

NAACP[®] **RESOLUTIONS**

2016

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

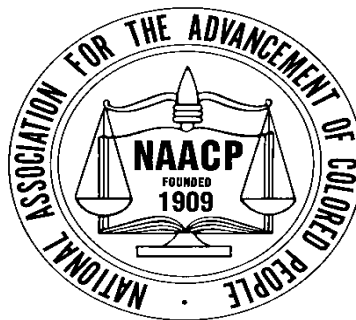
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP

2016

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

1. *(Purpose of the Convention)*

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



All resolutions contained in this packet was reviewed by the 107th Convention of the NAACP, held July 16 through July 20, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 15, 2016 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

1. *National Day of Mourning for African Americans Killed in Police Involved Interactions*

WHEREAS, the NAACP affirms the constitutional right of all citizens to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes that police officers are sworn to protect all of the citizens in the communities in which they serve; and

WHEREAS, police killed at least 336 Black people in the United States in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Black people in the United States are three times more likely to be killed by police than white people; and

WHEREAS, 30% of Black victims killed by police in 2015 were unarmed compared to 19% of White victims; and

WHEREAS, in 97% of the killings of Blacks in police involved interactions in 2015, none of the officers involved were charged with a crime.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recognizes the 11th day of August each year as a **National Day of Mourning for African Americans Killed in Police Involved Interactions**.

2. *NAACP Urges State Governments to Respect Civil and Worker Rights Protections Enacted by Municipal Governments*

WHEREAS, there have been a number of municipalities and local jurisdictions throughout the United States that have been attacked by their State Governments for passing and/or implementing progressive human and civil rights protection legislation; and

WHEREAS, for example, in February 2016, the Charlotte, North Carolina City Council passed an ordinance expanding protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) individuals and protecting the rights of transgender people to choose restrooms according to their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Charlotte ordinance, the General Assembly of North Carolina passed House Bill 2 (“HB 2”), which (1) bars employment discrimination and public accommodations discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, biological sex or handicap, (2) does not bar discrimination against LGBT individuals, and, perhaps most important, (3) supersedes and preempts all local employment and public accommodations ordinances; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina HB 2 also mandates that local boards of education and public agencies require multiple occupancy bathrooms or changing facilities to be designated for and only used by persons based on their biological sex, thereby disallowing transgender individuals from using bathrooms based on their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, in August 2015, the City of Birmingham, Alabama passed an ordinance raising the local minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2017. Birmingham’s population is 74% African-American and 32% of its African-American population lives below the federal poverty level. Birmingham’s minimum wage ordinance was designed to address the problem of poverty in the city; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Birmingham ordinance, Alabama State legislators proposed and helped enact into law House Bill 174 (“HB 174”). The intent and effect of HB 174 is to abrogate Birmingham’s minimum wage ordinance and to prevent Birmingham and other cities lacking “home rule” from increasing the local minimum wage or legislating over any matters regarding employee working conditions in those cities; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned are recent examples of municipalities taking steps to improve or advance civil and/or worker rights protections for their own citizens in the longstanding tradition of municipal self-governance, only to have their efforts thwarted by state officials seemingly unconcerned with expanding such civil and/or worker rights protections.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon state governments throughout the Nation to 1) respect and defer to efforts by municipal governments to enact and expand protections for civil rights, human rights and worker rights in those municipalities; 2) refrain from passing legislation, regulation or any such policy initiative whose purpose or effect is to roll back advances with respect to civil rights, human rights and worker rights; and 3) not use their powers of preemption to overrule the local activities that protect and enhance civil, human, and worker rights.

COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

1. *Reaffirm Resolution to Call Upon Congress to Bestow the Medal of Honor Upon Ship's Cook Third Class Doris "Dorie" Miller*

WHEREAS, after a boyhood of farming and football in Waco, Texas, Doris "Dorie" Miller enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1939 as a Mess Attendant, he was 19 and wanted to see the world and earn some money to send home; he was soon promoted to seamen second class, then seamen first class, and finally to Ship's Cook, third class; and

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

WHEREAS, he was temporarily assigned for training at the Secondary Battery Gunnery School aboard USS Nevada (BB-36) for two months before returning to USS West Virginia in August 1940, and was serving in that battleship when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, the morning of the Japanese attack, Miller arose at 6 a.m., and was collecting laundry when the alarm for general quarters sounded; he headed for his battle station, the antiaircraft battery magazine only to discover that it was wrecked by torpedo damage. He then physically carried wounded fellow Sailors, through oil and water to places of greater safety, to include the captain injured on the bridge, thereby saving the lives of sailors who otherwise would have been lost; and

WHEREAS, at the risk of being court marshaled because he, as an African American, was not authorized to operate a weapon, Miller went back to the deck and manned a .50 caliber-machine gun until he ran out of ammunition and was ordered to abandon ship as the West Virginia slowly settled to the bottom of the harbor leaving 130 men killed and 52 wounded of the 1,541 person crew; and

WHEREAS, Miller described firing the machine gun during the battle, a weapon which he had not been trained to operate:"It wasn't hard. I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I

guess I fired her for about fifteen minutes. I think I got one of those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us;" and

WHEREAS, Miller was commended by the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox on 1 April 1942, and on 27 May 1942 he was awarded the Navy Cross, presented for courage under fire, by Fleet Admiral (then Admiral) Chester W. Nimitz, the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet on board aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV-6) for his extraordinary courage in battle and while speaking of Miller, Nimitz remarked: "This marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race and I'm sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts;" and

WHEREAS, Miller continued to serve in the Pacific and although he was given the option of not going into battle, volunteered for reassignment in 1943 to a new escort carrier, the USS Liscome Bay and early on the morning of 24 November 1943, off Butaritari Island, in the South Pacific, a Japanese submarine's torpedo came ripping into the Liscome Bay, detonating a bomb magazine, sinking the ship within minutes, killing 646 of its 918 sailors, including Doris Miller; and

