioneers Commemorative Stamps which coincide with the year-long celebrations of the NAACP Centennial Anniversary and Black History Month 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages all supporters, members and friends of the NAACP to purchase and use these stamps during 2009 in recognition of the NAACP Centennial Celebration and the courage of civil rights pioneers everywhere; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges its units to contact the Post Master General to make sure the stamps are available for purchasing.

3. NAACP Calls for Enhanced Safety Measures on Campuses in Honor of Heroism and Courage of Ryan C. Clark and the other Victims of Gun Violence

WHEREAS, there has been an alarming increase in recent years in the incidents of gun violence on college campuses in this country; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2007 a gunman at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University killed thirty three people and injured many others; in February 2008 six people at Northern Illinois University were shot and killed; three were shot at Hampton University in April 2009; and in May 2009 one student was killed and another injured at Wesleyan University in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, these senseless shootings destroy our country and deprive our communities of talented youth whose potential and contributions will never be realized; and

WHEREAS, Ryan C. Clark, who was a student at Virginia Tech was shot and killed after trying to help his fellow students; and

WHEREAS, Ryan C. Clark had a 4.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) and had a triple major in Psychology, Biology and English and hoped to pursue a doctorate in Psychology to work with the mentally impaired, and his death exemplifies the tragic loss to family and community; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is addressing the issue of gun violence and is fighting for a society where students are educated in an environment free of violence and racial intimidation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP acknowledges the memory of Ryan C. Clark and all the victims of gun violence on school campuses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the implementation of more stringent, protective measures to enhance student safety, including more comprehensive background checks and more thorough evaluation of students with medical or mental issues; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms prior resolutions and supports sensible gun safety legislation which would make it difficult for people to obtain military style, semi-automatic assault weapons.

4. *Inclusion of Harry T. Moore and Other Unsung Heroes in School Curriculums*

WHEREAS, in 1934 Harry T. Moore organized and became President of the first Brevard County Branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, in 1941 he organized and became President of the Florida State Conference of Branches which was the first State Conference in the history of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, in 1946 the NAACP named Harry T. Moore to the new post of Executive Director for the Florida Conference of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, in 1948 Harry T. Moore began a campaign to curb violence against blacks by law enforcement; he demanded that the state investigate claims of police violence against blacks; and

WHEREAS, in 1950 Moore's efforts in Brevard County led to Florida's first appointed black deputy sheriff with the authority to arrest both blacks and whites; and

WHEREAS, in 1951 Harry T. Moore urged Governor Fuller Warren to remove Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall from office for shooting two manacled black prisoners, which is suspected to have led to his eventual murder; and

WHEREAS, on Christmas Eve of 1951, a bomb was placed under the bedroom floor of Harry T. Moore's home, killing him and his wife; and

WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore was the first civil rights leader to lose his life for the progression of African-Americans in the modern civil rights era; and

WHEREAS, subsequently after his untimely death, the NAACP honored the life and heroism of Harry T. Moore, by awarding him the highest award, the Spingarn Medal, posthumously.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages its units to appeal to their local school districts and whoever else may be necessary to include the life and works of Harry T. Moore and other unsung heroes in the history curriculum used in their local school systems; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that through its units the NAACP requests that all state boards of education support the inclusion of the life and works of Harry T. Moore and other unsung heroes in history books that are used throughout the United States and its territories.

5. Recognition of Oliver Vincent Shields for Integrating U.S. Infantry during World War II

WHEREAS, over one million African-Americans of the United States served in the Armed Forces during World War II, of which over 80% served in the Army's segregated military units; and

WHEREAS, most African-Americans served in noncombat segregated service units and 708 were killed in combat related battles; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, General Eisenhower gave the okay to integrate some of the combat units during the Battle of the Bulge with over 5000 black soldiers volunteering to fight and only 2500 being selected for the infantry; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Vincent Shields landed at Normandy Beach during D-Day and was selected as one of the 2500 Black volunteers to serve in the 14th Armored Division (known as the "Liberators"); and fought in the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion C alongside White soldiers in Europe and was discharged from Camp Polk, LA with the 14th Armored Division in October, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Vincent Shields was selected by the American Battle Monuments Commission (a federal agency of the Executive Branch) in 2007 to be included in the "Voices of Soldiers", an interactive database of the Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center, Colleville-Sur-Mer, France, above Omaha Beach, which receives over one million visitors a year; and where many American soldiers died; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Vincent Shields, age 85, is part of a very small group of 2500 Black men who integrated the infantry that are still living today; and

WHEREAS, while in 1945 in Germany during World War II, Oliver Vincent Shields and another soldier joined the NAACP for 50 cents, at the request of a member of the NAACP who had come to Europe with Black newspaper journalists to check on the conditions and treatment of Black soldiers; and

WHEREAS, when Oliver Vincent Shields returned from the war, he faced segregation, dismal employment opportunities, and other barriers, but soon began his fight for civil rights in his hometown of Chillicothe, Missouri and the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Vincent Shields is a Diamond Life Member of the NAACP of the Kansas City, Missouri Branch, former Missouri State Conference President, has been actively involved in the NAACP for over 60 years, and served his country honorably during World War II in quartermaster and combat infantry capacities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shall recognize Oliver Vincent Shields for his dedicated service to his country in being one of the first 2500 Black men who volunteered, was chosen to integrate the infantry of the Army during World War II, and who fought with White soldiers to secure democracy.

6. Honoring the Life of Floyd B. McKissick Sr.

WHEREAS, the NAACP Durham, North Carolina Branch seeks to nationally recognize the life of one of its former members, as an architect and hero of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Floyd Bixler McKissick, Sr. was born in Asheville, North Carolina March 9th, 1922; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Morehouse College, McKissick was the first African-American to study at the University of North Carolina Law School; and

WHEREAS, as a student, he became an active member of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, McKissick defended this nation's freedom by joining the United States Army during World War II, reaching the rank of sergeant, and receiving a purple heart while fighting and sustaining injury in the battlefields of Europe; and

WHEREAS, after returning to the United States from active duty, McKissick participated in the first freedom rides of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1947; and

WHEREAS, he founded the first youth council of the NAACP in Durham in 1958, serving as the city's youth chairman of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, he organized and led (within the NAACP) a youth movement for achieving public integration by means of nonviolent direct action, organizing the Durham Youth Crusaders and later the Youth Commandos; and

WHEREAS, this movement culminated with the successful two year picketing of Durham's Royal Ice Cream Parlor, the first long sustained youth demonstration of the civil rights movement, which led to student demonstrations throughout North Carolina (including the historic student sit-ins in Greensboro in 1960) and to nonviolent protests throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, McKissick worked as a close associate of A. Phillip Randolph and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., collaborating as a key organizer of the March on Washington of 1963; and

WHEREAS, he founded a law practice in Durham, North Carolina through which he successfully defended African-American students who sought admittance to all-White public schools, served as legal counsel for North Carolina's NAACP, served as an *ad hoc* lawyer for CORE, and defended arrested civil rights demonstrators, handling more than 5,000 cases simultaneously at one point; and

WHEREAS, as an advocate of the Black Power movement, McKissick served as the national chairman of CORE from 1963-1966, and as the national director of the organization from 1966-1968; and

WHEREAS, he founded Soul City, as a project to develop a model integrated predominantly African-American self-sufficient industrial town in rural North Carolina, in 1969; and

WHEREAS, he accepted Governor James Martin's appointment to serve as a North Carolina district court judge in 1990; and

WHEREAS, this world lost the life of Floyd Bixler McKissick, Sr. on April 28, 1991.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP formally acknowledges, celebrates, and honors the life and contributions of Floyd Bixler McKissick, Sr.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. National Day of Non-violence – April 4, 2010

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is committed to attaining human rights for all; and

WHEREAS, throughout history the NAACP has worked against police brutality, and worked diligently to create a fair criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the recent shooting deaths of Oscar Grant, III (Oakland, CA), Adolph Grimes, III (New Orleans, LA), Billy Joe Johnson (Mississippi), and countless other youth and young adults across the country have taken place under a cloud of officer involved suspicion; and

WHEREAS, police brutality is one of several forms of police misconduct, which include, but are not limited to, false arrest, intimidation, racial profiling, political repression, surveillance abuse, sexual abuse, and police corruption; and

WHEREAS, we are deeply troubled by the continuing pattern of racial incidents across the country – hate crimes, police misconduct, and racial intimidation which are all-too-often tolerated and ignored by local law enforcement officials and courts; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Youth & College Division created the National Day of Nonviolence to lift up the nonviolent teachings of Dr. King and to increase peace and justice dialogue in communities ravaged by crime and violence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP re-affirms its National Day of Nonviolence as a 2010 National Day of Action, Sunday, April 4, 2010 and issues a call to all units encouraging them to host public hearings, facilitate discussions and forums to address their local neighborhood's concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP create and implement a tracking tool for units to identify police accountability structures on a city level, and within their local transportation districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP collects and compiles the data findings across the regions and release the findings during the 2010 Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP develops a model structure for police accountability that can be passed down for local unit implementation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP meets with the U.S. Attorney General and Justice Department with its findings; urge police brutality be a top priority of the office, and call for use of investigative powers.

2. *Calling for the End of “Prison-Based Gerrymandering”*

WHEREAS, almost one percent of the American adult population and 3.6 percent of the African-American population is temporarily incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census is conducted every decade, traditionally counting prisoners – in defiance of most States’ constitutions and laws regarding voluntary residency standards and the Supreme Court’s “one-person one-vote” rule as residents of the prisons where incarcerated and not from where they had voluntarily resided and will return upon release; and

WHEREAS, this arcane counting methodology results in an artificial reduction in the population of urban neighborhoods where most prisoners come from, swelling rural communities Census counts where most prisons are located; and

WHEREAS, Congressional and State legislative district lines are based on population counts, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is distributed annually based on Census counts, while business, medical facilities and school district decisions are made regarding where to build and expand on Census data; and

WHEREAS, in New York State, by way of example, seven rural State senate districts, confining 93 percent of this State’s prisoners (82% of whom are persons of color), would not meet the U.S. Supreme Court’s minimum population requirements without counting prisoners as “local residents;” thus these artificially inflated district populations provide disproportional political power to these seven senators to direct over \$1 billion annually into their districts to finance penal operations employing 30,000 people, thus giving them little incentive to consider or pursue policies that might reduce the number of people sent to prison and for how long, in turn producing a substantive negative representational impact; and

WHEREAS, 13 percent of a Texas district and 15 percent of a Montana district consists of prisoner “residents,” 21 counties across the nation have at least 20 percent of their population census composed by prison inmates, and one Iowa City legislative district is composed of 96 percent prisoners lending the handful of actual residents 25 times the political power on city affairs as residents in other sections of the city, thus these penal Census counts create electoral inequities at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, this process blatantly violates the U.S. Supreme Court rulings requiring legislative districts be divided equally based on populations, and thus distorts policy and democracy at this federal, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau's African-American advisory committee, the prestigious National Research Council of the National Academies, and post-Census Bureau director Kenneth Prewitt call for such change; and

WHEREAS, the New York Times, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, the Flint Journal and Jackson City Patriot have editorialized in favor of ending prison-based gerrymandering.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, on principle, decries the enumeration of prisoners as local residents as a violation of our nation's fundamental one-person one-vote ethos of representational democracy, harkening back to the disgraceful three-fifths era of constitutionally-sanctioned slavery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census to enumerate prisoners within census blocks where domiciled at their time of arrest; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NAACP units call upon their Congressional representatives to effect such a permanent change to the Census Bureau enumeration procedures.

3. *Re-affirming 2008 Resolution on “Abolition of Life Without Parole for Juveniles”*

WHEREAS, the United States of America shamefully leads the world in the number of children (2400) that are imprisoned for life without the possibility of parole for crimes committed as juveniles; and

WHEREAS, sentencing juveniles to life without parole (JLWOP) contravenes international law, with only the U.S. and Somalia failing to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child banning the practice; and

WHEREAS, nationwide Black youth receive JLWOP sentences ten times more often than White youth, Hispanic youth receive JLWOP multiple times more often than White youth, with nearly 60 percent of those receiving JLWOP having neither adult criminal records nor juvenile adjudication, and over one-quarter of youth receiving JLWOP sentences were convicted in crimes where another participant committed the felonious assault; and

WHEREAS, as many as forty-two (42) States sentence minors to life without parole; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that adolescent brain development is not complete for comprehensive reasoning, consequence consideration and mature impulse control; and

WHEREAS, children have an extraordinary capacity of rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2.3 million people behind bars in the United States, the incarceration of juveniles for life without parole is not only immoral, it is also a poor use of limited criminal justice resources; and

WHEREAS, the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, the Campaign of Youth Justice, Center for Children's Law and Policy, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform,

National Juvenile Justice Network, and Human Rights Watch all call for the abolition of juvenile life without parole sentencing; and

WHEREAS, if as a society we espouse that juveniles are intrinsically different from adults – that their judgment is lacking, that they are capable of learning from past mistakes – then how can we justify locking them away forever?

