

# **NAACP<sup>®</sup>** **RESOLUTIONS**

## **2000**

**SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 2 OF  
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP**

## 2000 RESOLUTIONS

### I. Civil Rights

1. **NAACP's Participation in the United Nations World Conference Against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**  
[Corona-East Elmhurst, NY Branch]  
[New York State Conference]

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in 1997 to hold the Third World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; and

**WHEREAS**, the significant international forum has been scheduled to be held August 31 to September 7, 2001 in South Africa with objectives to include:

- Reviewing the progress made in the fight against racism, re-appraising obstacles to further progress in the field and ways to overcome the obstacles;
- Increasing the level of awareness regarding the scourges of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- Reviewing the political, historical, economic, social, cultural and other factors leading to racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia; and
- Formulating concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination [CERD] in 1994 with some reservations which nullified the provisions of CERD that exceeded current U.S. law and denied U.S. citizens the right to enforce all the provisions of CERD directly in court. However, by ratifying CERD, the U.S. is obligated on behalf of federal, state and local governments:

- To submit periodic reports to the UN/CERD describing legislative, administrative and judicial measures to implement treaty obligations;
- To identify areas in which law and practice fall short of treaty rights for any resident of the U.S., and to take steps to comply;
- To establish a mechanism to monitor compliance on federal, state and local levels;

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- To educate all government employees, federal, state and local as well as the general public on the U.S. obligation under the treaty to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, racial discrimination in the U.S. continues to negatively impact the lives of Americans of African ancestry as well as other people of color in almost every aspect of life as current statistics reveal in employment, education, criminal justice, credit, housing and health care; and

**WHEREAS**, the current trend of hate groups and hate literature utilizing the Internet blames these existing measurable disparities on the victims rather than the continuing persistent present manifestations of racism and the legacy of uncompensated slave labor along with the barbaric injuries inflicted on the minds and bodies of Africans held as slaves for nearly 400 years; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the founding members of the NAACP were also key strategists in establishing the League of Nations which preceded the United Nations with the hope that this International World Body would serve as a positive forum to address racial discrimination in America; and

**WHEREAS**, the prophetic words of one of our own freedom fighters, W.E.B. Dubois, still applies to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, “... *the problem of the Twentieth Century is the Color Line.*”

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP take all necessary steps to actively participate in the U.N. World Conference on Racism, August 31-September 7, 2001 by:

- Obtaining status with the United Nations as a Certified Non-Governmental Organization with Consultative status so that the NAACP will be eligible to participate fully at the World Conference;
- Urging that the U.S. Government conform federal, state and local law with recognized international human rights standards;
- Demanding that the U.S. State Department submit the required reports to the U.N. in compliance with U.S., obligations under CERD. [To date, the U.S. has not submitted a report].;
- Urging President Clinton to take a leadership role now in preparing for the World Conference on Racism by designating funding, rescinding the U.S. reservations to CERD and granting the right to U.S. citizens to enforce CERD in U.S. courts;
- Calling upon all NAACP units to contact their Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate to request that they earmark funding for U.S. participation in the World Conference and by designating an appropriate congressional delegation to participate in the World Conference;

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- Calling upon all NAACP units to educate their local communities on the significance of the World Conference on Racism by holding public forums; and
  - Providing NAACP representation at the 2001 World Conference with documentation of the continuing effects of racism and the work of the NAACP to combat it.
2. **Re-establish Criminal Justice Department and Jubilee 2000 Amnesty**  
[Georgia State Conference]  
[Moberly, MO Correctional Center]

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was established in 1909 to protect the civil and human rights of blacks and other people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 1.5 million men, women, boys and girls in prison or detention in America; and

**WHEREAS**, in America, a disproportionate number of blacks are in the Criminal Justice System; and

**WHEREAS**, while blacks in America constitute less than fifteen percent (15%) of the general population, America's prison population is more than fifty percent (50%) black; and

**WHEREAS**, the imprisonment rate of blacks is not reflective of the crime and arrest rates where whites are being granted probation and lighter sentences more frequently than blacks for similar crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, many factors other than crime can account for this higher imprisonment rate of blacks, including racially biased courts, economic factors, inadequate or inaccessible legal defense and the imposition of stiffer mandatory penalties for crimes, e.g., crack v. powder cocaine sentencing; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP had a program to address racial injustices in the criminal justice system that included the prison and parole system; and