WHEREAS, Miller was the first African American to receive the Navy Cross, the second highest military decoration for valor that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, because Miller jeopardized his life under heavy fire by bringing other Sailors to safety and manning a machine gun he was never trained on, nor allowed to operate, in a Navy where Blacks could only serve as mess attendants, stewards, and cooks; and

WHEREAS, Miller's sacrifices afforded him a reputation far above his rank, inspired and motivated other African-Americans to join the U.S. Navy, and in recognition of his exemplary performance, the U.S. Navy in 1973 commissioned the frigate the USS *Miller* in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) joins in the chorus of supporters who believe that Doris Miller should be awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration by the United States government, bestowed by Congress on members of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) urges the United States Congress to posthumously bestow the Medal of Honor upon Ship's Cook Third Class, Doris "Dorie" Miller who on 7 December 1941, while the USS West Virginia was being heavily attacked by a Japanese air raid, used his physical prowess to carry wounded Sailors from above deck to safety, thereby saving Sailors

lives that would have otherwise been lost, and without training and facing the risk of being court-martialed, manned a .50 caliber-machine gun until he ran out of ammunition and was ordered to abandon ship and whose courage inspired and motivated other African-Americans to join the U.S. Navy, and who has earned and should be honored with the highest military decoration by the United States government for demonstrating personal valor in the face of almost certain death.

2. Celebrating the Life of Prince

WHEREAS, Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 7, 1958; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 17, Prince followed in his jazz musician father's footsteps and signed a recording contract with Warner Brothers' Records, and would go on to sell over 100 Million albums worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Prince became a household name with his innovative sounds, eccentric dress, and ability to write, arrange, produce and play an estimated 20+ instruments for his songs; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 Prince starred in the blockbuster and loosely autobiographical film *Purple Rain* and accompanying soundtrack—becoming the first person to simultaneously hold a number one album and film; and

WHEREAS, Prince's music, a combination of funk, R&B, Rock, and gospel created what is known as the "Minneapolis Sound" which influenced other Twin City artists and producers such as Morris Day and the Time, Mint Condition, and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis; and

WHEREAS, Prince wrote and produced many songs for noted artists such as Patti Labelle, Chaka Khan, Tevin Campbell, Sheila E., and his songs have been sampled or covered by Beyoncé, Alicia Keys, 2 Pac, Tom Petty, and Madonna; and

WHEREAS, Prince has received numerous awards for his groundbreaking work including NAACP Image Awards, an Academy Award for *Purple Rain*, 7 Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and more; and

WHEREAS, Prince's passion extended beyond his artistry to many philanthropic activities and a strong commitment to social justice. He donated his time and wealth to a host of issues that he was passionate about including Environmental Justice, Economic Empowerment, and overall social justice initiatives and campaigns; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 in response to the protests surrounding the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Prince held a benefit concert in the city and donated a portion of the proceeds to the NAACP ACT-SO program; and

WHEREAS, Prince's influence can be heard in countless newer artists including Esperanza Spaulding, Janelle Monáe, Andy Allo, Miguel, and Frank Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted Prince into its esteemed institution in 2004, the first year that he was eligible for induction after more than 25 years in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2016, Prince passed away at his home in Chanhassen, Minnesota. In the days and weeks after his premature passing, family, friends, and millions of adoring fans around the world took to the airwaves and streets to express their grief on this tremendous loss.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 107th NAACP Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio pauses to celebrate the life and music of Prince and extends its heartfelt and deepest condolences to his family, friends, and fans around the world; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be placed in the NAACP archives and given to Prince's family.

3. *Honoring the Life and Legacy of Horace Julian Bond, Chairman Emeritus, NAACP*

WHEREAS, Horace Julian Bond was born on January 14, 1940, in Nashville, Tennessee to noted educator Horace Mann and Julia Bond; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bond was educated in a Quaker boarding school in Pennsylvania before attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, it was in Atlanta that Mr. Bond began his social and civil rights activism work, while also founding *The Pegasus*, a Literary Magazine, as well as serving as an intern with *Time* magazine; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Bond co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to combat segregation and racial injustice throughout the south and served as its communications director; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 25, Mr. Bond was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives; however, the state legislators refused to seat him due to his opposition to the Vietnam War. A unanimous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court compelled the state to seat him and allow him to serve, and he did so for the next 7 years, followed by 12 years in the Georgia Senate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bond was the first African-American nominated for the office of Vice President of the United States; he declined the nomination because he was too young to serve; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bond also helped to create the Southern Poverty Law Center with noted civil rights litigator, Morris Dees, to fight racism in the court system, and served as its President for eight years; and

WHEREAS, following in his parents' footsteps, Mr. Bond taught at several universities, including Drexel University, American University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Virginia, and Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bond continued educating the American public and the world through his commentary on Byline, NBC's The Today Show, a syndicated column in *Viewpoint* magazine; and

WHEREAS, in its second season the sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live* invited Mr. Bond to be its guest host; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Mr. Bond narrated the critically acclaimed and Academy Award nominated PBS Documentary series *Eyes on the Prize* which chronicled Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s-60s; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Mr. Bond was selected to serve as Chairman of the National Board of Directors for the NAACP, where he served while ushering the organization into the new millennium; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the NAACP National Board of Directors declared that Mr. Bond would be named as a Chairman Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Emeritus Bond's social and political activism, teaching prowess, leadership, and overall freedom fighting work is eclipsed only by his roles as husband to Pam Horowitz; brother to Jane and James; father to Horace Mann II, Jeffery, Michael, Jane, and Julia; and grandfather to eight grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, during this 107th Annual National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, pauses to recognize and express our deepest appreciation and celebrate the contributions of this great civil rights champion, educator, and Chairman Emeritus of the NAACP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit to honor the memory of Julian Bond by incorporating his love of life, commitment to others, passion for family and the mission of the NAACP into our work; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, we thank God for granting the citizens of the United States of America, and indeed the world, the opportunity to benefit from the leadership and work of the Chairman Emeritus Bond, in civil rights and social justice advocacy for all.