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all units and members educate themselves as to the states' related juvenile penal code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these units avail themselves of opportunities to educate others about these injustices; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NAACP units call upon their legislatures to abolish juvenile life without parole sentences for crimes.

4. *Endorsement of Crime Solving Initiatives*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a civil rights organization established in 1909; and

WHEREAS, the rate of violent crime, including homicide, remains a serious issue of concern in African-American communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, community groups have mobilized with the goal of preventing and solving crimes, and have established reward programs in cooperation with law enforcement and the media to motivate citizens to provide useful information; and

WHEREAS, such programs have been successful because individuals who are fearful of reporting crimes are confident they will not face retaliation because they may make anonymous tips. Individuals who are apathetic about reporting tips are motivated to provide information because they receive financial rewards for tips that lead to conviction; and

WHEREAS, reward programs protect cooperating individuals who want a safe environment to raise their children and families, but who do not want to be known in their communities as informants or snitches.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP take a collective stand against violent crime by encouraging communities to create reward programs to encourage individuals to participate in reward programs in an attempt to bring justice for families who have lost their loved ones to violent crime across the United States.

5. *Restoration of Prisoners' Pell Grant Eligibility*

WHEREAS, the NAACP ratified the resolution calling for the Restoration of Prisoners' Pell Grant Eligibility on October 20, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution Project issued the Smart on Crime: Recommendations for the Next Administration & Congress report 2008, endorsing the restoration of "Pell Grant Eligibility to Prisoners;" and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama called for every American to pursue some form of education beyond high school on February 24, 2009; and

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

WHEREAS, recidivism rates are increasing, with nearly seven-out-of-ten of all paroled prisoners being rearrested within three years of their release; and

WHEREAS, Post-Secondary Correctional Education has repeatedly proven to be one of the most effective rehabilitation opportunities in corrections, routinely reducing recidivism to less than 20% and many times to less than 10% for graduates; and

WHEREAS, there are more Black males incarcerated in the nation's prisons than are enrolled on American college and university campuses; and

WHEREAS, higher education is the most important determinant to economic and professional success, with degree-possessing parolees having the highest employment and wage rates of released prisoners, helping to restore "social capital" to communities devastated by historical under investment in socio-economic-political opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of prisoners from the Pell Grant program did not provide a single additional grant to traditional students, but expelled tens-of-thousands of prisoner-students from Post-Secondary Correctional Education programs, resulting in wholesale program closings and opportunity reductions across the nation; and

WHEREAS, restoration of prisoner Pell Grant eligibility will not deprive a single qualifying traditional student of funding, will not substantially affect students' grant awards nor cause an overall program cost increase, while allowing tens-of-thousands of prisoner-students to return to the edifying experience of college classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the American Higher Education Consortium, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education endorse the restoration of eligibility for financial aid for "disenfranchised populations, including prisoners;" and

WHEREAS, the Correctional Education Association, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, and the Institute for Higher Education Policy also advocate the restoration of prisoners' Pell Grant Eligibility; and

WHEREAS, Pell Grant funding eligibility is crucial to expanding an equitable Post-Secondary Education Opportunity in the United States' prisons; and

WHEREAS, more specifically the restoration of Prisoners' Pell Grant eligibility will result in numerically the single greatest opportunity to increase (100,000+) people of color collegiate enrollments in history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its call upon the Congress of the United States of America to restore prisoners' Pell Grant eligibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all units and members lobby Congress to restore prisoners' Pell Grant Eligibility by repealing PL 110-315 of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our units also actively educate their members to the encompassing socio-economic benefits of providing higher education opportunities to prisoners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that our units aggressively avail themselves of opportunities to educate others to these benefits.

6. *Public Safety and State and Local Departments of Corrections*

WHEREAS, it is a fundamental right of citizens to be safe while in the custody of any government entity or agency; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there is a pernicious history of African-Americans and other minorities receiving differential treatment while in the custody of law enforcement and corrections officials that include incidents that lead to injury and death; and

WHEREAS, across the country, the health and well-being of individuals in custody should be of paramount concern to law enforcement and corrections officials; and

WHEREAS, across the nation, there have been several instances where residents have been injured or killed while in the care and custody of the county's Department of Corrections, including the alleged homicide of Mr. Ronnie White, the unexplained death of Mr. Charles Cooper, and other unnamed inmates; and

WHEREAS, the attitudes and values of corrections officials must demonstrate a concern for those in their custody and a belief that each incarcerated individual is deserving of basic human rights and dignity; and

WHEREAS, state and local corrections officials should establish quality assurance processes to review and evaluate the physical and mental health of individuals who are in their custody, monitoring procedures for "high risk" inmates; and

WHEREAS, charges of misconduct by corrections officials must be thoroughly investigated and quickly resolved to preserve the credibility of the justice system; and

WHEREAS, those found guilty of mistreating and abusing incarcerated individuals must be appropriately punished given their breech of the public's trust.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hereby condemns the unjust treatment of all prisoners and declares that such conduct perpetrated under color of law is counter to our country's values; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all units should meet and work with their state and local governments to establish procedures to reduce unjust injuries and deaths from occurring in their Departments of Corrections.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *Investigation of Race and Credit Reports*

WHEREAS, consumer credit reports play an increasingly important role in consumers' lives, from financing a home to qualifying for insurance or applying for a job; and

WHEREAS, the credit histories of many consumers, particularly African-Americans, are suffering during the current economic downturn due to financial strain and foreclosures and causing an adverse impact on employment opportunities for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, national consumer credit reporting agencies have unrestricted access to consumer credit data, and have an obligation to ensure that their data does not promote or perpetuate racial inequality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People expresses its concern about the racial disparities in consumer credit and calls on the United States Congress to conduct a comprehensive study of the racial disparities in credit reports, with parameters and an independent verification process agreed upon by the NAACP.

EDUCATION

1. *Low-Performing Schools*

WHEREAS, in the 1954 landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the NAACP, through its attorneys—including Thurgood Marshall—played a pivotal role in persuading the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm the goal of equality of educational opportunity for all children. More than fifty years after the *Brown* decision, the Association recognizes that severe racial inequities still persist in many of our nation's schools; and

WHEREAS, low-performing schools across the country are frequently located in urban areas where most black children attend school; and

WHEREAS, affluent communities with a higher tax base are generally able to provide more funding for schools than poor communities; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable variation among local school districts with special needs, English as a Second Language (ESL) and overage students in the United States with respect to the demographic composition of the students and communities they serve, the policies are not consistent in all states; and

WHEREAS, the states hold local school districts accountable for the academic performance of students, but they do relatively little to ensure that schools meet the conditions necessary to provide adequate educational opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, although numerous studies have shown that poverty and racial isolation contribute significantly to school failure, states do very little to mitigate the effects of these external conditions. Instead, responsibility for monitoring educational quality is delegated to educational leaders in school districts and elected school boards and/or appointed school boards in keeping with the long-standing practice of allowing local communities to manage and operate public schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms previous resolutions designed to ensure resource equity, teacher quality and the eradication of illiteracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP identify problems and find solutions to help all our students, in conjunction with state and state conferences and local units, in addition to identifying low performing schools and to develop local advocacy and legal strategies to improve our schools and to bring systemic lawsuits designed to provide quality public education to our children; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that these advocacy and legal strategies shall be designed to ultimately ensure that the nation properly invests in the education of all public school students.

2. Anti-Bullying and Harassment in Schools

WHEREAS, bullying and harassment are widespread problems with significant adverse consequences affecting youth across the country; and

WHEREAS, school bullying includes a wide variety of behaviors, but all involve a person or a group repeatedly trying to harm someone who is perceived to be weaker or more vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, bullying and harassing can involve direct attacks with hitting, threatening, intimidating, maliciously teasing, taunting, name-calling, making sexual remarks, stealing or damaging belongings. Bullying and harassment can be subtle, indirect attacks, spreading rumors and encouraging others to reject or exclude; and

WHEREAS, bullying and harassment have led young school children to commit suicide. Bullying and harassment can lead teens that are the target of bullying and harassing to feel tense, anxious, and afraid. It can affect their concentration in school, and lead them to avoid school in some cases; and

WHEREAS, bullying and harassing affects a teens self-esteem. Bullying and harassment can increase social isolation, leading them to become withdrawn, depressed, anxious and insecure. In extreme cases bullying and harassment can be devastating for teens. Some teens feel compelled to take drastic measures, such as carrying weapons for protection or seeking violent revenge. Others, in desperation, consider suicide or commit suicide when they have no place to report bullying and harassment; and

WHEREAS, almost 30% of youth in the United States (or over 5.7 million) are estimated to be involved in bullying, either as a bully, a target of bullying or both. In a recent national survey of students in grades 6-10, 13% reported bullying others, 11% reported being targets of bullies, and another 6% said that they bullied others and were bullied themselves; and

WHEREAS, the American public is concerned about safety for all children. The problems of bullying and harassment are among the most prevalent and profound that schools face; they continue to seriously disrupt our school environment and affect the lives of millions of students every year, with major adverse academic and safety consequences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP units will work to ensure that no student is denied access to a quality education because of fear of degradation associated with bullying and harassment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all NAACP units shall meet with state and local school districts and request information regarding anti-bullying policies and procedures in tandem with programs that promote community building, teach students how to negotiate differences and how to advocate for themselves and be allies to fellow students who are being bullied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for all schools to have effective anti-bullying and anti-harassment programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that bullying and harassment based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion must be recorded and acted upon by school officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon all schools to implement anti-bullying training for all personnel. School officials shall have students pledge not to bully or harass other students, to help students who are bullied or harassed, and to report all cases to school officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon all schools to offer effective counseling for perpetrators and victims of bullying and harassment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon all schools to ensure the inclusion of diversity training and anti-discriminatory practices in the implementation of disciplinary measures so that school anti-bullying procedures do not have a disparate impact upon African-Americans and other minority groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon all school districts to maintain and report data regarding all incidents of bullying and harassment in order to develop effective federal, state, and local anti-bullying policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon states and school districts to submit statistical data regarding bullying incidents to the United States Department of Justice; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall call upon schools to raise awareness regarding bullying and harassing, increase teacher and parent involvement and supervision, form clear rules and strong social norms against bullying and harassing, and provide support and protection for all students. This approach shall involve teachers, principals, students and everyone associated with the school, including maintenance staff, food services staff, security guards, and crossing guards.

EMPLOYMENT

1. Use of Credit History in Employment

WHEREAS, 43% of US employers currently conduct credit checks on job applicants, according to the Society for Human Resource Management; and

WHEREAS, empirical evidence suggests that there is no correlation between credit history and job performance; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has expressed concern that the use of credit history in hiring may discriminate against people of color; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans have credit scores that are 10% to 35% lower than those of Whites, according to the Texas Department of Insurance; and

WHEREAS, lending discrimination and the foreclosure crisis have disproportionately impacted African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, unemployment is at its highest levels in decades, and higher still in the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, negative information will generally remain on a credit report for seven years, and inaccurate information is very difficult to get corrected; and

WHEREAS, the use of credit history in hiring represents a form of economic discrimination, in which those with poor credit histories are behind on their bills because they don't have a job, but cannot get a job because they are behind on their bills.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stands opposed to the use of credit reports in hiring as a form of economic discrimination, and will partner with allied organizations to conduct educational forums as well as work through the local, state and federal legislative process to make sure that such practices are prohibited.