**WHEREAS**, the prison program had its genesis on May 25, 1972 when the first prison branch of the NAACP was organized at the U.S. Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, the objectives of that program were:

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- To measurably aid in the rehabilitative process of incarcerated men and women throughout America by making available to them membership in this nation's most prestigious civil rights organization;
- To channel the energy and talents of prisoners into constructive pursuits; and
- To aid prospective parolees in securing firm job commitments before their release and to reduce this nation's recidivism rate and the amount of taxpayer dollars spent by returning more ex-offenders to their communities as assets rather than liabilities.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People re-establish the Prison Program to address issues relating to the prison population; and that the National Office of the NAACP support the development of NAACP Prison and Parole Task Forces at the state and local levels to address and to seek remedies to the high rate of imprisonment of African-Americans, the poor, and other people of color; and that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People support the development of special Jubilee Year 2000 Amnesty Project by State Conferences and local branches which provide for the categorical and immediate release of certain unjustly confined prison inmates who may have been wrongly corrected or unduly sentenced and who pose no danger to society.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all state conferences and local branches of the NAACP take action consistent with the national policy to address the high incidence of the incarceration of blacks throughout America.

3. **Confederate Battle Flag and Emblem**  
[Georgia State Conference]

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate States of America came into being by way of secession from the United States of America out of a desire to defend the right of individual states to maintain an economic system based on slave labor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate Battle Flag, Confederate Flag and Emblem have been embraced as the primary symbols for the numerous modern-day groups advocating white supremacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate Battle Flag, Confederate Flag and Emblem in its present position of display makes a statement of public policy that continues to be an affront to the sensibilities and dignity of a majority of Americans.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention reaffirm its condemnation, as expressed in its 1999 Resolution, of the confederate battle flag

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or the confederate battle emblem being flown over, displayed in or on any public site or space, building, or any emblem, flag standard or as part of any public communication; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all units of the NAACP shall urge all corporations of good conscience to remove flags bearing the confederate battle emblem from their business property; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP shall call upon other organizations, churches and faith groups, businesses, corporations and similar entities which embrace freedom and justice to consider locations other than such states or cities until such time that the confederate battle emblem is removed.

3(a). **Re-affirming Economic Sanctions for South Carolina**  
[1999 Resolution]

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate States of America came into being by way of secession from and war against the United States of America and out of a desire to defend the right of individual states to maintain an economic system based on slave labor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate Battle Flag was raised in the States that comprised the defunct Confederate States of America for the supposed celebration of the Centennial of the War between the States and as an unspoken symbol of resistance to the battle for civil rights and equality in the early 1960's; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate Battle Flag has been embraced as the primary symbol for the numerous modern-day groups advocating white supremacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the placement of the Confederate Battle Flag at the South Carolina State House with the flags of two existing governments, the United States of America and the state of South Carolina, implies sovereignty and allegiance to a non-existent nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate Battle Flag in its present position of display makes a statement of public policy that continues to be an affront to the sensibilities and dignity of a majority of African-Americans in the State of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of South Carolina possesses a unique linkage of heritage and family which makes South Carolina a prime destination for African-American family reunions, resulting in tourism dollars that benefit the State of South Carolina, and an estimated sixty-eight percent (68%) of all African-American family reunions are held in South Carolina; and

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**WHEREAS**, dollars spent on tourism, conventions and meetings by African Americans, other people of conscience and corporate entities serve to enrich the State of South Carolina, the "Mother State of Secession" which continues to fly the banner of secession.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon and demand the U.S. Department of Justice to remove any and all confederate flags from and on public property for being a treasonous act within this jurisdiction; and

**NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its 1999 Annual Convention reaffirms its condemnation of the Confederate Battle Flag being flown over the South Carolina State Capitol and displayed within the South Carolina House and Senate Chambers, and renews its call for the removal and relocation of the Confederate Battle Flag to a place of historical rather than sovereign context; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all Units of the NAACP shall join the South Carolina Conference of Branches in urging all families planning reunions in South Carolina to consider locations outside of the State as reunion sites until such time that the Confederate Battle Flag is removed from positions of sovereignty in the State of South Carolina; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National NAACP shall call upon other African-American National organizations, churches, and faith groups, businesses and corporations, and similar national entities of other cultural compositions that embrace freedom and justice to consider locations other than the State of South Carolina as convention or meeting sites, until such time as the Confederate Battle Flag is removed from positions of sovereignty in the State of South Carolina; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the National NAACP shall apply these economic sanctions against the State of South Carolina as well as any further measures as appropriate, commencing January 1, 2000, until such time that the Confederate Battle Flag is no longer displayed in positions of sovereignty in the State of South Carolina.

4. **Calling Upon the Attorney General and the Justice Department to Investigate Abuse of Fourth Amendment Rights**  
[Staten Island, NY Branch]

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court recently reversed a Florida conviction that had involved an anonymous tip about a person unlawfully in possession of a firearm; and

**WHEREAS**, the police in many of the nation's cities have "profiled" people of color disproportionately for "stop and frisk" procedures with no reasonable cause.

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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People call upon the Attorney General and the Justice Department to investigate abuses of the Fourth Amendment prohibition against unwarranted stops, searches and seizures.

### **II. Criminal Justice**

1. **Improving Police Community Relations Policing Techniques**  
[Boston, MA Branch]  
[Denver, CO Branch]

**WHEREAS**, police use of excessive force has been a problem experienced by American communities for nearly one hundred years and has been a subject of concern at NAACP meetings since 1909; and

**WHEREAS**, the divide between communities of color and public servants charged with protecting law abiding citizens of all communities is growing at an alarming rate and continues to expand as disturbing allegations of gross police misconduct and selective enforcement by police of laws in a manner adversely affecting people of color nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP asserts that now is the time for public officials and other citizens of every community across the country to re-evaluate policing practices and the relationship between law enforcement agencies and their respective communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, police use of excessive force is not simply a police-community relations problem but also is a serious crime that involves violence and corruption and that causes needless injury and death undermining public confidence in all police, can be prevented; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado is among those states which is specifically identified as a high crime area where: (1) police use excessive force, and (2) police officers fail to report police use of excessive force; and

**WHEREAS**, each year NAACP branches across the country receive many complaints about police use of excessive force and our response to these complaints should be proactive and preventive, just as it is with other serious crime problems plaguing our community; and

**WHEREAS**, a proactive and preventive response should include encouraging police departments to improve their management techniques not only in the areas of recruitment, training, promotion and supervision, but also in the specific area of preventing the crime of police use of excessive force; and



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**WHEREAS**, police departments are legally required to take steps to prevent police use of excessive force; and

**WHEREAS**, there are programs which can help police departments develop and implement management techniques identifying associated variables and "at risk" police officers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP re-affirm its 1991 and 1996 policy on police brutality calling upon all of its Units to work with other community organizations to establish community advisory committees to review the measures and strategies which police departments take to combat police brutality, to include:

- reviewing existing police eligibility standards;
- proposing revision of such eligibility standards, where warranted;
- identifying the variables or factors associated with police officers using excessive force;
- identifying those police officers "at risk" for using excessive force; and
- encouraging appropriate law enforcement and other governmental officials to take appropriate proactive and corrective measures to effectively manage the associated variables and "at risk" police officers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon all units to work with police unions and other police associations to identify and eliminate union contract barriers which prohibit equal opportunity in hiring and promotion within the ranks; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP encourage all states to enact legislation specifically to identify police use of excessive force as a crime; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP encourage all police departments to develop and implement appropriate management techniques specifically designed to prevent police use of excessive force.