4. Honoring the Life and Legacy of Frances Dancy Hooks

WHEREAS, Frances Dancy Hooks, was born February 23, 1927 in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hooks received her early education in the Memphis City School system and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hooks majored in education, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Fisk University and a Master of Science degree from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hooks as an educator and guidance counselor worked to inspire and motivate young people to reach their full academic, leadership and career potential; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hooks lent her talent and intellect to numerous organizations that include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Women's Foundation of Greater Memphis, Memphis Prep Program, Memphis Chapter of Links, Inc., and Girl Friends., Inc; and

WHEREAS, as the wife of the late NAACP Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks, Mrs. Hooks, as the "First Lady of the NAACP," focused on the status and role of women volunteers who provided vital support for its maintenance and expansion; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Mrs. Hooks founded Women In the NAACP (WIN) with the mission to enhance the leadership role of women advocates for issues affecting women and for the positive development of children, and other special issues such as disaster relief.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP during this 107th Annual National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio pauses to recognize and express our deepest appreciation for the leadership of Mrs. Hooks and her commitment to advocacy for women and children; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People commit and honor the legacy of Frances Dancy Hooks by continuing her work strengthening and establishing "WIN" Committees that address civil rights issues affecting women and children and carry out other civil and cultural activities enhancing the work of Branches.

COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

1. *Political Campaign Engagement with Black-Owned Media*

WHEREAS, the NAACP is a non-partisan organization, a champion for social justice and supporter of Black-owned media and businesses in the interest of developing a recognized voice in mainstream media and economic growth in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, political candidates historically and continually fail to include Black-owned media outlets in their multi-million dollar advertising campaigns and in many cases wait until the last minute to devote any resources to Black-owned media; and

WHEREAS, there are over 200 Black-owned newspapers, over 60 Black-owned radio stations, 10 Black-owned television networks, and thirteen Black-owned websites that garnered one million or more monthly unique visitors in January 2015; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 200 years, the Black-owned media has been the benchmark for credibility and engagement by the Black community – attributes that must be developed over time and that are essential to the long-term success of campaigns that depend on massive and enthusiastic Black voter turnout. Engaging Black voters through Black-owned media outlets is both necessary and successful in earning Black votes; and

WHEREAS, candidates and campaigns should be supported and endorsed not only by their orations but by their actions. Politicians who ignore Black-owned media are displaying their disdain for Black entrepreneurship and their disinterest in Black voters; and

WHEREAS, consistent engagement with Black-owned media throughout a campaign builds credibility within the Black community and helps demonstrate commitment and interest in addressing issues that affect Black voters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on all candidates, parties, and political action committees, throughout their campaigns to advertise extensively with Black-owned print, broadcast, and online media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on all political election campaigns, political action committees, issue referendum campaigns, political parties and other election oriented initiatives to report on all vendor and contractor spending, disaggregated by race, gender, ethnicity, and national origin one year before the election (whether general or primary), six months prior to the election, ninety days prior to the election, with the final report being provided ninety days after the election date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all NAACP units urge election campaigns, political action committees, issue referendum campaigns, and other election-oriented initiatives to sign a pledge to disclose the race, ethnicity, and gender of contractors engaged to implement their media strategies and the amount spent with each such contractor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the major political parties, the presidential candidates, political action committees, referendum campaigns and other political initiatives as appropriate.

2. *Encouraging the Support of Infrastructure Build Out to Pave the Way for Next Generation Networks*

WHEREAS, mobile broadband access is critical in creating economically sustainable communities of color; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the African American community leads the nation in wireless broadband adoption – 12% of African Americans are smartphone-dependent, compared with 4% of Whites according to the April 2015 Pew Research Center Report, U.S. Smartphone Use in 2015, a phenomenon the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council has named the “Minority Wireless Miracle”; and

WHEREAS, building on the value of wireless service to consumers, the next generation of mobile connectivity, known as 5G, will increase network reliability, reduce latency (delays in data communications), provide consumers and businesses with higher speeds, and be capable of serving a greater number of wireless devices than current technology; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the success of next generation technology, wireless carriers will have to deploy small antenna infrastructure connected via wireline fiber facilities; and

WHEREAS, 5G signals cover shorter distances than 4G signals, thus requiring several times as many smaller cells than traditional cell towers; next generation networks work only if deployed intensively; and

WHEREAS, in order for next generation networks to have maximum impact for consumers and extend the Minority Wireless Miracle, wireless carriers and state and local governments – especially in densely populated urban areas - must work together to encourage the deployment of this technology; and

WHEREAS, local governments should balance the deployment of new generation wireless technology with local governments' role in managing rights-of-way, maintaining safe communities, and promoting economic development; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon local governments to modernize their permitting processes to include, but not limited to, an equitable Community Benefits Agreement to enable the rapid deployment of small antenna infrastructure to support next generation networks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges local governments to work collaboratively with businesses to bring next generation networks to their cities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state and local government officials as appropriate.

3. Urging the Federal Communications Commission to Modernize the Lifeline Program to Address the Homework Gap

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has long supported policies that help to close the digital divide and make it easier for low-income households with school-age children to have access to broadband Internet; and

WHEREAS, nearly all students receive homework requiring access to the Internet for its completion; and

WHEREAS, minority and low-income students are at a disadvantage without online access in order to do school work; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Pew Research Center analysis of Census data found that the lowest-income households have the lowest home broadband subscription rates and that 31.4% of households with an annual income under \$50,000 do not have a high-speed internet connection at home; and

WHEREAS, the Pew Research Center's analysis of Census data also found that there are 29 million households with school-age children nationwide and

approximately 5 million of those households do not have high-speed internet service at home; and

WHEREAS, low-income households – and especially Black and Hispanic ones – make up 31.4% of that 5 million; African American households make up 38.6% and Hispanic households make up 37.4%; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015, approximately one-third (31.4%) of households whose incomes fall below \$50,000 and with children ages 6 to 17 do not have a high-speed internet connection at home; and