2. Tennessee Solid Waste Planning to Stimulate Business and Job Creation

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has long recognized that a healthy environment is part of the civil rights struggle because pollution disproportionately impacts the minority, poor, and those with highest health risks; and

WHEREAS, many units, including The Nashville Branch of the NAACP have worked for years to identify issues of environmental injustice created by state and local environmental policies; and

WHEREAS, elderly, poor and minority in Tennessee, Appalachia , the deep south, on the lower Mississippi River, and the southern plains are the only populations in the world which are experiencing a *decreasing* life span; [The Reversal of Fortunes: Trends in County Mortality and Cross-Country Mortality Disparities in the United States-April, 2008 PLoS Medicine]; and

WHEREAS, land filling solid waste is costly to local governments and business; for example, the cost is \$350 million a year in Tennessee alone; and

WHEREAS, materials in solid waste include food waste (12%), yard waste (13%), paper/paperboard (36%), construction waste (15%), and metal (9%); and solid waste can be used as raw material in business and compost to create jobs and enhance small businesses [Institute for Local Self Reliance – (www.ilsr.org)] for example; if food and yard waste are composted rather than landfill, it will create jobs and high quality compost and would be the equivalent of closing 20% of coal powered plants in terms of eliminating green house gasses [Cool2010 – <http://www.cool2012.com/cool/>]; and

WHEREAS, a practical strategy for solid waste reform, is to seek funding and research grants for Historically Black Universities and Colleges: for example, Tennessee State University has twice been funded by Tennessee General Assembly to research diversion of solid waste from landfills; and

WHEREAS, most states including Tennessee have developed solid waste regulations that are biased toward land filling solid waste rather than composing and recycling it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People oppose the enactment of proposed solid waste regulations which do not promote use of solid waste as a raw material in business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urges every state as well as local and federal officials to support funding HBCUs to develop methods to divert solid waste from landfills to be used as raw material for business and compost and job creation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urges full recognition and resolution of environmental injustice so often found in state solid waste policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. *Greening Initiative*

WHEREAS, the world population is expanding at a mind-boggling rate; and

WHEREAS, some of the world's natural resources are already depleted; and

WHEREAS, population growth greatly strains our finite resources, there are fewer resources available; and

WHEREAS, if we intend to leave our children and grandchildren with the same standard of living we enjoy we must preserve the foundation of standard living; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and Vice President Biden have a comprehensive plan to invest in alternative and renewable energy, end our addiction to foreign oil, address the global climate crisis and create millions of new jobs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People adopts the month of April as "awareness month" for Greening; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that each unit would conduct workshops, or partnership with some other organization already versed in the subject.

2. *NAACP/National Wildlife Federation Resolution on Climate Change*

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change disproportionately impacts the communities of color; and

WHEREAS, globally, climate change is likely to cause damage in excess of \$600 billion per year, with particularly negative effects in Africa; and

WHEREAS, about 160,000 people die every year worldwide from side-effects of global warming ranging from malaria to malnutrition and reduction of agricultural output in many poorer countries; and

WHEREAS, an additional 80-90 million poor people could be at risk of hunger and malnutrition later in the 21st century and poorer countries are much less able to withstand the devastation caused by extreme weather events, and climate change is likely to increase such events; 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, solving the climate crisis can create 5 million ‘green’ jobs that will be in places where they are needed most; and

WHEREAS, a new energy policy can reduce the burden of low and moderate-income households spending a larger share of their budgets on energy and other basic costs of living than better-off households; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that the average surface temperature of the earth increased nearly 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the 20th century, due primarily to human cause climate change; and

WHEREAS, scientists project an increase of 3.2-7.2 degrees Fahrenheit in the 21st century, depending upon the extent to which climate change pollution is reduced; and

WHEREAS, we have an opportunity to end energy policies that drain jobs from our economy, put our communities at risk of heat waves and flooding, and drag America into conflict over energy resources overseas; 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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will call on our nation’s elected leaders to ensure that the response to climate change can take higher ground than business as usual – one that ensures that we capture real public benefits from the new energy economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports climate change policy that will build a new generation of good jobs, rebuild urban areas and support rural areas, and protect families, communities and public health, and help elevate our nation as a world leader; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP works with the National Wildlife Federation and will urge all of its units to support legislation and other efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions, reverse the process of climate change and promote the new green economy.

HEALTH

1. Childhood Obesity

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is a condition where excess body fat negatively affects our children's health or well-being; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is a serious medical condition that affects children and adolescents. (It occurs when a child is well above the normal weight for his or her age and height); and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is particularly troubling because the extra pounds often start our children on the path to health problems that were once confined to adults, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol; and

WHEREAS, one of the best strategies to combat excess weight in our children is to improve the diet and exercise levels of our entire family. (This helps protect the health of our children now and in the future); and

WHEREAS, although there are some genetic and hormonal causes of childhood obesity, most excess weight is caused by our children eating too much and exercising too little; (Our children, unlike us as adults, need extra nutrients and calories to fuel their growth and development. So if they consume the calories needed for daily activities, growth and metabolism, they add pounds in proportion to their growth. But our children who eat more calories than needed gain weight beyond what's required to support their growing bodies and will gain excess weight with a sedentary lifestyle); and

WHEREAS, there are many factors, for example: Diet, Inactivity, Genetics, Psychological factors, Family factors and Socioeconomic factors – usually working in combination- that increase our children's risk of becoming overweight; and

WHEREAS, we should be worried if our children are putting on too much weight and talk to his or her doctor or health care provider at our earliest convenience; and

WHEREAS, the doctor or health care provider should provide a complete weight assessment, taking into account our child's individual history of growth and development, our family's weight-for-height history, and where our child lands on the growth charts; and

WHEREAS, as part of regular well-child care, the doctor calculates our child's body mass index (BMI) and determines where it falls on the national BMI-for-age growth chart. (The BMI indicates if our child is overweight for his or her age and height. Using the growth chart, our doctor shall then determine our child's percentile, meaning how our child compares with other children of the same sex and age. Because BMI doesn't consider things like being muscular or having a larger-than-average body frame and because growth patterns vary greatly among children, our doctor must also factor our

child's growth and development into the overall weight assessment. This helps determine whether our child's weight is a health concern); and

WHEREAS, obese children can develop serious health problems, such as diabetes and heart disease, often carries these conditions into an obese adulthood. (Overweight children are at higher risk of developing: type 2 diabetes; metabolic syndrome; high blood pressure; asthma and other respiratory problems; several types of cancer, sleep disorders; liver disease; early puberty or menarche; eating disorders, osteoarthritis and skin infections, etc.); and

WHEREAS, social and emotional fallout also can hurt our children; (children often tease or bully their overweight peers, and our children suffer a loss of self-esteem and an increased risk of depression as a result that may lead to suicide); and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is truly a public health concern in 2009; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 Update on Legislative Policy Options on Childhood Obesity issued by the National Conference on State Legislatures over the past three decades, obesity rates have nearly tripled for children ages 2 to 5 (from 5 percent to 14 percent), more than tripled for youth ages 12 to 19 (from 5 percent to 17 percent) and more than quadrupled for children ages 6 to 11 (from 4 percent to 19 percent).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP declares a state of emergency where it relates to childhood obesity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we are recommending that parents, as soon as possible, seek medical advice regarding their children's weight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage: (a) slow and steady weight loss; (b) eating healthier; (c) choosing fruits and vegetables over convenience foods high in sugar and fat; (d) limited sweetened beverages including those containing fruit juice; (e) family members eating together as opposed to eating in front of televisions, computers and video games; and (f) increasing our children's activity levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP units in conjunction with the American Diabetic Association with NOBIDAN and the local health department, especially branches, be encouraged to conduct educational workshop on childhood obesity developed and created by the NAACP health committee; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Press Releases should be issued announcing this state of emergency and calling for a congressional hearing on childhood obesity especially as it relates to the effects on children in urban areas where there has been a said decrease in physical education and recreational facilities.

2. HIV/AIDS "The Way Forward" in Collaboration with the Black AIDS Institute

WHEREAS, African-Americans are 13% of the population of the United States in 2008; 51% of the newly diagnosed HIV / AIDS cases were African-American; and

WHEREAS, the rate of HIV / AIDS diagnoses for African-American adults and adolescents was 10 times higher as the rate for whites and nearly 3 times the rate for Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, the rate of HIV / AIDS diagnoses for African-American women was nearly 23 times the rate for White women; and

WHEREAS, the rate of HIV/AIDS diagnoses for African-American men was 8 times the rate for White men; and

WHEREAS, 68 children in the United States {younger than 13 years old} have been diagnosed as new HIV/ AIDS patients, 46 of them were African-American.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on its units to “get informed, get tested, get treated, and get involved,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on its units to partner with community-based organizations, local, state and federal entities while enlisting the support of public and private funders to develop strategies on educating, testing and advocating, to create and implement a community led self-sustaining movement-strategy to empower African-Americans and communities of color regarding the HIV/AIDS State of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly recommends and urges the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and all state and local Public Health Directors to establish a coalition of community organizations and others to develop regulations that create measureable plans and funded programs to decrease the health care disparities in the African-American population; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on federal, state, and local policymakers to devise means to increase the funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research.

3. Legacy Cost Crisis

WHEREAS, the automobile industry, United Steel Workers, and the airline industry have pension plans which provide workers with much-needed preset benefits upon retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor estimates that the underfunding of pensions have increased from \$164 billion to \$450 billion (“underfunded” means the pensions collected and investment for current workers, retirees and their survivors are insufficient to meet their projected liabilities); and

WHEREAS, declining stock market values and artificially low interest rates used for discounting pension obligations, combined with an aging and shrinking work force, according to experts have increased the costs of defined benefit plans; and

WHEREAS, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 signed into law on August 17, 2006 provides companies with seriously underfunded defined benefits with plans mandating contributions at a faster rate and face certain restrictions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP as well as labor unions and other entities that share this concern, urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to fully enforce and fund the Pension Protection Act of 2006; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the bailout of the automobile industry include the full "legacy costs."

4. A Call for the Reduction of Salt in the Diet

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association Board of Cardiologists stated from a recent study that sodium is the number one cause of elevated blood pressure causing one in three US adults to have high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS, the lives of nearly 8,000 Black Americans could be saved each year if their blood pressure equaled the average level of Whites; and

WHEREAS, a report in 2005 from the Center for Science in the Public interest said that excess salt in the diet was boosting Americans' blood pressure and is prematurely killing some 150,000 people each year; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP will promote the removal of the salt shaker from the table, which has the potential of reducing dietary intake of sodium below 3 to 4 grams per day, following the principles of the ADA and the DASH diet; and

WHEREAS, several food manufactures are encouraged to continue and increase the production of foods described by the acceptable standards of "no salt", "low salt", and "regular" food products available for food purchasing and consumption; and

WHEREAS, restaurants and food processors seems to care only about the bottom line of their companies with the amount of salt they use to process and preserve food; and

WHEREAS, some medical associations are lobbying for food processors to reduce the amount of salt added to food; and

WHEREAS, excessive salt intake could increase the potential for strokes, heart attacks and kidney failure in all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the health industry promotes the food chart for healthy eating, but does not consider the salt contents in processed foods (and especially canned meats) in the chart of healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, market forces push families to choose cheaper, higher salt foods; and

WHEREAS, we commend companies and some of the store chains for reformulating products to reduce sodium.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to decrease the amount of salt added to foods consumed by the general public and provide foods with a safer level of salt (less than 1/2 of the current level); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the food industry to develop safer, more healthful nutrition guidelines for edible products and to establish upper limits for sodium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request the American Heart Association to identify strategies to reduce the amount of sodium in the food supply and to encourage food manufacturers and restaurants to reduce the amount of sodium in foods by 50 percent in 3 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request appropriate government agencies and industry to come up with safe salt alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association to continue lobbying food processors to decrease the amount of salt added to the food; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage units to read labels, and promote a practice of “No Added Salt” by removing the salt shaker from the table.

5. *Using Vision Therapy to Improve Opportunities for Juvenile Offenders and Adult Inmates*

WHEREAS, more than 2.3 million Americans are currently incarcerated in America's prisons and jails, and more than 40% of these men, women and children are African-American; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals have a long-standing history of inadequate healthcare, including vision care and therapy; and

WHEREAS, undetected vision impairment has been a proven attribute to poor academic achievement and a correlation has been shown between visual perception problems, persistent learning problems and juvenile delinquency; and

WHEREAS, vision therapy is a component of the healthcare services provided by the profession of optometry, and consists of visual training through screening or evaluation, vision rehabilitation or a treatment program designed to correct vision – motor and/or perceptual – cognitive deficiencies which have various causes; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the local, state and federal governments to work to rehabilitate and provide all prisoners with skills and the means to become productive members of society upon their release from incarceration; and

WHEREAS, statistics from multiple case studies demonstrate the positive impact of vision therapy upon the recidivism rate of formerly incarcerated individuals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP recognizes that one way of helping some prisoners become productive members of their communities upon release from incarceration and avoid recidivism is to ensure quality, comprehensive vision therapy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP, through its members and units, will educate the community, elected officials, and correctional facilities about merits of comprehensive healthcare including early detection vision therapy as a tool in reducing recidivism and increasing opportunities for persons reentering society.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Change Article V, Section 4(b) (Governance) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

(Notice of Annual Meeting)

CURRENT

4(b). Branches and Authorized Committees.

Written notice shall be provided a minimum of 30 days prior to the time and place of the Annual Meeting to each member in good standing in writing, or published in some local newspaper of general circulation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article V, Section 4(b) in the Bylaws for the Units of the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

4(b). **Branches, Youth Councils, High School Chapters, Junior Youth Councils and Authorized Committees.**

Written notice shall be provided a minimum of 30 days prior to the time and place of the Annual Meeting to each member in good standing in writing, or published in some local newspaper of general circulation.