- 1(a). **Re-affirming Excessive Force and Misconduct by Law Enforcement Officers and Police Departments**  
[1996 Resolution]

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is strongly committed to a Criminal Justice System (CJS) that is fair, equitable and dispenses justice without regard to race, sex, residency or socio-economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is strongly opposed to crime and predatory criminals; and

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**WHEREAS**, the personal safety of citizens from physical and verbal abuse from law enforcement officials is just as important as the containment of crime and criminals; and

**WHEREAS**, in many communities the actions and behavior of the staff of the Police Departments, Sheriff Offices and law enforcement agencies at all levels are increasingly abusive and are violations of the civil rights and physical well-being of citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP study outlined in *Beyond the Rodney King Story* causes grave concern regarding police misconduct, excessive force and questionable behavior.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this 87<sup>th</sup> National NAACP convention condemn police misconduct and the use of excessive force; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NAACP Branches charge their appropriate Committee to monitor police misconduct and the use of excessive force; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NAACP Branches use their Legal Redress Committees to become an advocate for innocent citizens who report instances of police misconduct and the use of excessive force; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NAACP Branches actively publicize these shameful incidents via widespread media and press conferences; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP National Office pursue litigation when necessary to eradicate all forms of police misconduct and excessive force.

1(b). **Re-affirming 1991 Resolution on Police Brutality**  
[1991 Resolution]

**WHEREAS**, the National NAACP has always stood for justice and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, this organization has always taken action to eradicate injustice and inequality; and

**WHEREAS**, this nation remains faced daily with unfair and unjust police brutality; and

**WHEREAS**, the lives of American citizens, particularly African-American citizens, are taken by excessive use of force.

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that the National NAACP continue to take a stand to initiate and hold appropriate authorities accountable for investigations and, when necessary, take legal action against police brutality and negligence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Chiefs of Police be held accountable to elected public officials who will have responsibility to hire and fire Chiefs of Police who are in violation of accountability resulting from police brutality; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP requests in every jurisdiction establishment of citizen police review commissions with said commissions having powers, duties and responsibilities comparable to other human relations commissions already existing in some jurisdictions, and that all units take an active role in addressing this issue.

2. **Establishing State Governors Special Commissions to Study Disproportionate Minority Representation in States' Correctional & Juvenile Justice Systems**  
[Willingboro, NJ NAACP]

**WHEREAS**, nationally, minority individuals are markedly over-represented among inmate populations relative to their representation in the overall population; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause of this imbalance is likely of multiple origin; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 223 (a)(23) of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquent Prevention (JJDP) Act require states receiving funds through the JJDP Act to assess and address over-representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system and take action to reduce the proportion these groups represent in the general population.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP use its vast network to advocate for the appointment of special commissions to study minority over-representation within the state's juvenile justice system; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that where there is over-representation of inmates that the states be required to take appropriate action to comply with the provisions of Sections 223 (2)(23) of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquent Prevention Act or any other federal laws.

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### III. Education

#### 1. Unqualified Support of Public Education [Madison, WI Branch]

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP historically has been in strong support of public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has denounced movements toward privatization, that is diverting public funds to support non-public school “choices”; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has been in the forefront of the struggle for equality and equity in public education for more that ninety (90) years; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP acknowledges the undisputed connection between a quality education and freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of the NAACP’s support, the failure rates of African American and other students of color in America’s public schools remains inexcusably high in spite of a rich literature of known strategies which, if adapted, will assure the successful education of all American students; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of the NAACP’s support, African Americans comprise a majority of America’s prison, jail and community corrections population – most of whom lack a high school diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, public education has not responded promptly or adequately enough to counter the pervasive and devastating rates of educational failure experienced by African Americans and other students of color across America; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears that the NAACP’s unqualified support is being taken for granted by educational leaders across America; and

**WHEREAS**, unqualified support of public education may serve as a strong incentive to improve public education for students of color.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP provide unqualified support of public education on an annual basis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP incorporate in its bi-annual Daisy Bates Summit on Education progress reports regarding students of color; require educational leaders to account for the progress or failure of their organizations in accomplishing positive achievements for students of color; require the presentation of empirical data on key variables linked to educational success (e.g., attendance, grade point averages, scores on standardized tests); and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP develop a detailed agreement with the NEA on behalf of its affiliates, the AFT and its affiliates, the National Administrators Association [NAA] and the National School Board Association [NSBA] to improve and place this country's best teachers in the schools where African American children are enrolled; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a conference report be prepared for review by the NAACP President/CEO; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the President/CEO forward the report and recommendations to the National Board of Directors for action.