WHEREAS, for many low-income students, wireless broadband is their only means of access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Lifeline Program, begun during the Reagan Administration, provides a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings; and

WHEREAS, the FCC has initiated a rule-making process to overhaul the Lifeline Program, an initiative that subsidizes telephone subscriptions for low-income households, so that it would also cover broadband.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the FCC to modernize its Lifeline Program to allow participants to choose between applying the same support to either voice or broadband Internet service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the FCC to make spectrum for wireless broadband more readily available, thereby ensuring that there will be more opportunities for students to get their online schoolwork done; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges the FCC to support increasing the proportion of low income households using the lifeline or successor programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state, and local government officials, as appropriate.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. *NAACP Supports Right to the Effective Assistance of Counsel*

WHEREAS, in the 1963 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the court unanimously held that states are required under the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution to provide counsel in all criminal cases to represent defendants who are unable to afford to pay their own attorneys; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the *Gideon* case, an indigent individual facing criminal prosecution in a State court is entitled to the effective assistance of counsel at the State's expense, as guaranteed by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, after more than 50 years, our public defender system is dramatically understaffed and underfunded, with the result that the poor, the indigent, and Americans of color are consistently deprived of adequate representation and poorly served, despite the best efforts of public defenders; and

WHEREAS, the actual and constructive denial of the right to counsel is a systemic problem across the United States; and

WHEREAS, 75% of county-funded public defenders have caseloads exceeding recommended standards. Attorneys frequently have caseloads more than three or four times the recommended levels; and

WHEREAS, the result, not surprisingly, is that nearly 95% of indigent defendants plead guilty – often after barely speaking with their attorney; and

WHEREAS, due to a myriad of circumstances, racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately accused of crimes, and are disproportionately in need of a public defender; and

WHEREAS, currently, the only time most defendants can effectively assert inadequate representation is after they have already been convicted or have pled guilty; and

WHEREAS, one constructive and effective solution to this problem is to create a federal cause of action that allows a class of indigent defendants to sue in federal

court for systemic violations of the Sixth Amendment on a pre-conviction basis to seek declaratory, injunctive or other equitable relief.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly supports the right of all people, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, income or station in life, to receive effective assistance of counsel at all stages of the adversarial process when accused of a crime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for adequate funding and resources to be provided to all public defender offices so that they may provide satisfactory legal advice; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NAACP members, units, state conferences, and national office shall support the efforts to enact H.R. 5124 “Equal Justice Under the Law Act of 2016” to ensure effective assistance of counsel for all who are accused of criminal behavior, which includes the creation of a federal cause of action that allows a class of indigent defendants to sue in federal court for systemic violations of the Sixth Amendment on a pre-conviction basis to seek declaratory, injunctive or other equitable relief.

2. NAACP Call for Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform

WHEREAS, “civil asset forfeiture” is a process by which a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency can seize or confiscate a person’s property under the guise that it constitutes proceeds of a crime or was instrumental in the commission of a crime, without having to convict the person of a crime as the process is considered a civil rather than a criminal action; and

WHEREAS, since September 2001, state and local law enforcement authorities under the auspices of just one program, the “Equitable Sharing Program,” have taken in over \$2.5 billion through more than 62,000 cash seizures from people who were not charged with a crime; and

WHEREAS, in too many cases, current federal asset forfeiture laws create a financial incentive for the pursuit of profit over the fair administration of justice, facilitate the circumvention of state laws intended to protect citizens from abuse, encourage the violation of due process and property rights of Americans, and disproportionately impact people of color and those with modest means; and

WHEREAS, civil asset forfeiture takes place in a variety of situations where racial and ethnic minorities are targeted by police because of racial profiling, including airports and traffic stops. As a result, many scholars, attorneys, civil rights experts and victims of civil forfeiture believe that these “takings” by law

enforcement occur at a disproportionate rate in racial and ethnic minority communities; and

WHEREAS, the Orlando Sentinel newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for pointing out that the Volusia County Sheriff's Office had used state seizure laws to take \$8 million from motorists, nine out of ten whom were racial or ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, a report issued in June, 2015, by the Philadelphia ACLU found that "...(C)ivil forfeiture laws are enforced disproportionately against African-Americans — especially and most disturbingly, against African-Americans who were never convicted of any offense;" and

WHEREAS, the report goes on to state that "An estimated 7 out of 10 people whose cash is taken by Philadelphia law enforcement even though they have not been convicted of a crime are African-American;" and

WHEREAS, victims of civil asset forfeiture also must prove their own innocence or the innocence of their property in order to get their property back—turning the presumption of innocence on its head.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) calls for the termination of programs which condone and even reward civil asset forfeiture, including the so-called "Equitable Sharing Program" at the federal level which allows state and local law enforcement to seize property from individuals without proving criminal wrongdoing and then refer this property to federal authorities to pursue forfeiture; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on Congress to pass comprehensive and effective civil asset forfeiture reform.

3. NAACP Calls for Major Improvements to Bail Bonds

WHEREAS, the use of money bail bonds has increased significantly over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, the most common reason why people are held in prison or jail pretrial is their inability to afford to pay bail; and

WHEREAS, between 1996 and 2014, the number of unconvicted jail inmates grew by 59 percent; and

WHEREAS, the result of the increase in the money bail requirement disproportionately affects low-income people in our country and racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans ages 18 through 29 received significantly higher bail amounts than all other defendants and were less likely to be released on their own recognizance than white defendants; and

WHEREAS, monetary bail amounts for minor infractions, misdemeanors, or felonies usually do not take into consideration a defendant's ability to pay in many jurisdictions across the United States; and

WHEREAS, suspects who cannot afford bail are left to languish in prison or jail for days, weeks, or sometimes even months until their trials. This places additional pressure and the resulting unintended consequences on low-income people who risk losing their jobs, their homes, or more, if they are absent from work for too long; and

WHEREAS, many Americans take a plea bargain and plead guilty (even if they are innocent) merely to get out of jail because they cannot afford the bail; and