2. Change Article III, Section 4(a)(2) (Organizational Structure) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

(Assessments)

CURRENT

4(a)(2). (National Assessments)

Fundraising Assessments. The net proceeds of each contribution, entertainment or fundraising effort by a Unit, excluding ACT-SO and Back-To-School/Stay-In-School and other approved programs, except for College Chapters subject to college and/or university fundraising requirements, shall be divided as follows: 25% to the National

Office, 75% to the Unit; unless, in any case, written permission is obtained from the National Office for some different division, provided that the entire net proceeds of any fundraising effort for exclusively national purposes shall be transmitted to the National Office.

Notwithstanding the foregoing obligation, a Branch shall be exempt from disbursing 25% of its net proceeds of each contribution, fundraising or entertainment effort to the National Office if, and when, it increases its membership, as recorded by the National Office, by 35% from the previous calendar year, the Branch shall be required to submit only 15% of its net proceeds of each fundraising or entertainment effort for the succeeding year to the National Office. The assessment reduction is earned on a year to year basis, based on the membership increase of the previous year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to change Section III, Article 4(a)(2) in the Bylaws for the Units of the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

4(a)(2).(National Assessments)

Fundraising Assessments. The net proceeds of each contribution, entertainment or fundraising effort by a Unit, excluding ACT-SO and Back-To-School/Stay-In-School and other approved programs, except for College Chapters subject to college and/or university fundraising requirements, shall be divided as follows: 25% to the National Office, 75% to the Unit; unless, in any case, written permission is obtained from the National Office for some different division, provided that the entire net proceeds of any fundraising effort for exclusively national purposes shall be transmitted to the National Office.

Notwithstanding the foregoing obligation, a Unit shall be exempt from disbursing 25% of its net proceeds of each contribution, fundraising or entertainment effort to the National Office if, and when, it increases its membership, as recorded by the National Office, by 35% from the previous calendar year, the Unit shall be required to submit only 15% of its net proceeds of each fundraising or entertainment effort for the succeeding year to the National Office. The assessment reduction is earned on a year to year basis, based on the membership increase of the previous year.

3. Change Article IV, Section 2(b) (Membership) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

(Effective Date of Membership in the Branches, Youth Units and Authorized Committees)

CURRENT

2(b). *The minimum voting age for any member in good standing in Branch Elections shall be seventeen (17) years of age. Should a member of the Branch be seventeen (17) years of age, but under twenty-one (21) years of age, that member may vote in the Branch Election, if he/she has paid the Regular Adult membership fee to the Branch.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article IV, Section 2(b) in the Bylaws for the Units of the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

2(b). *The minimum voting age for any member in good standing in Branch Elections shall be seventeen (17) years of age. Said member may vote in the Branch Election if he/she has paid the Regular Adult membership fee to the Branch.*

4. Change Article IV, Section 7(a) (Membership) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

(Youth Council Membership)

CURRENT

7(a). Any person under age twenty-five (25), who is in accordance with the principles and policies of the Association, may become a member of a Youth Council, with the consent of the Board of Directors, by accepting the terms of the Constitution of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and by paying annually the requisite fee. On his/her 25th birthday, the youth council member must transfer his/her membership to the branch.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article IV, Section 7(a) in the Bylaws for the Units of the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

7(a). Any person under age twenty-five (25), who is in accordance with the principles and policies of the Association, may become a member of a Youth Council, with the consent of the Board of Directors, by accepting the terms of the Constitution of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and by paying annually the requisite fee. By his/her 25th birthday, the youth council member must transfer his/her membership to the branch or College Chapter if currently enrolled as a student at said college or university.

5. Change Article V, Section 14 (Controversies between Branch and Youth Units) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP (Page #26)

Governance

CURRENT

14. (*Controversies between Branch and Youth Units*)

Within fifteen (15) days after a controversy arises between a Youth Unit and a Branch, the Advisor, the Presidents and Secretaries of both Units shall prepare and forward signed report(s) to the President and CEO of the Association for mediation, arbitration, decision or referral to the appropriate Regional Office or State/State-Area Conference for investigation and other action. Respective parties shall send copies of all reports submitted by them to State/State-Area Conference and Regional Office and to the other

party to the controversy. The original report to the President and CEO shall contain a statement that copies have been forwarded as provided above.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article V, Section 14 in the Bylaws for the Units of the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

14. (Controversies between Branch and Youth Units)

*Within fifteen (15) days after a controversy arises between a Youth Unit and a Branch, the Advisor, the Presidents and Secretaries of both Units shall prepare and forward signed report(s) to the President and CEO of the Association for mediation, arbitration, decision or referral. Respective parties shall send copies of all reports submitted by them to State/State-Area Conference and **Field Operations and Membership Department** and to the other party to the controversy. The original report to the President and CEO shall contain a statement that copies have been forwarded as provided above.*

6. Change Article VII, Section 4(g) (Treasurer) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

Duties of Officers of Units

CURRENT

- g. Submit year-end financial reports to the National Office on or before February 1st.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article VII, Section 4(g) in the Bylaws for the Units for the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

- g. Submit year-end financial reports to the National Office on or before March 1st.

7. Change Article X, Section 3 (Complaints) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

Change Article X, Section 3: Complaints

Expulsion, Suspension or Removal of Officers and Members

CURRENT

3. (***Complaints***)

A complaint against an officer or member of a Branch of the NAACP may be initiated by any 20 members of the affected Branch and must be signed by such

members and forwarded to the National Office and Chief of Field Operations and the State/State-Area Conference. The National Office may seek input from said State/State-Area Conference on the complaint. The complaint must include the officer or member's mailing address.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article X, Section 3 in the Bylaws for the Units for the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

3. *(Complaints)*

A complaint against an officer or member of a Branch of the NAACP may be initiated by any 20 members of the affected Branch and must be signed by such members and forwarded to the National Office **to the attention of the President and CEO as well as** State/State-Area Conference. The National Office may seek input from said State/State-Area Conference on the complaint. The complaint must include the officer or member's mailing address.

8. *Change Article X, Section 5 (Notice of Complaint Right to Answer) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP*

Expulsion, Suspension or Removal of Officers and Members

CURRENT

5. *(Notice of Complaint and Right to Answer)*

Upon receipt of the complaint by certified or regular mail, the National Office shall forward a copy of the complaint by mail to the officer or member against whom it has been filed at the officer or member's correct address of record within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the complaint. The respondent officer or member shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the complaint to file a written response by certified or regular mail, sent to the Chief of Field Operations. The 15-day period shall commence to run from the time service of the complaint is complete. Service of the complaint upon the officer or member shall be deemed complete five (5) days after the complaint was mailed by the Chief of National Field Operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article X, Section 5 in the Bylaws for the Units for the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

5. *(Notice of Complaint and Right to Answer)*

Upon receipt of the complaint by certified or regular mail, the National Office shall forward a copy of the complaint by mail to the officer or member against whom it has been filed at the officer or member's correct address of record within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the complaint. The respondent officer or member shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the complaint to file a written response

by certified and regular mail, sent to the attention of the Vice President of Field Operations and Membership Department. The 15-day period shall commence to run from the time service of the complaint is complete. Service of the complaint upon the officer or member shall be deemed complete five (5) days after the complaint was mailed by the Vice President of Field Operations and Membership Department.

9. Change Article X, Section 6 (2nd paragraph) (National Office Review and Investigation) in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP (Page #77)

Expulsion, Suspension or Removal of Officers and Members

CURRENT

After receipt of the National Staff or hearing panel's decision, the complainant and respondent shall have fifteen (15) calendar days within which to appeal. Notice of Appeal shall be filed with the National Office, by regular mail, through the Chief of National Field Operations, Department of Branch and Field Services, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215. If an appeal is filed, the National Office shall notify the Committee on Membership and Units within fifteen (15) days. The Committee on Membership and Units will review the findings and conclusions of the National Staff or hearing panel. Upon failure to appeal within a fifteen (15) day period, the complainant/respondent's opportunity to appeal is waived.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to change Article X, Section 6 (2nd paragraph) in the Bylaws for the Units of the NAACP to read as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGE

After receipt of the National Staff or hearing panel's decision, the complainant and respondent shall have fifteen (15) calendar days within which to appeal. Notice of Appeal shall be filed with the National Office, by certified and regular mail, to the attention of Vice President of Field Operations and Membership Department, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215. If an appeal is filed, the National Office shall notify the Committee on Membership and Units within fifteen (15) days. The Committee on Membership and Units will review the findings and conclusions of the National Staff or hearing panel. Upon failure to appeal within a fifteen (15) day period, the complainant/respondent's opportunity to appeal is waived.

10. Amend and Ratify Charter Eligibility Criteria for the NAACP Prison Branches in the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP

WHEREAS, NAACP prison branches are in dire need of reducing their charter eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, current institutional policies now enacted hinders NAACP Prison branches from maintaining charter eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, due to prisoner transfer and re-shuffling between institutions and being released on parole from prison makes sustaining 50 members extremely difficult; and

WHEREAS, NAACP Prison Branches should be held under the same charter eligibility criteria for College Chapters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will change Article III Section 3(c) Charter Eligibility Criteria for Prison Branches. In any prison/correctional facility where there is no existing Prison Branch, *applications shall be made to the National Office for Prison Branch charter in conjunction with procedures established by the Board of Directors. Prospective Prison Branches must be comprised of no fewer than 25 members. Section 3 (c)(1) Maintaining a Prison Branch Charter. A Prison Branch shall maintain no fewer than 25 members; shall pay all annual assessments; and, shall file all annual year-end reports as required by the Association.*"

11. An Annual Report on the Status of National Resolutions

WHEREAS, each year members of the NAACP travel from all across the United States and from around the world to attend the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, a major part of the experience of attending the National Convention is to have members, branches and state conferences actively participate in developing, proposing and ultimately adopting a policy direction for the organization, as well as concurring on key issues in which the national body will address; and

WHEREAS, knowing the status of implementation of resolutions adopted would give members a greater sense of how the NAACP is representing the interests of its membership, along with planning, managing and measuring the success of the organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Office of the NAACP disseminate through existing publications and post on the website for members, an annual report on the status of resolutions adopted at the National Convention.

12. Combining the Efforts of Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics of the Mind (ACT-SO) and the Back-to-School, Stay-in-School Program to Assist in the Demolishing of High School Drop-Out Rates among African-American Students

WHEREAS, one of the original concerns of the NAACP founders on education stated that high school training should be adequately provided for all, and college training should be the monopoly of no class or race in any section of our common country, and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama urges the country to get involved in community work; and

WHEREAS, in the history of the Civil Rights Movement issues originate from common grass roots citizens; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Jarrett, founder of the NAACP Afro Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics of the Mind (ACT-SO) Program, originally wanted the program to reach out to those students who need an extra boost to stay focused on completing school; and

WHEREAS, W.E.B. Dubois called upon the Talented Tenth Percent of the Black race to reach back and elevate the masses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirm its efforts to reach out to family, friends and neighbors who have dropped out of school and tutor, support, and encourage those students to re-enter high school with the assisted help of the NAACP Back-to-School Program and ACT-SO; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP enlist those drop-out students in the ACT-SO Program with mentors to work with them for a full year in preparation for the annual local and national competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all NAACP units support their youth units in combining the efforts of the ACT-SO and Back-to-School, Stay-in-School Programs in a campaign to eradicate the high drop-out rate among African-American students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP work diligently to find a way to bring together the members of the Youth and College Division membership with the ACT-SO and Back-To-School, Stay In School Programs so that these talented Youth become Active members of the Youth and College Division; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the determination of Active in the Youth and College Division be the sole responsibility of the Unit President and Youth Advisor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that participants in the ACT-SO program be encouraged to join and participate in the Youth Council through membership and attendance at Youth Council meetings.

13. *The 50th Anniversary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)*

WHEREAS, the NAACP is celebrating its centennial year in the civil rights struggle this year (2009); and

WHEREAS, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC – pronounced “Snick”) is planning a National Reunion next April at Shaw University in Raleigh, where SNCC was founded 50 years ago under the leadership of civil rights icon and the NAACP Field Director, Ms. Ella J. Baker; and

WHEREAS, the two organizations have worked together, helping to bring about a revolutionary change in American Society making it possible for a black man to serve as President of the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all NAACP members and units be encouraged to attend the SNCC 50th reunion; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all members be encouraged to attend SNCC veterans and supporters to join and become active in their local, state, regional and national NAACP units. In as much as SNCC and many of its members have been active in the NAACP.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Slavery

WHEREAS, international concern with slavery and its suppression is the theme of many treaties, declarations and conventions of the 19th and 20th centuries, e.g., Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS, slavery is a crime against humanity; and

WHEREAS, slavery is a worldwide phenomenon affecting rich and poor countries; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 27 million men, women, boys and girls who live everyday in slavery or slavery-like conditions; and

WHEREAS, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that 10 million children aged between five and seventeen work as child domestic slaves worldwide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 1996 Emergency Resolution: Slavery in Sudan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP begin a dialogue with the U.N. Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (which has the general responsibility in the United Nations for the study of slavery in all its aspects), the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences regarding their work to end the practice of slavery; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge the United States Department of State and the Department of Justice to redouble its efforts to develop and implement a multi-faceted approach to fighting and eliminating slavery.