2. **Exploitation of Collegiate Athletes**  
[Madison, WI Branch]

**WHEREAS**, intercollegiate athletics, especially in football and basketball, have become a lucrative business; and

**WHEREAS**, the endowments and budgets of colleges and universities, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), coaches, athletic directors, some alumni, businesses, cities and counties have benefited richly from the growth of income-generating sports; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAA recently secured a multi-billion dollar contract with CBS for the broadcasting rights of the basketball championships alone; and

**WHEREAS**, collegiate athletics represent the "gateway" or farm club system for professional football and basketball; and

**WHEREAS**, African American students are disproportionately represented among collegiate football and basketball players;

**WHEREAS**, the majority of collegiate football and basketball "stars" are African American; and

**WHEREAS**, it is illegal for students to share in the profits generated by their work; and

**WHEREAS**, students and the colleges they attend are frequently, severely disciplined for minor but often inadvertent infractions of NCAA rules regarding compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, many athletes are indigent; and

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**WHEREAS**, the graduation rates of student athletes of color are often sub-standard; and

**WHEREAS**, many athletes of color leave college with no degree, broken dreams and bodies.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP work with NCAA, NAIA, colleges and universities and the newly formed Student Athletic Association to achieve equitable treatment of student athletes in income-generating sports including, but not limited to, compensation and academic resource services that will lead to graduation even after their college eligibility has expired.

### **IV. Economic Development**

#### **1. Discriminatory Sub-prime and Predatory Lending Practices** [Boston, MA Branch]

**WHEREAS**, sub-prime lending, where loans are extended to people with impaired credit, is a growing segment of the mortgage market; and

**WHEREAS**, sub-prime loans serve a function; the objective of the financial institutions should be to help applicants rehabilitate their credit, not to expand the sub-prime market; and

**WHEREAS**, such loans are increasingly targeted to African Americans, elderly and female heads of households; and

**WHEREAS**, such loans are characterized by high interest rates, excessive and unnecessary fees and costs, balloon payments, pre-payment penalties, unnecessary costs for credit life, accident or health insurance, and repeated re-financing or “flipping” of the loan; and

**WHEREAS**, discriminatory and predatory lending practices are widespread throughout neighborhoods of color and serve to deny people of color access to mainstream credit; and

**WHEREAS**, credit discrimination and predatory lending practices destroy the financial well-being of its victims, as well as the financial well-being of the entire community.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stands opposed to the discriminatory practices associated with sub-prime and predatory lending in the United States of America and will work through the local, state and federal legislative process to make sure that such practices will be prohibited; and

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**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to identify and assist victims of predatory lending practices, following NAACP procedures, and take action necessary to expose and halt those who engage in discriminatory and unfair lending and credit practices in our communities.

2. **The Health Care Industry and Minority Business Opportunities**  
[Louisville, KY Branch]

**WHEREAS**, nearly one-third of this nation's population is comprised of minorities;  
and

**WHEREAS**, although minorities have less access to preventative health care goods and services, suffer more severe illnesses, have a higher infant mortality rate, have a shorter life expectancy and receive less intensive medical treatment than their white counterparts, minorities still spend billions of dollars each year on health care goods and services from major providers in the health care industry (such as quorum health resources with over 200 medical facilities; Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation with over 200 medical facilities; Tenet with nearly 150 medical facilities; and Health South Corporation with almost 100 medical facilities);  
and

**WHEREAS**, although major providers in the health care industry spend billions of dollars each year with vendors or suppliers of health care goods and services relatively few of these dollars are spent with minority owned companies; and

**WHEREAS**, there are qualified minority companies available to provide health care goods and services but are seldom allowed by major providers in the health care industry, to participate as vendors or suppliers of health care goods and services;  
and

**WHEREAS**, full economic participation in the health care industry by these minority companies is essential for economic parity in employment and business opportunities, as well as progress toward achieving equal access to health care goods and services for minorities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP call for all providers in the health care industry to adopt and implement equal opportunity and affirmative action programs which ensure minorities participate as vendors and suppliers of health care goods and services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call for all providers in the health care industry to implement programs that encourage development of minority-owned businesses which provide health care goods and services.