WHEREAS, the money bail system imposes a massive financial constraint on government budgets. Pretrial detention is estimated to cost state and local governments an estimated \$14 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to bail include various pretrial services such as drug rehabilitation and various forms of supervision such as GPS monitoring, drug tests, check-ins, and court call reminders. Risk assessments by specialists will determine if pretrial services are appropriate; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to money bail amounts can be found in Washington, DC and in the Federal Court system, where money bail has been effectively eliminated. A judge can set bail only if the defendant can afford it; and

WHEREAS, a study from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts found that pretrial detention for a defendant was nearly 10 times more expensive than the cost of supervision of a defendant by a pretrial services officer in the federal system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) urges each state and municipality to adopt the Federal Bail System, to include various pretrial services such as drug rehabilitation and various forms of supervision such as GPS monitoring, drug tests, check-ins, and court call reminders in lieu of money bail.

4. *Regulating the Manufacture and Sale of BB and Air Pellet Guns*

WHEREAS, BB guns and Air Pellet guns have been used to commit acts of violence throughout the United States and especially in poor and minority communities causing great harm and injury; and

WHEREAS, BB guns and Air Pellet guns have been manufactured to appear identical to real firearms and utilized in the commission of crimes; and

WHEREAS, individuals have been stopped, detained, arrested and killed by law-enforcement authorities in our communities when having said indistinguishable guns in their possession.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urges passage of legislation to require BB and Air Pellet gun manufacturers to create design models which would allow for these guns to be readily identifiable and distinguishable from more deadly firearms; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon all states and territories of the United States to regulate the sale of such BB and Air Pellet guns, in retail stores or gun shows, which would include restricting the sales to any person under the age of 18 years old, requiring a parent or guardian to be present and sign a certificate of ownership and responsibility for their usage, and requiring listing of names and ages of intended users and agreement to complete comprehensive training and certification through a licensed gun safety provider in the use of said guns for all individuals under the age of eighteen.

5. *Legislative Accountability to Eliminate Wrongful Use of Deadly Force by Law Enforcement*

WHEREAS, some law enforcement agencies devote insufficient time and resources to de-escalation training, which contributes to a police culture that is more volatile than tactful, leading to increased instances of the wrongful use of deadly or injurious force; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement's use of deadly or injurious force should always be the last resort given that the primary role of law enforcement authorities is to serve and protect the community; and

WHEREAS, the lack of legal accountability towards law enforcement officers who wrongfully kill or injure unarmed and non-threatening persons is creating an unhealthy mutual fear that is damaging the relationship between police and communities; and

WHEREAS, laws in many states afford law enforcement officers unduly broad discretion in determining what is reasonable presumption of fear, which has led to many exonerations for police officers in wrongful shooting cases, while families of victims are left helpless and without justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will advocate for mandatory de-escalation policies, training and enforced compliance for all law enforcement agencies with the requirement that such de-escalation training take place on at least a quarterly basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP through its branches will aggressively advocate for and pursue the arrest, indictment and conviction of any and all police officers involved in the killing of unarmed African Americans in each branch's perspective catchment area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will continue to advocate for legislation requiring law enforcement personnel to use the minimum amount of force necessary to control or subdue a non-compliant suspect, and, in that vein, reaffirms its support for the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, which is currently pending in Congress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate and call on the U.S Attorney General, the Office of Justice Program Administrator, and the nation's governors and legislators to eliminate ambiguous language in the law that allows law enforcement to use deadly force under the broadly interpreted "reasonable presumption of fear" and support nationwide, definitive language in the law that raises the level of the use of deadly force to incidents of absolute threats.

6. *Encouraging People of Color to Serve on Juries and Paid Jury Duty Leave*

WHEREAS, various studies (including but not limited to "The Process is the Punishment: Jury Demographics and Case Administration on State Courts" by Jean N. Lee) and judicial opinions have concluded that the demographic composition of a jury can adversely affect both the outcome of the trial and the punitive action taken; and

WHEREAS, defendants of color cannot rely on a fair trial with a jury of their peers if there are too few people of color in the jury pool; and

WHEREAS, if their employers do not offer paid jury duty leave, people of color are less likely to serve on juries because the lack of income will create economic hardship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP educate and strongly encourage people of color to answer the call to serve on juries whenever possible; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon all private employers to compensate their employees at the term rate of pay for service on juries.

7. *Establishment of Conviction Integrity Units (CIUs) With Innocence Commissions*

WHEREAS, a Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) is a division of the prosecutor's and/or district attorney's office that works to prevent, identify and correct false convictions. For the year 2015, there were 58 exonerations in the United States as a result of the work of CIUs; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 there were 24 CIUs in the United States, which is double the number from 2013 and quadruple the number in 2011; and

WHEREAS, almost 90% of CIU exonerations (134/151) occurred in four counties Harris, TX, Dallas, TX, Brooklyn, NY and Cook County, IL; and

WHEREAS, a CIU would allow convicted offenders with legitimate post-conviction claims of innocence to have their cases reviewed and reinvestigated, which would help to identify wrongful convictions; and

WHEREAS, this type of unit could help defendants seeking exonerations avert years of long litigation through cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a CIU would save the defendant from years of enduring incarceration as well as save the States and Counties from paying out monies owed to the defendant as a result of wrongful conviction; and

WHEREAS, an Innocence Commission also needs to be established to govern the affairs of the CIU; and

WHEREAS, the increased establishment of CIUs across the nation will further the NAACP's efforts toward reform of the criminal justice system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP units will encourage their county prosecutors/district attorney officers to establish a Conviction Integrity Unit and Innocence Commissions so that wrongfully convicted defendants, some currently serving life in prison with no parole for crimes they did not commit, will have an opportunity for exoneration.