2. NAACP Supports Reduction in Small Arms and Light Munitions Traffic in Pots-Conflict African

WHEREAS, the 1990's witnessed several violent civil wars in Sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS, civil conflict destroyed the economic and social infrastructure in nations such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo; and

WHEREAS, most of these conflicts were fueled and abetted by the ready and reckless availability of small arms and light munitions; and

WHEREAS, each of these nations created peace accords through difficult negotiations processes and with the participation of the international community; and

WHEREAS, post-conflict governments struggle to revive their economies, provide basic services and meet the expectations of citizens who suffered tremendous losses during the years of civil conflict; and

WHEREAS, the over abundance and low cost of small arms and light munitions in places where fighting has ended increasingly undermines stability, peace, security and development; and

WHEREAS, the description of “small arms” includes rifles, pistols and light machine guns and “light munitions” include hand-held grenade launchers and other similar tools of destruction; and

WHEREAS, the widespread abuse of weapons divert scarce government resources from health and education sectors to public security, discourages investment and economic growth and deprives post-conflict countries of the skills and talents of the victims of small arms and light munitions; and

WHEREAS, the availability of small arms and light munitions may escalate conflicts, undermine peace agreements, intensify violence and impact crime, impede economic and social development and hinder development of social stability, democracy and good governance; and

WHEREAS, the threat of small arms violence particularly threatens women and families and impedes their participation in efforts to rehabilitate war scarred societies; and

WHEREAS, the United States (U.S.), other bi-lateral donor nations and international financial institutions provide financial assistance to rehabilitate physical infrastructure and facilitate economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) plays a critical role in sustaining peace and security through stability operation missions and demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programs for former combatants; and

WHEREAS, the lack of U.S. participation in the Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) to consider the implementation of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms reinforces the view that the U.S. is outside the global small arms process and undermines the global nature and significance of the UN process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall encourage the United States Government to participate in the 2010 BMS to consider implementation of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and generally work with international allies to reduce the proliferation of small arms in post-conflict African states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution the NAACP shall publicize its support for the abolition of small arms trafficking to post-conflict African states; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall use its non-governmental organization (NGO) observer status at the UN to participate in the 2010 BMS to speak

out against small arms trafficking and work in coalition with other NGO observers to strengthen international laws and regulations to prevent small arms trafficking.

3. NAACP Supports Sustainable African Development by Building Human Resource Capacity and Expanding Quality Education

WHEREAS, many Sub-Saharan African countries struggle with internal conflicts, natural resource disasters, poverty, capital flight, environmental degradation and low human capital; and

WHEREAS, the global financial crisis has forced Sub-Saharan Africa to take stock of their position in the global economy and prepare appropriate strategies to consolidate existing gains, ensure a better quality of life for their citizenry and avoid being left out of the international community's efforts to transform the global economy; and

WHEREAS, in this complex global context, development requires well educated leaders and strong institutions to solve problems and create opportunities; and

WHEREAS, sustainable development cannot occur without sound human capital with education and health being key components; and

WHEREAS, the development of indigenous capacity, both individual and institutional, is of prime importance to Sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS, building human capacity through education and training is a high priority for increasing human capacity and developing talented young emerging leaders in the political, policy, business, and civil society sectors; and

WHEREAS, building the capacity of educational institutions should include all aspects of instruction from literacy and numeracy training to strengthening African institutions of higher education with the full participation and special emphasis on women and girls; and

WHEREAS, strategic emphasis should be placed on human capital retention, or preventing the "brain drain" and its concomitant negative impact on the development of African economies, institutions and societies; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of Sub-Saharan Africa must assume the lead in creating the opportunities and mechanisms to build human resource capacity through education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall survey the outreach and advocacy initiatives underway to support African human resource capacity building through education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall, in consultation and coordination with African nations and other supportive organizations encourage the U.S. Government and Congress to support African education initiatives with a view toward building human capacity, supporting higher education institutional development to include education exchange and the use of American institutions of higher education to partner with universities in Sub-Saharan Africa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall, working in consultation and coordination with African nations as well as other supportive organizations, utilize its United Nations non-governmental organization (NGO) observer status to advance human capacity and institutional support building policies through UNESCO and other related United Nations agencies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall, in consultation and coordination with African nations and other supportive organizations advocate for policies that advance Sub-Saharan Africa's sustainable development through building human resources by capacity building and an education agenda.

4. Comprehensive NAACP International Affairs Policy

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has a long tradition of significant actions in international issues, beginning with Dr. W.E.B Dubois and the Pan African Movement, continued by James Weldon Johnson opposing, and then working to end the United States (U.S.) occupation of Haiti, through Walter White and the efforts in the founding of the United Nations, the liberation movements of independence from colonialism, the anti apartheid movement, efforts for justice for Haiti, to the current efforts to end the suffering in Darfur and the excessive burdens of international debt; and

WHEREAS, never before have global issues so impacted on local communities through the effects of increasing globalization; and

WHEREAS, issues impacting Africa and the African Diaspora have often received limited attention or even negative impacts of United States policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the logical and most effective organization to address these issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall develop a comprehensive approach to international issues including the issue of globalization for the use both nationally and by the units. That approach should include but not be limited to the following;

1. A focus on Haiti with the need to make the current actions being considered by the Obama Administration, i.e., temporary protected status, increase of and greater coordination of international donor funds, debt forgiveness et. al, come to fruition in the scope of Marshall Plan type effort.
2. In U.S. approaches to Africa, Caribbean and Latin America, work to reform structures for economic recovery to reflect interdependence and cooperation rather than blind reliance on market forces and with respect to Latin America, attention to protection of the large African descendants populations.
3. Efforts to expand weapons reduction beyond nuclear weapons to include small arms which are devastating much of the world, including neighborhoods in the U.S. today.

4. Work for U.S. policy to integrate regional collaboration and bi-lateral partnerships to foster an inclusive approach to resolve issues particularly in Africa and the Caribbean, reducing the increasing emphasis on military control of development activities and utilizing military commands such as AFRICOM and SOUTHCOM only where military capabilities are necessary, e.g., major natural disaster emergency relief.

5. U.S. security policy in Africa should strengthen multilateral peacemaking and peacekeeping capacity by the African Union, African regional groups and the United Nations.

6. Developing a parallel international volunteer effort similar to the domestic one recently initiated that facilitates shorter time periods than the current Peace Corps opportunities utilizing Africa as a pilot.

7. Developing avenues of cooperation with other organizations in European and Latin American countries working for civil rights and advancement of persons of African descent; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that these efforts proceed with the goal of increasing involvement at the State Conference and Branch levels.

LEGISLATIVE

1. NAACP Supports Assisting Ex-Offenders Reentering Society and Reducing Recidivism

WHEREAS, the United States is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.1 million people currently in the nation's prisons or jails; and

WHEREAS, as of 2005, 1 out of every 136 Americans was incarcerated in prison or jail; the numbers are much worse if you are a racial or ethnic minority American – 1 in 8 African-American males (12%) aged 25-29 was in prison or jail 2005 as were 1 in 26 Hispanic males (4%) in the same age group. Comparatively, 1 in 59 Caucasian males in the 25-29 age group were incarcerated in 2005 (1.7%); and

WHEREAS, in 2005, over 40% of prison inmates were African-American and 20% were Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, over 600,000 prisoners are released each year, and given the disproportionate number of whom are African-American and Hispanic, this is having dramatic and disparate repercussions on particular neighborhoods and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, up to two-thirds of all released prisoners nationwide end up back in prison within just 3 years; and

WHEREAS, there are many reasons for this high recidivism rate – many ex-offenders cannot manage to find and keep effective jobs and care for themselves and/or their families; and

WHEREAS, as a result, many ex-offenders become a drain on their families, their communities and the social service system; and

WHEREAS, the *Second Chance Act* is intended to help the more than 650,000 men and women who are released from prison each year re-enter society by providing state and local communities with federal assistance to establish ex-offender reentry projects, with enhanced focus on job training, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as programs to work towards the reunification of children and families of ex-offenders; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2009 the House of Representatives approved an omnibus appropriations bill for the remainder of the 2009 fiscal year that included \$25 million for the *Second Chance Act*, including \$15 million for state and local demonstration grants and \$10 million for nonprofits grants. Furthermore, in the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2010 released on February 26, 2009, President Obama requested \$109 million for prisoner reentry programs, including \$75 million for Second Chance Act programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports full funding of the *Second Chance Act* so that states and communities can begin to address the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly supports the elimination of federal barriers to programs to help very low income Americans simply because the American in question is an ex-offender; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports H.R. 329, the Food Assistance to Improve Reintegration Act of 2009 introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA) which repeals the denial of food stamp eligibility for a person convicted of a felony which has an element of the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.

2. NAACP Supports Efforts to Increase Voter Registration and Turnout and To Ensure that Every Eligible American Can and Does Vote and That His or Her Vote is Counted

WHEREAS, the NAACP has consistently supported federal and state legislative initiative intended to increase the number of eligible voter who participate in election and to ensure that every eligible American can cast a free and unfettered vote and be certain that their vote was accurately counted; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives include the use of a national federal write in absentee ballot; verified ballots; the preservation of voting records; requirements for counting provisional; minimum required voting systems and poll workers in polling places; standards for establishing the minimum required voting systems and poll workers;

election day registration; fair, sensible and uniform standard for the removal from voter registration list; early voting; minimum standards for voting systems and voter registration; internet registration standards for voter identification; election administration requirements; required use of publicly available open source software in voting machines; standards for conducting recounts; standards for prohibiting conflicts of interest on entities involved in manufacture, distribution, or other activities relating to voting machine; an increased penalty for voter deception and intimidation; a prohibition on voter caging and other questionable challenges; national re-enfranchisement of formerly incarcerated individuals; and the treatment of election day in the same manner as a legal public holiday for purposes of federal employment; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP National Legal Department supported several NAACP state conferences in their effort to ensure the equal protection of voting rights in the 2008 Presidential election cases in Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the N.C. NAACP persuaded North Carolina's Attorney General to file an Amicus Brief and, with the help of the NAACP General Counsel we persuaded Attorney Generals of five other states covered by the Voting Rights Act to sign on to the N.C. Amicus Brief, arguing Section 5 was greatly needed to protect the rights of minorities in a case called *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One (NAMUDNO) v. Holder* that had been appealed to the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2009, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *NAMUDNO v. Holder* that declared Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act imposes "substantial 'federalism costs,'" "depart[s] from the fundamental principle of equal sovereignty," and "raise[s] serious constitutional questions," thus opening the door to future challenges to the Voting Rights Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports omnibus federal legislation to strengthen our Nation's voting process, encourage more Americans to register and to vote, and to help those Americans be sure that their vote was accurately counted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports H.R. 105, the Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights Act of 2009 introduced by Congressman John Conyers (MI); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on this, the 100th Anniversary of the NAACP, in honor of the civil rights warriors who laid down their lives for the right to vote, the NAACP will make one of its highest national priorities the passage of the Constitutional Voting Rights Amendment, introduced by Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (H.J.Res. 28), which provides that "all U.S. citizens who are eighteen years of age or older shall have the right to vote in any public election held in the jurisdiction in which the citizen resides;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its support for the passage of federal legislation to create a uniform system of automatic and permanent universal voter registration; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP Washington Bureau will work with NAACP state conferences and like-minded legislators to enact legislation to attain our voting goal in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and all US territories.