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### V. Health

#### 1. Annual Blood Drive [Huntington, NY Branch]

**WHEREAS**, the local branch of the NAACP is the backbone of their community, the State Conference and the national organization; and

**WHEREAS**, people are generally living longer, and the need for blood products are increasing and there is no substitutes for blood; and

**WHEREAS**, on a national basis the level of donors should be increased to ensure adequate blood supplies, especially in the months of January and July, when blood supplies reach dangerously low levels; and

**WHEREAS**, many people have to be educated that giving blood is safe; disposable equipment is used, blood is laboratory tested before transfusion and the instances of hepatitis that were prevalent in the 1960's do not exist today; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 1998/99 blood donor campaign in the northeast region, 136,616 pints of blood were collected, and the total donated by the African American, Asian and Hispanic population was 3,610, which is less than three percent (3%) of the total donations for this region; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital to concentrate on these populations in order to increase the number of blood donors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the local branch collaborate with their local blood service and sponsor an **ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE** to encourage African American and all other ethnic donors to donate every two-to-three months; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that guidelines be drawn for distribution to the NAACP Branches' Health Committee for implementation for a successful blood drive at regional, state and national conferences.

### VI. Internal Affairs

#### 1. Support of Increased Legal Support for the National Staff [Dona Ana County, NM Branch]

**WHEREAS**, branches are facing a multiplicity of legal problems, and it has become evident that they do not have sufficient legal staff to give answers to legal questions in a timely manner; and



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**WHEREAS**, it is almost impossible to get any response to any legal issues and/or answers to legal questions in a timely manner from the national legal department; and

**WHEREAS**, local branches are taking action without the benefit of legal counsel; some of their actions may be unauthorized or due to frustration from having to wait so long for a response from the legal department.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of this 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People call upon the National Board of Directors and the President/CEO, to support and provide within two years, an increase of attorneys and legal support staff in the General Counsel's Office to adequately service the legal needs and requirements of the branches; and

**BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED** that the delegates call upon the National Board of Directors to set aside money in the budget to affect this action within the above specified time.

2. **Implementing a National Position for Recognizing Branches not in Good Standing with their State Conference**  
[Georgia State Conference]

**WHEREAS**, the National NAACP has an established protocol that the branches are not recognized at the national level when they are not in good standing with the state conference; and

**WHEREAS**, branches have been known to attend the national convention and receive delegate status and/or operate with the national body without approval of their state conference.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that all rules and protocol be enforced by the National Office to the effect that branches which are not in good standing with their State Conference be denied voting status at the National convention.

3. **Changing Article VII (Annual Meetings), §2 Constitution for College Chapters**  
[President/CEO]

Change Article VII, §2 (Annual Meeting) Constitution for College Chapters to read as follows:

*"The Annual Meeting for the election of officers **shall be held between March 15 and May 1 of each year.** Written notice of the time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of*

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*the Chapter, at least seven (7) days in advance of the date of the Annual Meeting. Notice of the regular monthly or special meetings shall be published in the campus publication."*

4. **Changing Article VII, §2 (Annual Meetings)**  
**Youth Council Constitution**  
[President/CEO]

Change Articles VII, §2 (Annual Meeting) Youth Council Constitution to read as follows...

*"The Annual Election Meeting which may coincide with the regular meeting of the Youth Council **shall be held between March 15 and May 1**, unless the date(s) of the meeting is changed with the written approval of the National Office."*

5. **Changing Article VIII, §5 (Matching Funds)**  
**Youth Council Constitution**  
[President/CEO]

Change Article VIII, §5 Matching Funds, Youth Council Constitution to read as follows:

*"The National Office will match the local assessment for the State Youth and College Division provided that the National Office assessment shall not exceed ten (10) cents per member in the Youth Council paying such assessments into the treasury and provided that the National Office receive a written request for such payment from the State Youth and College Division. Said request must be signed by **the State Youth and College Division President, and the State Youth and College Division Secretary.**"*

6. **Changing Article VIII, §5(a), (State and Regional Assessment)**  
[President/CEO]

Change VIII, §5(a), State and Regional Assessment, College Chapter Constitution

*"The National Office will match the local assessment for the State Youth and College Division which shall not exceed ten (10) cents per member in the College Chapter paying such assessments into the treasury provided that the National Office received a written request for such payment from the State Youth and College Division. Said request must be signed by **the State Youth and College Division President and the State Youth and College Division Secretary.**"*