8. *Advocacy & Social Justice Issues Embedded in the Economic Regulation of Medicinal Cannabis*

WHEREAS, 23 states have now approved the use of medical and adult use of cannabis for individuals with doctors permits; and

WHEREAS, 12 states will have medical and adult use of cannabis use on the ballot or in the legislature in 2016, and

WHEREAS, medical use of cannabis eases symptoms of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), and cannabis research shows that it is useful for the treatment of selective kinds of chronic pain, including pain caused by neuropathy, and pain due to fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis, and

WHEREAS, 4 states and the District of Columbia have decriminalized adult use and/or possession of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that cannabis prohibition began on the backs of African Americans and was used to criminalize several generations of African Americans and enslaved them for free labor for the prison industrial complex; and

WHEREAS, the war on drugs declared by the federal government depleted our community and robbed it of the resources to remain viable; and

WHEREAS, many illegal cannabis growers are finding pathways to legalization to enable them to benefit from the regulation movement; and

WHEREAS, the underground cannabis economy that has sustained many Black residents should be given a pathway to legalization, especially if they are felons as a result of committing low level drug crimes; and

WHEREAS, a significant amount of the revenue should be dedicated and provided to community based organizations for restoring, counseling and other health related services that are needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for business opportunities to be made available to the African American community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP requests Congress to modify the Internal Revenue Code, Section 280 (e), that bans tax deductions under federal law and allows business people to place their money in the bank and get normal business tax deductions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls for the uniform decriminalization of cannabis possession under one (1) ounce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate for the pardon of persons previously convicted of non-violent cannabis crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP units across the country get involved on the ground floor of negotiating for our communities' share of the medical and adult use of cannabis business opportunities and restoration of our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP develop a model set of policy requirements relative to cannabis policy proposals that each unit should advocate for; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP lobby congressional representatives to change the law relative to medical and adult use of cannabis legalization and to support pardons of those with past nonviolent cannabis related convictions.

9. *Eliminating the Illegal Practice of "Trial Tax"*

WHEREAS, "Trial Tax" is a euphemism for a judge imposing a more severe sentence on a defendant, in whole or in part, because the accused, who elected to reject the prosecution's plea agreement and go to trial, wasted judicial and prosecutorial resources involved in a trial; and

WHEREAS, such things are increasingly happening across the United States, and can be found to target people of color and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, the Trial Tax is imposed unilaterally, often arbitrarily, and is often used to exercise bias, prejudice and discriminatory sentencing; and

WHEREAS, the Trial Tax is a widespread epidemic affecting the neighborhood and Cities of People throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Trial Tax is destroying the right of a trial, and has greater life-changing consequences for the defendant and his or her family; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) stands opposed to the practice of the Trial Tax and will work through Local, State and Federal Legislative process to make sure the Trial Tax is abolished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will strongly advocate toward establishing an independent whistleblower system, without retaliation from judges, for attorneys who witness violations or misconduct of the Trial Tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP, stands opposed to the practice of the Trial Tax and will work through Local, State and Federal Legislative process to make sure the Trial Tax is abolished; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge and ask all Units to work to identify and assist all victims/suspects of the Trial Tax, following NAACP procedures, and to monitor court room proceedings for indications that they may be practicing the Trial Tax.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *Encouraging the Small Business Administration to Create and Fund More Small Business Development Centers in an Effort to Support Job Creation Through the Growth of Small Business*

WHEREAS, many out-of-work Americans traditionally turn to entrepreneurship as a result of their unemployment; and

WHEREAS, entrepreneurs and small businesses need access to loans and other assistance to grow their businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) are government agencies that provide support to entrepreneurs and small businesses in the form of government-backed loans to qualifying businesses and provide counseling, training, and technical assistance through Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and MBDA Business Centers (MBDCs); and

WHEREAS, SBDC/MBDC Programs are designed to deliver up-to-date counseling, training and technical assistance in all aspects of small business management; and

WHEREAS, small businesses are vital to job creation; and

WHEREAS, SBDCs must be more readily available to entrepreneurs and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, women- and minority-owned small businesses greatly benefit from the SBA backed loans and assistance provided by SBDCs and MBDCs; and

WHEREAS, SBSCs and MBDCs are deeply underfunded and therefore can only address the need of a small percentage of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency to expand programs aimed at small and very small businesses in order to assist these businesses with growth and job creation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency to provide adequate funding to SBDCs to assist more small businesses across the country to obtain capital, training, and technical assistance leading to the creation of more jobs across the country; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency to create and fund more SBDCs that are more accessible to small businesses located in rural and economically disadvantaged areas throughout the country.

2. *The NAACP Supports a Strong Rule to Stop the Short Term, High Cost Loan Debt Trap*

WHEREAS, the NAACP commends Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Richard Cordray for his extraordinary job in advancing the fight against of predatory loan products such as payday loans, title loans that have pushed and held racial and ethnic minority communities, including African American community members, among others in the debt trap; and,

WHEREAS, many short term, small dollar loans, including payday loans, tend to be associated with exorbitant interest rates and other high cost, wealth stripping fees. They are heavily marketed and targeted to African Americans, Latinos and low-wealth families traditionally underserved by the mainstream banking system in a process often referred to as “predatory lending”; and

WHEREAS, studies have repeatedly shown that the wealth-stripping effects of predatory lending practices have a disproportionate impact on African Americans, Latinos, and low-wealth families, robbing households of hard-earned wages and savings that could otherwise be reinvested into local neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, the use of these predatory products is associated with higher incidences of credit delinquency, delayed medical care, bank overdrafts and account closures, and bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, short term, small dollar lenders including payday and car title lenders collect over \$7 billion in penalties and fees from borrowers on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the typical average cost of these loans is 300% annual interest or its equivalent in fees; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes the significant enabling/collaborative role of the major banking institutions in providing payday and other predatory lenders favorable financing; and

WHEREAS, high-cost, small-dollar lenders make loans that are structured to last for months or years at these high-costs, with continual refinancing and high-defaults; and

WHEREAS, many high-cost, small-dollar lenders do not assess a borrower's ability to repay a loan, considering both income and expenses, and in fact intentionally rely on the unaffordability of these loans to extract huge profits from borrowers stuck in the debt trap cycle; and