3. NAACP Supports Legislation to Address Racial Discrimination and Disparities in Criminal Justice Prosecutions

WHEREAS, while people may argue about the reasons behind it, few would disagree that extensive racial and ethnic disparities exist today in the American criminal justice system, particularly in the area of disparate racial prosecution; and

WHEREAS, these disparities are particularly true for African-American men and boys, who are grossly overrepresented at every stage of the judicial process, from initial contacts with police to punishments. African-Americans routinely receiving more jail time and harsher punishments; 42% of Americans currently on death row are African-American. Nearly a million African-Americans today are incarcerated in prisons and in jails, and unless there is a change, a Black male born today has a one-in-three chance of going to prison in his lifetime. In fact, despite the fact that numerous studies show that African-Americans and Caucasians use cocaine at roughly the same rate, statistics confirm that over 80% of those currently in prison for crack cocaine possession are African-American. More than 60% of the people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities. For Black males in their twenties, 1 in every 8 is in prison or jail on any given day. These trends have been intensified by the disproportionate impact of the "war on drugs," in which three-fourths of all persons in prison for drug offenses are people of color; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult for Americans of color to have faith and confidence in the American judicial system when we know from experience that we are treated differently because of the color of our skin. This lack of confidence in turn, makes us not only distrustful of the system at every level, but also makes it much less likely that we are willing to turn to or cooperate with the very people and institutions who are charged with protecting our safety and ensuring that our Constitutional rights are upheld; and

WHEREAS, the *Justice Integrity Act* aims to address the issue of unwarranted racial disparities in the American criminal justice system. This important legislation would establish 10 pilot programs to create local advisory groups charged with collecting and analyzing racial and ethnic data on charging, plea negotiations, sentencing recommendations and other factors involved in creating these disparities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the *Justice Integrity Act* (H.R. 1412 / S. 495) in the 111th Congress, introduced by Congressmen Steve Cohen (TN) and John Conyers (MI) and Senators Ben Cardin (MD) and Arlen Specter (PA) and calls for its speedy enactment.

4. NAACP Reiterates its Support for the Swift Enactment of the "Employee Free Choice" ACT

WHEREAS, there can be no doubt that unions have improved, and continue to benefit, the lives of American workers. Currently, union workers earn 26% more in median weekly wages than non-union workers; unionized women earn 31% more than their non-union counterparts, and Black union workers earn 29% more than non-union African-Americans. Furthermore, 75% of union workers have health benefits, compared to 49% of non-union workers. 69% of union workers have short-term disability coverage, compared to 30% of their non-union counterparts. Finally, 82% of union workers get life insurance, compared with 51% of non-union workers; and

WHEREAS, the impact of unions – ensuring that all working Americans are treated fairly and share in the prosperity – cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, despite the continuing strength and advocacy power of unions, however, some employers continue to treat workers poorly, not paying them a fair wage or providing them with necessary benefits: the purchasing power of workers' wages is 5% below where it stood 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, CEO pay has continued to rise and is currently more than 1,000 times the earnings of the average worker; the richest 13,000 US families have nearly as much income as the poorest 200 million combined; and

WHEREAS, some employers continue to fight the legitimate organization of unions: 70% of American employers in manufacturing threaten to close the plant if workers choose a union; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950's, when 30% of workers belonged to unions, only a few hundred workers suffered retaliation for trying to organize a union; in 1969, the number of workers suffering retaliation was just over 6,000 and by the 1990's more than 20,000 workers each year were victims of discrimination when they tried to organize a union; and

WHEREAS, the *Employee Free Choice Act* (S. 560 introduced by Senator Reid, NV and H.R. 1409, introduced by Congressman George Miller, CA) will make sure workers have a fair chance to exercise their democratic right to choose a union by making it easier for a union to act as a mediator for workers if the majority of workers have provided authorized signatures indicating that they want the union to act as their representative; and

WHEREAS, the *Employee Free Choice Act* simply lets the workers decide – not the corporation – whether to form their union through a majority sign up or an election; and

WHEREAS, under the *Employee Free Choice Act* workers can still have an election if they want one including a secret ballot election: instead of their company controlling how workers organize, workers will have the choice of which path to use.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP strongly supports the *Employee Free Choice Act* and encourages the Congress and the President to work for its speedy enactment.

5. NAACP Support Court Supervised Loan Modifications for Families Facing Foreclosure

WHEREAS, currently in America there are on average of 6,600 foreclosures a day; that is one every 13 seconds; and

WHEREAS, home foreclosures have hit the African-American community especially hard: for decades predatory, sub-prime loans (which have led to many of the foreclosures) were targeted at African-Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities. In 2006 and 2007, at least half of all the home loans sold to African-Americans and at

least 40% of all the home loans that Latinos received were subprime. These disparities occurred even when people of color had similar qualifications to white applicants; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates are that communities of color will lose an estimated \$213 billion of wealth as the result of foreclosures due to abusive subprime lending; and

WHEREAS, we clearly need a multi-pronged approach to solving our nation's foreclosure crisis and getting many of these homeowners into sustainable, long-term mortgages that accurately reflect the true market price of the home; and

WHEREAS, one way to do this, at no cost to U.S. taxpayers, is to enact a minor reform of our nation's bankruptcy laws. Currently, if an individual files for bankruptcy, a judge cannot require a financial institution which is foreclosing on that person's home to renegotiate the loan to attempt to make it more reasonable and sustainable so that the person, and their family, can stay in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the subprime lenders who created this foreclosure crisis are able to seek relief through bankruptcy as well investors, but homeowners trying to save their primary residents cannot; and

WHEREAS, court supervised loan modifications are a major solution to help families avoid foreclosure while still paying a market-rate mortgage for their home. It is estimated that if enacted closing this loophole could reduce coming foreclosures by 20% amounting to 1.8 million homes at no additional cost to taxpayers or investors; and

WHEREAS, many foreclosures today could be avoided, although this is not happening because we are currently relying on lenders to voluntarily enter into modification negotiations. As a result, only 3.5 percent of the delinquent subprime loans received modifications in August, 2008-and in many cases, these "modifications" actually increased the borrowers monthly payments; and

WHEREAS, many of the impending foreclosures are necessary because the home owner could afford to pay a market rate mortgage, for the full current value of the house-an outcome that is far preferable to foreclosure for home owner and mortgage lender alike; and

WHEREAS, current voluntary efforts to avoid foreclosures are insufficient, we need to give judges who are dealing with homeowners facing foreclosure more power.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support efforts to change current law and allow bankruptcy judges to require loan modifications on mortgages when homeowner is facing foreclosure; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports legislative efforts, such as H.R. 200 and H.R. 1106, both offered by Congressman John Conyers (MI) and S.61, offered by Senator Richard Durbin (IL) which would allow bankruptcy judges to require loan modifications on mortgages when a homeowner is facing foreclosure.

6. NAACP Supports Smart, Sensible Legislation to Allow Communities to Develop Youth Anti-Crime Programs

WHEREAS, gang violence has proven to be especially devastating to our country's racial and ethnic minority communities and to our youth: many of the crimes committed by gangs and gang members are reprehensible and cause irreparable harm not only to individual victims but to families and whole neighborhoods as well. While the perpetrators of these crimes must be punished, it is becoming clear that we must take a proactive approach and try to steer at-risk youth away from gangs and towards being successful, productive members of our communities before a crime is committed; and

WHEREAS, the "Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act" (the "*Youth PROMISE Act*"), introduced by Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott (VA) and Senators Robert Casey (PA) and Olympia Snowe (ME) (H.R. 1064 / S. 435 in the 111th Congress), is intended to reduce juvenile and gang-related crime before it happens by investing in research-based programs. The *Youth PROMISE Act* mobilizes community leaders and invests almost exclusively in prevention and intervention, as opposed to the standard approach, which is obviously not working, of waiting for a crime to occur and then putting the alleged criminals in jail; and

WHEREAS, the *Youth PROMISE Act* allows communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges to form a council to include representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools, social service organizations, health and mental health providers and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations. These councils will then develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies that fit the needs of the particular community. These strategies will target young people who are at-risk of becoming involved, or who are already involved in, gangs or the criminal justice system and redirect them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the *Youth PROMISE Act* and calls for its quick enactment.

7. NAACP Supports the "National Criminal Justice Act of 2009"

WHEREAS, with 5% of the world's population, our country now houses 25% of the world's reported prisoners; and

WHEREAS, more than 60% of the people in prison in the United States now are racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, for Black males in their twenties, 1 in every 8 is in prison or jail on any given day; and

WHEREAS, these trends have been intensified by the disproportionate impact of the "war on drugs," in which three-fourths of all persons in prison for drug offenses are people of color; and

WHEREAS, incarcerated drug offenders have soared 1200% since 1980; and

WHEREAS, mass incarceration of illegal drug users has not curtailed drug usage. The multi-billion dollar illegal drugs industry remains intact, with more dangerous drugs continuing to reach our streets; and

WHEREAS, four times as many mentally ill people are in prisons than in mental health hospitals; and

WHEREAS, post-incarceration re-entry programs are haphazard and often nonexistent, undermining public safety and making it extremely difficult for ex-offenders to become full, contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the costs to our federal, state, and local governments of keeping repeat offenders in the criminal justice system continue to grow during a time of increasingly tight budgets; and

WHEREAS, existing practices too often incarcerate people who do not belong in prison and distract from locking up the more serious, violent offenders who are a threat to our communities; and

WHEREAS, the *National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009*, (S. 714) introduced by Senator Jim Webb (VA) on March 26, 2009, will create a blue-ribbon commission charged with undertaking an 18-month, top-to-bottom review of our entire criminal justice system. Its task will be to propose concrete, wide ranging reforms designed to responsibly reduce the overall incarceration rate; improve federal and local responses to international and domestic gang violence; restructure our approach to drug policy; improve the treatment of mental illness; improve prison administration; and establish a system for reintegrating ex-offenders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP supports the need for a total overhaul of our nation's criminal justice system, and as such supports S. 714, the *National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009*, and urges its swift enactment.

8. NAACP Supports Legislation to Ensure Accurate, Uniform High School Drop-Out Retention Reporting

WHEREAS, in 2001, The No Child Left Behind Act ("NCLB") passed with broad bipartisan support. The purpose of No Child Left Behind was to ensure that every student in America would receive a quality education; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, under current law, the only meaningful accountability measures for high schools is students' scores on standardized tests, with virtually no concern given to how many students graduate or drop out of school. Sadly, this myopic accountability measurement has created an incentive for high schools to push out students who are struggling academically, so that their test scores are not counted in the assessments. Furthermore, the current accountability system also has allowed States to report graduation rates inconsistently and in misleading ways. Finally, NCLB does not require the

disaggregation of graduation rates by subgroup, leading to incomplete data on how our schools are doing with one subgroup compared to others; and

WHEREAS, each year, about 1.23 million secondary school students, approximately one-third of all secondary school students, fail to graduate with their peers. In addition, nearly 2,000 secondary schools--roughly 12 percent of all secondary schools in the United States--produce about half of the Nation's secondary school dropouts. In these schools, the number of seniors is routinely 60 percent or less than the number of freshmen three years earlier. And almost half of the Nation's African-American students and nearly 40 percent of Latino students attend these so called ``dropout factories," while only 11 percent of white students do; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime earnings difference between a high school dropout and a high school graduate is about \$260,000; and

WHEREAS, the *Every Student Counts Act*, introduced by Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott (VA) and Senator Tom Harkin (IA) will bring meaningful accountability to America's high schools by requiring a consistent and accurate calculation of graduation rates across all fifty states to ensure comparability and transparency. The legislation builds on the National Governors Association's Graduation Rate Compact, which was signed by all 50 of the Nation's governors in 2005. Under the Every Student Counts Act, graduation rates and test scores are treated equally. Moreover, the Every Student Counts Act would require high schools to have aggressive, attainable and uniform annual growth requirements. This will ensure consistent increases to graduation rates for all students by meeting annual, research-based benchmarks with the long-term goal of reaching a 90 percent graduation rate. The bill would also require the disaggregation of graduation data by subgroup to make certain that schools are held accountable for increasing the graduation rate for all of our students and require that school improvement activities focus on closing any achievement gaps.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP strongly supports the *Every Student Counts Act* and calls for its swift enactment.

9. Reaffirming the NAACP's Commitment to Address the Problem of African-American Land Loss

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey shows that the amount of farmland owned by African-Americans has declined by half, to about 7 million acres, since 1920, while White ownership has remained constant; and

WHEREAS, according to the 1997 U.S. Census of Agriculture between 1920 and 1997 there was a 98 percent decrease in the number of African-American farmers; and

WHEREAS, according to U.S. Agriculture Census, African-American farm ownership peaked at 15 million acres in 1910 and declined to 2.4 million acres in 1997; and

WHEREAS, according to the 1999 Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey African-Americans own less than 1% of all privately owned rural land; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund, heir property ownership problems, estate planning problems, tax sale, partition sale, voluntary sales and lack of legal counsel are some of the common causes of African-American land loss; and

WHEREAS, the subprime mortgage crisis is a cause of African-American land loss; and

WHEREAS, according to a Center for Responsible Lending report, African-Americans are more likely to receive higher-rate home purchase and refinance loans than similarly situated white borrowers; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development report titled *Unequal Burden* as cited in the NAACP's report *Discrimination and Mortgage Lending*, even when income and credit risks are equal, African-Americans are up to 34 percent more likely to receive higher-rate and subprime loans with a prepayment penalty than their similarly situated counterparts; and

WHEREAS, according to another Center for Responsible Lending report, an estimated 8 to 10 percent of all African-Americans and Latino families who received a home loan in 2005 will be affected by subprime foreclosures; and

WHEREAS, due to such discriminatory lending practices, according to the Center for Responsible Lending as stated in the NAACP's report *Discrimination and Mortgage Lending*, at least one million African-Americans and other minorities are at great risk of losing wealth, approximately \$164 billion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2005 Anti-predatory Mortgage & Payday Lending Practices and 2002 Policy on Predatory and Payday Lending Practices resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 1979 and 1981 Black Land Loss resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NAACP Office, in conjunction with the NAACP Housing Committee, shall develop an effective Housing Program to address issues such as Black Land Loss, the subprime mortgage crisis and fair housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge USDA to provide more support and funding for research, education and extension activities geared to the needs of black family-sized farmers, instead of simply catering to the needs of large farmers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge the USDA to fully implement the recommendations of the 1997 USDA Civil Rights Action Team Report and 1998 National Commission on Small Farms "A Time to Act Report"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge the USDA to provide more concentrated outreach, education, and technical assistance for African-American and other disadvantaged farmers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge Congress to enact the legislation to protect Americans from predatory lending such as the Home Ownership Bill (Senate Bill 2452) and the Foreclosure Prevention and Sound Mortgage Servicing Act (H.R. 5679); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge Congress to establish a nine month moratorium on foreclosures.