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### VII. Labor

1. Aviation Programs for African American Youth  
[Denver, CO Branch]

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately one hundred and twenty four thousand (124,000) commercial airline pilots in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately one thousand (1,000) African American commercial airline pilots, with fewer than fifty (50) African American female commercial airline pilots; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP should ensure that African American youth are able to fully participate in all technology fields, particularly aviation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP call for the aviation industry to develop and implement programs which encourage African-American youth to pursue careers in aviation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call for the aviation industry to remove any existing barriers to African Americans working as commercial airline pilots by developing and implementing programs which actively recruit, train, promote and retain African American pilots.

### VIII. Legislative

1. U.S. African American History Museum in Washington, DC  
[Pittsburgh, PA Branch]

**WHEREAS**, African Americans were the only population that came to America's shores as slaves; and

**WHEREAS**, despite persistent, massive legalized/institutionalized racism and discrimination well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, African Americans have played a major role in the building of America, the defending of America and in the shaping and contributing to America in the fields of science, medicine, literature, arts, dance, music, religion and entertainment; and

**WHEREAS**, other ethnic groups which played a role in the building of America have a national history museum on the mall of the nation's Capitol, the seat of government.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP encourages every unit of the NAACP across the country to work in coalition with other like-minded groups and organizations to develop a lobbying campaign to petition the U.S. Congress to

## 2000 RESOLUTIONS

provide a site, funding, and support to erect a full-scale, interactive, high-tech historical museum and research center on the mall of the nation's Capitol for the purpose of documenting, educating and telling the story of the African American experience in the United States from its early beginnings in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

### IX. Racism

#### 1. Condemning State Endorsements of Celebrations to the Former States of the Confederacy [Loudon County, VA Branch]

**WHEREAS**, we consider that state and local endorsement of celebration to the former States of the Confederacy (former Confederacy) an offense and insult to the sensibility of most Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the former States of Confederacy sought to enforce and defend the practice of forced enslavement; and

**WHEREAS**, that the practice was particularly pernicious, brutal, and dehumanizing; and

**WHEREAS**, people of African ancestry were particular targets of that practice; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of the former Confederacy causes distress and anguish to Americans of African ancestry; and to Americans of other ethnic, racial, and religious minority groups.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP condemns State endorsement of celebration of the former States of the Confederacy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all units are urged to oppose those states, counties or city sponsored celebrations of Confederacy.

## 2000 RESOLUTIONS

### 2000 EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

#### I. Criminal Justice

##### 1. Regarding the Lynching of Raynard Johnson in Kokomo, Mississippi

**WHEREAS**, Raynard Johnson, a seventeen [17] year old African American male youth of Kokomo, Marion County, Mississippi, was found dead by hanging in the front yard of his home during the summer of 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, the local District Attorney has made a preliminary finding of suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigations [FBI] are conducting investigations of the incident; and

**WHEREAS**, the manner and circumstances surrounding Raynard Johnson's hanging resemble a classic Mississippi lynching scene; and

**WHEREAS**, anti-lynching and crimes involving deadly force against African Americans were one of the basic tenets of the NAACP's founding; and

**WHEREAS**, the country is experiencing a resurgence of lynchings and crimes involving deadly force against African American males; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP values all human life and particularly the lives of our youth who are entitled to a future and who are our hope for the future.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP will renew its commitment to end lynching and crimes involving deadly force against African American including but not limited to establishing a system for prompt response to cases bearing the characteristics of a lynching or crime involving deadly force against African Americans and establishing actual and visible presence in communities where such incidents occur;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will renew its anti lynching and crimes involving deadly force against African Americans stance by conducting a national campaign to re-educate the country on the history of lynching and crimes involving deadly force against African Americans in America as well as to educate on what may constitute a modern day lynching; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP nationally establishes support for the family of Raynard Johnson and make the investigation and resolution of this case a national priority.