WHEREAS, the average payday loan borrower is trapped in more than 8 payday loans per year, and the average car title loan is refinanced 8 times. Many borrowers are unable to afford to repay the original loan plus interest; the result being that they become entangled in a debt trap cycle which is the main source of financial gain for payday lenders; and

WHEREAS, 14 states and the District of Columbia have enacted strong state laws that effectively enforce a rate cap to protect against triple-digit interest rate payday loans; and

WHEREAS, as advised by the U.S. Department of Defense, Congress enacted the Military Lending Act, containing a 36% rate cap on consumer credit, which extends to payday, car-title, and installment loans to active duty Service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, 36 states lack meaningful regulation to protect against triple-digit interest rate payday loans, and 21 states permit high-cost car title lending; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, and 2013, the NAACP passed resolutions decrying the lack of affordable credit in the communities we serve and represent, as well as condemning high-cost, predatory, wealth-stripping loans; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP championed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, through which the CFPB was created to prevent unfair, abusive, and deceptive practices; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to extensive research of payday lenders, the CFPB is currently engaged in the rulemaking process for rules that have the potential to

end the debt trap created by unaffordable high-cost, small-dollar loans by ensuring that lenders require that borrowers have an ability to repay their loans; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is aware of the tendency of predatory lenders to exploit loopholes in laws and regulations as the local, state, and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP strongly condemns abusive, predatory, wealth-stripping lending practices in whatever form and wherever they exist, particularly those that disproportionately prey on communities of color and low-wealth families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its previously passed resolutions condemning predatory lending practices including Discriminatory Sub-prime and Predatory Lending Practices in 2000, Predatory and Payday lending Practices in 2001, NAACP's Anti-predatory Mortgage & Payday Lending Practices in 2005, and Re-affirming 2002 Policy on Predatory and Payday Lending Practices in 2005, Reaffirming 2013 Affirmation Against all Predatory Lending Practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP commits to work through the local, state and federal legislative processes to end these practices, and supports efforts by the CFPB to rein in the abusive, wealth-draining practices of predatory lenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages the CFPB to adopt strong rules to protect consumers across the country, requiring high-cost small-dollar lenders to ensure loans are affordable when considering borrowers' income and expenses, and to ensure the loans can be repaid without refinancing or defaulting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CFPB engage the major banking institutions in solving this problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages the CFPB to adopt high-cost, small-dollar rules that limit a borrower's total length of indebtedness to no more than 90 days in a 12 month period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges the CFPB not to use its preemptive powers to undermine stronger state or local protections; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages the CFPB to be diligent in adopting rules that encompass tactics used by predatory lenders to evade regulation in efforts to continue offering abusive loan products in all their forms.

3. *Establishing that Access to Public Transportation System is a Basic Civil Right*

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution guarantees to all persons various civil rights to include equal access to opportunities that promote our individual welfare and enable our pursuit of happiness regardless of race, age, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or physical and financial ability; and

WHEREAS, the right of access to public transportation has been the subject of great attention and investment since the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); and

WHEREAS, despite considerable investment, the public sector has yet to provide equal transportation access for many Americans disadvantaged by physical, economic, education, and/or health care hardships; and

WHEREAS, public resources continue to subsidize more and wider roads, free parking and the location and relocation of jobs and services farther away from existing, underfunded transit services and communities, many of them impoverished and/or heavily populated with minorities or disabled persons; and

WHEREAS, this worsening isolation of American communities and citizens and the resulting economic and human consequences continue to be documented extensively by the Federal Reserve Bank, the American Community Survey, the Brookings Institution and others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for potential funding sources for more affordable public transportation to include state and local government Tax Increment Financing districts and county assessments of regular, periodic development impact fees on employers whose facilities are located more than 1,000 feet from an existing transit route with fees scaled based on employers' annual gross revenues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for another revenue source which would require states and local governments to devote a share of their transportation spending at a rate of no less than the statewide share of households without vehicles, and would distribute public transportation funding to counties or multi-county transit agencies based on the share of households without vehicles in their jurisdictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for the public sector to explore the opportunities for affordable public transportation to include buses, vans, shuttle buses, and other means of transportation and for the public sector to consider the financial, social, and environmental affordability issues related to access to public transportation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP declares access to public transportation to be a basic civil right that is accessible to all regardless of a citizen's address, race, age, religion, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation, or physical and financial ability.

EDUCATION

1. *Multilingual Curriculum Integrated into Public Schools*

WHEREAS, American schools today have to transform to reflect the changes in our global economy; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have uncovered a correlation between academic performance and a second language integrated into the school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, teachers and administrators can take the first step to empower all of their students to succeed-no matter their native language-and embrace the cultural richness and linguistic diversity they bring to the student body; and

WHEREAS, dual-language immersion programs offer one of the most valuable methods of language acquisition; and

WHEREAS, research shows that speaking multiple languages increases cognitive abilities such as brain flexibility, ability to switch between multiple tasks, attention, and conflict management; and

WHEREAS, our students need every tool available to be prepared to compete in a global economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its units will strongly advocate for Federal, State, and local Education Departments to increase funding to integrate multilingual curriculum, which is not limited to Eurocentric languages, but also inclusive of other non-European cultures, dialects, and languages, as a standard, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will join forces with other organizations to encourage public school districts to institute multilingual curriculum into their course of study for all students.

2. Standard Grading Policies

WHEREAS, the NAACP passed a resolution in 1976 which called for NAACP units to urge their respective states to establish a task force for the development of an Office of Consumer Affairs in Testing and Student Evaluation; and

WHEREAS, in the alternative, that resolution called for the states to assign responsibility to an existing state agency capable of pursuing the objectives therein. The responsibilities of this agency would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Consumer advocacy regarding the use and misuse of tests as well as advising parents of their legal rights in the testing of their children;
- (b) Advocacy for the adoption of a "Truth-in-Testing" law;
- (c) A test review board to scrutinize and systematically monitor test utility, development, policies and practices of all agencies employing assessment procedures;
- (d) The development of informational advisory centers and layperson documents on testing for parents of school children; AND
- (e) The development of comprehensive Statewide Standards on Testing which reflect the interests of minority groups on the testing issue.