10. *Racial Disparities in the United States Estuary Programs*

WHEREAS, the National Estuary Program (NEP) was created in 1987 by amendments to the Clean Water Act to “identify, restore, and protect nationally significant estuaries in the United States”; and

WHEREAS, the NEP affords scientists and students places to study environmental biology, geology, chemistry, and physics while supporting recreational activities such as boating, fishing, swimming, surfing, and wildlife viewing; and

WHEREAS, the above stated activities have created an interdependent coastal industry, including housing development, that has generated billions of dollars in revenue; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans and other minority students have been denied access to opportunities, training and resources afforded through the NEP; and

WHEREAS, the 28 Estuary programs are:

- Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds, North Carolina
- Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine Complex, Louisiana
- Barnegat-Bay, New Jersey
- Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Maine
- Charlotte Harbor, Florida
- Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries, Texas
- Lower Columbia River Estuary, Oregon and Washington
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania
- Delaware Inland Bays, Delaware
- Galveston Bay, Texas
- Indian River Lagoon, Florida
- Long Island Sound, New York and Connecticut
- Maryland Coastal Bays, Maryland
- Massachusetts Bays, Massachusetts
- Mobile Bay, Alabama
- Morro Bay, California
- Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island
- Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, New Hampshire and Maine

- New York-New Jersey Harbor (Harbor Estuary Program), New York and New Jersey
- Peconic Bay, New York
- Puget Sound, Washington
- San Francisco Estuary, California
- San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico
- Santa Monica Bay, California
- Sarasota Bay, Florida
- Tampa Bay, Florida
- Tillamook Estuaries, Oregon

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) request the United States Congress require representative minority participation, such as that of the NAACP Branches and State Conferences, in federally funded environmental programs as it relates to planning, implementation and policy in the NEP and related government policy making programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all NAACP Units request a seat on each of the 28 Estuary Programs in the United States and other environmental, rural and urban, policy decision-making bodies related to environmental matters.

11. Subprime Lending Catastrophe

WHEREAS, African-Americans represent a disproportionate number of homeowners with sub-prime lenders mortgages and many have become and will become victims of the sub-prime lender institutions, are filing bankruptcy, and homes are being foreclosed and

WHEREAS, African-Americans will be disproportionately and economically affected in an adverse manner causing harm to their credit rating and causing them to probably not become a home owner again; and

WHEREAS, we believe that there was a deliberate plan to entice unsuspecting, unknowledgeable home purchasers to secure loans that were set up for failure at the outset; and

WHEREAS, the sub-prime lenders used subliminal predatory lending methods and marketing to entice these non-suspecting African-Americans that were desirous of being home owners with marginal credit; and

WHEREAS, the sub-prime lenders received their profits and high interest rates from these victims and the new mortgage company will resell the property and have major profit gains again with a new set of victims; and

WHEREAS, the African-American victims will be given a IRS form 1099 and have a tax debt for the difference in what is owed to the mortgage and what the property is sold for in a distress sale.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP asks the Federal Government to intervene on behalf of the African-American victims as it has done with the sub-prime

lenders through non-punitive intervention such as a bailout or debt deferment in the like manner of the sub-prime lenders; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Federal Government provide assistance to these victims that have lost their life savings and homes through unscrupulous practices of financial money market manipulators.

12. Business Contracts and Federal Stimulus Funds

WHEREAS, the United States has allocated billions of dollars to local and state government, including college and school districts, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, for the purpose of stimulating the economy; and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars will be spent on a variety of public service projects for construction, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans and other minorities have been historically left out of contracting opportunities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, racial inequality in business opportunities has decimated the presence of African-American and other minorities in government contracting, due to initiatives such as Proposition 209 in California; and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars in contracting opportunities will be lost in the minority business community without ensuring the implementation of minority business participation goals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People strongly request Barack Obama and U.S. Congress to eliminate racial disparities in business contracting opportunities through re-affirming minority business participation goals.

13. NAACP Supports the Community Reinvestment Act and Urges Congress to Modernize and Expand it

WHEREAS, the NAACP has an existing policy in strong support of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA); and

WHEREAS, the Community Reinvestment Act is one of the most effective tools for leveraging loans and investments, for low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. It also mitigates foreclosures by requiring banks to lend consistent with safety and soundness; and

WHEREAS, CRA encourages banks to respond to a variety of needs in low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities, ranging from financing affordable rental housing homeownership, and small business creation to economic development. Federal

agencies conduct Community Reinvestment Act exams and rate banks based on the banks' lending, investing, and provision of services and branches in Low Moderate Income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, banks have made community development loans totaling more than \$407 billion. They also made small business loans of more than \$581 billion in Low Moderate Income neighborhoods from 1996 through 2007; and

WHEREAS, points to banks for foreclosure prevention efforts including counseling and modifying loans. Community Reinvestment Act exams penalize banks for making loans that are unfair and deceptive; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Reserve Board, only 6 percent of all high-cost loans in 2006 (a boom year for high-cost lending) were considered on bank Community Reinvestment Act exams. Banks consistently have issued a smaller percentage of high-cost loans over the last several years than independent mortgage companies not covered by Community Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, the Community Reinvestment Act is currently in a position to be expanded and modernized; such a move could bolster the accountability of banks to all communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the expansion and modernization of the Community Reinvestment Act. Specifically, the Community Reinvestment Act should be expanded to require Community Reinvestment Act exams in the great majority of geographical areas banks serve. Currently Community Reinvestment Act examines banks in areas where they have branches but not in other areas where lending through brokers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the modernization of the Community Reinvestment Act should address racial disparities in lending by requiring Community Reinvestment Act exams to explicitly consider lending and services to minorities in addition to Low Moderate Incomes communities. These disparities would be narrowed if the Community Reinvestment Act scrutinized bank performance in serving minority communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP educate its units on the Community Reinvestment Act; therefore units must report its findings and all other questions to the Field and Membership Department; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP continues to support the Community Reinvestment Act and calls on Congress and the Administration to expand and modernize the Act so that it is even more effective.

14. *Endorsement of H.R. 676, The United States National Health Care Act*

WHEREAS, it is ethically unjustifiable for physicians and other healthcare professionals to base their care professionals to base their care of ill patients upon their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, 45.7 million non-elderly Americans were without health insurance, i.e. spent 10% or more of their income on health care; and

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured and underinsured Americans has grown steadily during this decade; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden of illness causes half of all bankruptcies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, both large and small businesses find purchasing health insurance for their employees increasingly unaffordable; and

WHEREAS, high health insurance premiums contribute to the most individuals filing bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the United States ranked 43rd in total expectancy in the world and ranked near the bottom of healthy life expectancy at the age of 60 by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, for-profit insurance and pharmaceutical companies enjoy profit margins well above the average Fortune 500 company that combined with overhead accounts for over 30% of each health care premium dollar spent; and

WHEREAS, the current system of health care in the United States limits patients using their healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 99 promising that all Americans would enjoy a system of health care that ensures affordability, cost efficiency, comprehensive benefits, elimination of disparities to access, continuity of coverage, and ease of use for patients. Providers and practitioners with legislation to be enacted by 2004 to create such a system; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, after two years of input from Americans throughout the country the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report to President Bush recommending a healthcare system that by 2012 makes health care affordable for all Americans, guarantees financial protection against very high health care cost, fosters integrated community health networks, defines core benefits and services for all Americans, promotes quality and efficiency of care, and fundamentally restructures the way end-of life services are financed and provided; and

WHEREAS, “consumer driven health care” shifts cost to the sick that can least afford needed health care and health savings accounts add additional cost to the health care system by creating financial firms to manage those accounts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. GAO has estimated the savings from converting to a National Health Insurance system at 10% of health spending, over \$210 billion in 2007, which is enough to cover the uninsured and to improve coverage for all those who now are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative John Conyers has introduced H.R. 676, The United States health Care Act, which as of April, 2009 had been co-sponsored by 74 members of the 111th U.S. Congress besides Mr. Conyers; and

WHEREAS, enactment of H.R. 676 would assure universal coverage of all medically necessary services to all Americans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People endorses H.R. 676, the United States Health Care Act, which would allow all Americans to enjoy the benefit of a fine health care system in the world with the providers of their choices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a National Health Insurance system would collect premiums from individuals and businesses so that all would pay a fair share of the financing of the public health insurance system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the only role for government in such a system would be to collect such premiums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Medicare A/B/D/C and Medicaid would be combined to form such a National Health Insurance system to further reduce administration costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that benefits and reimbursements would be assessed and operations would be directed by a consortium consisting of an equal number of representatives from the American Medical Association, the American Nursing Association, and Consumers Union; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of money allocated to the National Health Insurance system in future years remain equal to the amount allocated to our current system in 2009 dollars adjusted for inflation or percentage of GOP, whichever is higher; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirmed its policy on National Health Care programs and a comprehensive public healthcare option which provides access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans, as well as reaffirming its support for the HR 676 (National Health Insurance Program); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that uncovered services would continue to be purchased by individuals through private insurances or cash payments in a free market system with transparent pricing, which in turn would spur competition and the creation of innovative technologies.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. *Support Clemency for Reginald "Reggie" Clemons in Death Penalty Case*

WHEREAS, the Missouri State Conference NAACP has launched a Clemency Campaign to save the life of Reginald "Reggie" Clemons, an innocent African-American man on death row, who will be executed unless Missouri Governor Jay Nixon or the Missouri legal system intervenes; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Supreme Court has ordered a review of the Reggie Clemons case and appointed a Special Master with the full power and authority to issue subpoenas and compel production of books, papers, and documents and the attendance of witnesses to hear evidence and have it transcribed to the same extent as it might be in a trial before the Missouri Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Reggie Clemons is a 37 year old African-American man sentenced to death in Missouri after an unfair trial by a jury that was biased in favor of execution and there is overwhelming evidence of Reggie's innocence that has never been heard in court; and

WHEREAS, Reggie¹s case is filled with many injustices, including police torture, brutality, gross prosecutorial misconduct, which included the use of a confession compelled by torture that should have been excluded, as well as ineffective trial counsel. Reggie, who had no criminal record, was a teenager at the time of his arrest; and

WHEREAS, Reggie was beaten by the police and coerced into making a false statement; and was denied an attorney. At Reggie's arraignment, Judge Michael David noted that Reggie had suffered physical injury while in custody and sent him to a hospital Emergency Room. The prosecutorial misconduct in Reggie¹s case was so severe that the prosecutor was held in criminal contempt of court and fined for his conduct; and

WHEREAS, a federal Judge vacated Reggie¹s death sentence in 2002 and noted that the actions of the Prosecutor, Nels Moss, were abusive and boorish; and

WHEREAS, a total of 130 people have been exonerated from death row nation-wide, and 20 death row inmates have been cleared of their crimes before being put to death in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, in February 2009, the NAACP National Board of Directors voted to support efforts to stop the execution of Troy Davis in Georgia, consistent with NAACP resolutions in 2004, 2001 and 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the American Bar Association and in 2008 the United Nations General Assembly similarly called for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2004, 2001 and 1975 resolutions in opposition to the death penalty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP commends the Missouri Supreme Court's decision to give further consideration and review the case of Reggie Clemons.