## 2000 RESOLUTIONS

### 2. Police Brutality March on Washington

**WHEREAS**, in 1963 the NAACP and other civil rights groups led more than 250,000 people in the “Great March on Washington” on the United States Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial march leaders including NAACP’s Executive Director Roy Wilkins, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others demanded an end to discrimination in education, housing, employment and the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, police brutality was one of the major issues addressed in the historic march in 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, hate crimes, racial profiling [“driving while black”] and racially motivated police use of deadly force are critical issues in the year 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, several civil rights groups will commemorate the 1963 March On Washington by again marching on the nation’s capital on August 26, 2000 to protest police-citizen violence.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP 91<sup>st</sup> Convention urges all NAACP Unites to support the August 26 March on Washington.

### II. Gaming

#### 1. African American and other Minority Participation in the Gaming Industry

**WHEREAS**, the gaming industry has realized unparalleled growth and expansion into new locations each year; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding economic opportunities are being created in supplying good and services as well as employment and ownership within the ever increasing gaming industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is concerned about the economic impact on African American and other minority communities and the lack of economic inclusion at various levels within the industry; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors shall appoint a task force of the Board to determine an effective strategy for economic reciprocity to benefit the African American and other minority communities in the areas of employment, economic and community development.

## 2000 RESOLUTIONS

The philanthropic sharing of financial benefits, ownership and direct participation of African American and other minority entrepreneurs as well as the procurement of goods and services shall be part of such strategy to benefit African Americans and other minorities; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the task force, in an effort to have the gaming industry considered by the President/CEO as an Economic Reciprocity Initiative target for 2001, will report its findings to the President/CEO by February 2001.

### III. Environmental Racism

#### 1. Regarding Environmental Racism

**WHEREAS**, the problems of environmental hazards stemming from the location of hazardous facilities in predominantly poor and minority communities remains unchanged; and

**WHEREAS**, the problem continues to increase as opposed to being reduced or eliminated due to the failure of public officials to enforce existing regulations, and the equitable implementation or enforcement of local zoning regulations because of the Clean Air and Waters Acts; and

**WHEREAS**, locally elected officials and Board of Zoning have not been responsive to petition by local citizens or to the presentation of documentation of hazardous condition; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a recent trend and a growing national pattern to resolve the problem by changing the local neighborhood, encouraging local residents to relocate or declaring the areas as non-residential as opposed to removal or correction of the hazardous conditions and enforcing zoning laws, thus, denying these citizens the full enjoyment of the property rights and equitable protection of the law;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms its 1996 policy on Environmental Racism; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP goes on record as calling upon local mayors and city and state officials, enforcement agencies, members of local zoning boards and state officials, as appropriate, to review and amend local and state zoning laws and regulations that govern the location of solid waste facilities and other hazardous uses in residentially zoned neighborhoods; and

## 2000 RESOLUTIONS

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP call upon local city and state officials to cease the practice of resolving local residential hazardous conditions by declaring the neighborhood as non-residential rather than correcting the hazardous condition that negatively affects the health of residents.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP call upon locally elected officials to equitably enforce existing zoning and health ordinances and other laws related to environmental and other hazardous conditions.

### IV. Memorial

1. **Establishing a National NAACP Earl T. Shinhoster Memorial Voter Empowerment Award**

**WHEREAS**, Earl T. Shinhoster devoted his life to the principles and mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP]; and

**WHEREAS**, his involvement in the NAACP began thirty-seven years ago as a volunteer and founding member of the Connie Wembley Youth Council in Savannah, Georgia and continued through his employment at various levels of the Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Earl demonstrated an unparalleled commitment and loyalty to the NAACP from a local grassroots to a national executive perspective; and

**WHEREAS**, he was fatally injured in an automobile accident on June 11, 2000 near Tuskegee, Alabama while on a public service mission; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Shinhoster's last official charge of the NAACP was to have been to register four million new voters this year in his position as National Director of Voter Empowerment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP honor the lifetime dedication of this internationally renown political, social and civil rights activist by the establishment of an Earl T. Shinhoster Voter Empowerment Project Award to be presented annually to the individual, group, branch, state conference or region exhibiting the most outstanding contributions in the area of voter registration, voter education, voter participation and/or political action activities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this year's voter Empowerment Campaign be dedicated to the memory of Earl T. Shinhoster and charge each member of the NAACP to redouble their efforts in a 2000 NAACP Convention ***"Let's Do It For Earl"*** Kick Off Campaign.