The Supreme Court's decision will allow the NAACP and myriad other groups to continue to increase advocacy efforts on Reggie's behalf in Missouri and around the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will launch a Clemency Campaign to save the life of Reggie Clemons, an innocent African-American man on death row, who will be executed unless Missouri Governor Jay Nixon or the Missouri legal system intervenes. The NAACP is calling on people to get involved and contact Governor Nixon or Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster urging them to prevent the execution of an innocent man; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the U.S. Attorney General to review all death penalty cases as they specifically relate to racial disparities and discrimination especially, the cases of Reggie Clemons, Mumia Abu Jamal, Troy Davis and Eddie Conway from Maryland; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that more than 60% of the people in prison are people of color and African-Americans make up more than 40% of those on death row. At this Centennial Convention July 11-16, 2009 in New York, the NAACP has unveiled a national campaign aimed towards reversing those trends. The campaign's overarching goals are to make communities safer, improve police performance, save money and end the mass incarceration of African-Americans that characterizes our country's criminal justice system.

LEGISLATIVE

1. Support for the US Auto Industry Workers

WHEREAS, the US auto industry, through its manufacturers, dealers, suppliers and other directly related businesses, has been the economic engine that has driven our country's prosperity for a century, as well as being the greatest contributor to the creation of America's middle class; and

WHEREAS, the US auto industry has been the central employer in thousands of towns and communities whose local businesses, schools, hospitals, roads, police and fire protection and other infrastructure depends on the revenue it provides; and

WHEREAS, the US auto industry and its unions have long provided opportunity for Americans mired in poor conditions without connections or wealth to escape poverty, through hard work and determination, to realize their piece of the American Dream, and more importantly, to earn their self esteem; and

WHEREAS, the US auto industry, through its unions, has consistently led the struggle to provide a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, for better wages and advancement opportunities based on skills, knowledge, hard work and seniority rather than race, religion, cronyism or other discriminatory factors; and

WHEREAS, the people of the US auto industry and its unions have historically been in the front lines of the battle for social justice and civil and human rights, and

WHEREAS, the US auto industry is under attack by some members of Congress and other politicians, lobbyists, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund and others that have acted concertedly through the expenditure of millions of dollars, the use of media and other unscrupulous methods to undermine the men and women working in the auto industry and their unions; and

WHEREAS, certain foreign auto companies that are unionized in their own countries and whose employees there enjoy a standard of living in their societies greater than their counterparts in the US, take advantage of weak US labor laws to viciously, and often unlawfully fight unionization of their workers in the US; and

WHEREAS, the US auto industry, through its employees' innovation and knowledge, has spawned technologies in widespread use in other industries, including space and defense applications that has cast the US as a leader in the world, and

WHEREAS, the destruction of the US auto industry, the arsenal of democracy, will jeopardize our industrial base and put the US at the mercy of other countries in providing the necessary vehicles, equipment and machinery to defend our homeland.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, as an organization and as individuals, support legislation and other government efforts to ensure the survival of the US auto industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, as an organization and as individuals, commit to fight legislation that may be presented to further weaken or destroy the US auto industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, as an organization and as individuals, commit to fight efforts to weaken or eliminate labor laws that protect workers and their right to organize, or to undermine collective bargaining agreements that provide a fair day's pay for a fair day's work; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we, as an organization and as individuals, commit to support 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 intimidation.

2. NAACP Strong Support for the Nomination of Sonia Sotomayor's Nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court

WHEREAS, on Monday, May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Judge Sonia Sotomayor to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice David Souter; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of immigrant parents (her father, a tool-and-die worker with a third grade education, died when she was nine years old; her mother, a nurse, raised Judge Sotomayor and her brother on a very modest salary), she grew up in the housing projects in the Bronx. She went on to graduate from Princeton University summa cum laude in 1976, and then from Yale Law School (where she was the editor of the law journal) in 1979; and

WHEREAS, after law school Judge Sotomayor got a job as an assistant district attorney in New York City, where she prosecuted cases involving police brutality, murder, child pornography and assaults. After a time in private practice, she was nominated in 1991 by President George H. Bush to serve as a federal judge for the U.S. District Court, southern District of New York. Six years later, she was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as an appellate judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, where she has served since 1998; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sotomayor has been a prosecutor, private litigator, trial judge, and appellate judge. No one currently on the Court has that complete package of experience. If confirmed for the Supreme Court, Judge Sotomayor would bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years, and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Court in the past 70 years; and

WHEREAS, a thorough review of Judge Sotomayor's record shows that she is an intelligent jurist with mainstream values and an even temperament. Her 17 years on the federal bench show that she takes an impartial and balanced approach to the cases before her, and that she is above all fair.

THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP does support and strongly endorse the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the US Supreme Court; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on the entire United States Senate to quickly confirm Sonia Sotomayor to the US Supreme Court.

3. NAACP Celebrates the On-going Legacy of Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

WHEREAS, John Conyers, Jr. has served the people of the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the Nation for over four decades in the House of Representatives, first elected in 1964 as the only candidate to ever receive the endorsement of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and is one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the longest-serving African-American in Congress; and

WHEREAS, since his election to Congress, John Conyers, Jr. has worked tirelessly in the public interest, striving to create jobs and economic opportunities, to be a peacemaker throughout the world, and to ensure equality and justice for all Americans but especially for communities of color and all those who have known the shackles of discrimination and oppression; and has been recognized for this work by the NAACP as its 92nd Spingarn Medalist; and

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, Congressman Conyers has consistently supported, if not led, the NAACP legislative agenda and has voted in support of the NAACP position every time he has been able to vote on the floor of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Conyers has continued the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement during his tenure in Congress; and beginning in 1968, introduced legislation to commemorate the life and work of Dr. King with a federal holiday until 1983 when the Martin Luther King Holiday was created; and from 1965 until 1988, Congressman Conyers employed Ms. Rosa Parks, whose defiant act of courage triggered the Montgomery Bus Boycott, one of the catalysts for the Civil Rights Movement; and upon Ms. Parks passing on October 24, 2005, Congressman Conyers led the legislative effort in the U.S. House of Representatives to have her lie in honor in the Capitol rotunda; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, Congressman Conyers has introduced H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, to provide a formal examination of one of our nation's greatest historical injustices, the institution of slavery, as well as its contemporary consequences; and

WHEREAS, John Conyers, Jr. is a lifelong friend of the union movement and the American worker; he helped pass the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act of 1978; he was a fierce opponent of attempts by the Reagan and Bush Administrations to roll back worker safety standards, eliminate overtime, and undermine workers' collective bargaining rights; and he continues to fight for equal pay for women and minorities, an increased minimum wage for all workers, and full employment for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Conyers is a tireless advocate for health care reform, rooted in his belief that universal access to high-quality, affordable health care is both a fundamental right and a necessary condition for eliminating inequality; to which end he has sponsored H.R. 676, a bill to guarantee affordable single-payer health care for all Americans that serves as the standard for comprehensive, progressive health care; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Congressman Conyers became the first African-American to serve on the House Committee on the Judiciary and later its first African-American Ranking Member and first African-American Chairman; and through his service on the Judiciary Committee, has introduced legislation aimed at ending racial profiling and police brutality, helping families save their homes from foreclosure, protecting Americans from violent hate crimes, and eliminating unfair sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine; he led the opposition to President Clinton's impeachment and engineered the defeat of extremist congressional attacks on federal affirmative action programs; and he helped enact historic legislation including the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, the Second Chance Act of 2007, and the Pigford Claims Act of 2008 protecting Black farmers; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Conyers has championed the cause of strengthening and expanding voting rights throughout his tenure in Congress, beginning with the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its subsequent reauthorizations, the 1993 National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter) and the 2002 Help America Vote Act; and conducted a comprehensive study of the voting irregularities in Ohio in the 2004 election, culminating in the report *What Went Wrong in Ohio*; and has worked to secure congressional

representation for the more than half a million Americans who are disenfranchised residents of the District of Columbia; and has sponsored legislation to address the voter suppression and intimidation that continues to plague low-income and minority communities; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Conyers performed vigorous oversight over extremist Administrations which were fighting against civil rights and civil liberties, whose violations included acts such as the warrantless wiretapping of Americans, the improper firing of U.S. Attorneys and the politicization of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the manipulation of intelligence reports in making the case for war; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Conyers sponsored H. Con. Res. 57, which recognized Jazz as a uniquely American musical idiom and culture and valued expression of the African-American experience; and has a strong record of advocating for the rights of minority artists and performers, including leading the charge against record labels' "work-for-hire" legislation and preserving artists' ownership of their work; championed the Digital Performance Right in Sound Recordings Act of 1995, the first law to give artists fair compensation for digital performances; and is the primary sponsor of H.R. 848, also known as the Civil Rights for Musicians Act of 2009, which would protect against the exploitation of musicians and ensure that they are fairly compensated for their performances over terrestrial radio while at the same time protecting the interests of small and minority-owned radio stations; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, Congressman Conyers has been the subject of unscrupulous and unfounded attacks on his commitment to the African-American community and his very character; and which attacks have ignored his lifelong and continuing fight for justice, equality and economic opportunity for minorities and for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, HR 848 ends a decade's old, outdated exemption from the copyright laws that allows radio stations to exploit African-Americans and other musicians by not paying them for their music when it airs on radio. Every modern country requires radio stations to compensate musicians, and copyright law requires that artist be compensated in every other circumstance-when their music is played on satellite radio, downloaded from iTunes or even played at a local bar. HR 848 is about ending exploitation of African-American musicians and paying them fair wage for their work; and

WHEREAS, HR 848 is a labor issue HR 848 is about paying artist for their work. A fair day's work deserves a fair day's pay; that's a plain and simple truth that is American as apple pie. And its principle inviolable to the labor movement; and

WHEREAS, HR 848 is a civil rights issue: Martin Luther King Jr. went to Memphis to ensure that sanitation workers got paid a fair wage. Compensating people fairly for their work is a basic civil right. We did not wage a civil rights movement to enable a few rich African-American millionaires to exploit and hoodwink African-American musicians; and

WHEREAS, HR 848 protects small black radio stations: for smaller radio stations-including over 90% black radio stations-royalty fees under the bill are limited to only \$5,000 a year for the rights to play all music they want. That's the cost of a few radio ads for an entire year's rights; and

WHEREAS, HR 848 is life and death for many musicians: The *Performance Civil Rights Act* would ensure that fifty percent or more of all performance royalties go directly to the performers-not through the labels. This would be the first time in history that performers would be compensated when their songs are played on the radio. And if the performers still own the copyright, they get all the proceeds; and

WHEREAS, HR 848 is fair to big radio: HR 848 will barely cost big radio companies at all. It's the equivalent of five commercials a day. And small African-American radio stations are largely exempted from big payments to artists; and

WHEREAS, this income would be the only source of income for many older performers: they didn't write the songs-but they brought them to life. Without the performers, these songs would be nothing but words on a page. And for many of them radio performances are their only source of income.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP endorses and supports HR 848, the *Performance Rights Act* and calls on NAACP units and members throughout the country to contact their Representatives, Senators and the President of the U.S. to pass this measure into law, so America's performers can receive the respect they deserve.

MEMORIAL

1. NAACP Honors the Life, Career and Lasting Impact of Michael Jackson

WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana, August 29, 1958 and passed away on June 25, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Michael was one of nine children raised by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Catherine Jackson, together they helped develop their children professionally and spiritually for stardom. Consequently, the Jacksons enjoyed more than 40 years of fame as the Jacksons, which began during a tumultuous racial climate in America; and

WHEREAS, it was the music of Michael and the Jackson Five that neutralized and calmed the restless spirits of frustrated baby boomers and revolutionaries of the sixties and seventies; and

WHEREAS, Michael Jackson began singing with the Jackson Five at the young age of nine years old, it was his unique gift of choreography, musical productions and extraordinary vocals that enhanced the famous "Moonwalk"; and

WHEREAS, these and many talents have attributed to their phenomenal international exposure and success, Motown created Berry Gordy initially opened the doors to stardom by awarding their debut musical contract with Motown Records; and

WHEREAS, Michael Jackson (aka “King of Pop”) broke racial barriers in the entertainment industry with his dramatic, flamboyant style by appearing as the first Black entertainer to appear on MTV; and

WHEREAS, his career and success opened numerous doors for subsequent black and minority entertainers to showcase their talents on this originally exclusive entertainment medium; and

WHEREAS, Michael Jackson has visited Africa and underdeveloped communities to extend moral and charitable support, he has equally donated generously to charitable causes, earning him recognition in the Guinness Book of World Records for philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Beverly Hills/Hollywood Branch and the Los Angeles Branch honored Michael Jackson at a reception held during the 1984 NAACP National Convention in Kansas City to kick off “Jackson’s Victory Tour”; and

WHEREAS, Michael Jackson received the NAACP Image Award for Life Time Achievement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 100th Annual Convention of the NAACP recognize and honor Michael Jackson’s legacy across America by leaving catalogues, collections and memories of his phenomenal legacy that will live forever; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP go on record to acknowledge Michael Jackson’s creativity and personal contribution to the entertainment industry and humanity.