WHEREAS, transparency in grading is inextricably linked with the aforementioned concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) reaffirms its 1976 resolution to urge its units to urge their respective States to establish an Office of Consumer Affairs in Testing and Student Evaluation and reaffirms its 2014 Resolution, "Accountability and Assessment: Measuring Student Learning."

3. Calling for Moratorium on Charter School Expansion and Strengthening of Oversight in Governance and Practice

WHEREAS, charter schools have been a rapidly growing sector of the education system, increasingly targeting low-income areas and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, charter schools with privately appointed boards do not represent the public yet make decisions about how public funds are spent; and

WHEREAS, charter schools have contributed to the increased segregation rather than diverse integration of our public school system; and

WHEREAS, research and reports have documented disproportionately high use of punitive and exclusionary discipline in addition to differential

enrollment practices that violate protections of student rights for public schooling; and

WHEREAS, research and civil rights organizations have documented violations of parent and children's rights, conflicts of interest, fiscal mismanagement, and psychologically harmful environments within several rapidly proliferating charter management organizations; and

WHEREAS, analyses of annual missing charter funds have been estimated at nearly half a billion dollars nationally; and

WHEREAS, researchers have warned that charter school expansions in low-income communities mirror predatory lending practices that led to the sub-prime mortgage disaster, putting schools and communities impacted by these practices at great risk of loss and harm; and

WHEREAS, current policies force district campuses to accommodate co-locations of charter schools, resulting in shortages of resources and space and increasing tension and conflict within school communities; and

WHEREAS, weak oversight of charter schools puts students and communities at risk of harm, public funds at risk of being wasted, and further erodes local control of public education; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP shares the concerns of the Journey for Justice Alliance, an alliance of 38 organizations of Black and Brown parents and students in 23 states, which has joined with 175 other national local grassroots community, youth, and civil rights organizations calling for a moratorium on the Federal Charter schools program, which has pumped over \$3 billion into new charter schools, many of which have already closed or have failed the students drawn to them by the illusive promise of quality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2014 Resolution, "School Privatization Threat to Public Education," in which the NAACP opposes the privatization of public schools and/or public subsidizing or funding of for-profit or charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to advocate against any state or Federal legislation which commits or diverts public funding, allows tax breaks, or establishes preferential advantages to for-profit, private and/or charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls for full funding and support of high quality free public education for all children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon units to seek to pass legislation at the State and Local levels that will ensure that parents have access to Charter School Advisory Boards and that Charter Schools be required to

provide schooling for students that are dismissed from school for disciplinary reasons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will seek legislation to strengthen the investigative powers of those bodies that oversee charter school fraud, corruption, waste, etc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a tool to help address exclusionary student disciplinary policies and practices of publicly funded charter schools, NAACP units should: a) review the U.S. Department of Justice-U.S. Department of Education joint guidelines on school climate and student discipline <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-departments-education-and-justice-release-school-discipline-guidance-package-enhance-school-climate-and-improve-school-discipline-policiespractices>; b) encourage charter school administrators to apply that guidance to its student disciplinary practice; and c) work with parents of charter school students in appropriate cases to file complaints with the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, to challenge unwarranted exclusionary practices (e.g., suspensions and expulsions); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP hereby supports a moratorium on the proliferation of privately managed charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP opposes bills that would weaken the investigative powers of any legislative body from uncovering charter school fraud, corruption, and/or waste; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports legislation AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS that would strengthen local governance and transparency of charter schools and, in so doing, affirms to protect students and families from exploitative governance practices.

4. Advocacy to Promote Use of Open Education Resources

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) advocates equity for minority groups and all citizens and views education as a means to obtaining success in personal and professional lives as well as becoming productive and contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes that African Americans and other minorities often do not have sufficient access to such appropriate academic materials to make attainment of rigorous standards possible; and

WHEREAS, all students should be afforded college and career readiness by completion of high school and meeting rigorous educational standards; and

WHEREAS, the quality of educational opportunities corresponds to availability of quality of resources; and

WHEREAS, education costs related to curriculum development, including textbooks and other instructional and learning materials, may place an inordinate financial burden on many minority and other communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the nation, economic disparities within and between communities contribute to funding disparities between school districts and schools; and

WHEREAS, many school districts are not financially able to obtain high quality curricular, instruction, and supplemental materials.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocates that all state and local educational agencies be encouraged to acquire, use, and share open license curriculum and other Open Educational Resources (OER); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocates that state educational agencies provide appropriate assistance to their respective local school districts related to distribution, organization, and standards alignment of relevant OER materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. *Environmental Racism and Climate Change*

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the NAACP has been a champion of environmental, economic and social justice for historically underserved people; and

WHEREAS, building an environmentally just society requires the eradication of discriminatory siting of polluting facilities in and adjacent to communities of color; and

WHEREAS, researchers have recently concluded a landmark examination of 30 years of demographic data and have unambiguously established that the nation's super polluters tend to be concentrated in minority communities, and that pollution has a disproportionately greater adverse impact on African-American communities; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous examples of local issues where climate change interacts with other environment threats such as water pollution to the

disproportionate detriment of communities of color. For example, recently a judge ordered a cleanup of a nuclear plant's cooling canals in Miami-Dade County, Florida after concluding that the plant had caused a massive underground saltwater plume to migrate west, threatening a well field that supplies drinking water to Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Flint, Michigan water crisis appears not to be an issue of lack of investment in underserved communities but an issue of paltry law enforcement and discrimination in protecting minority communities. Showcasing one of several similar instances of institutional neglect, Waukegan, Illinois residents, who are mostly Latino and African-American, testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights about a coal-burning plant that has been running for decades near their homes, without a final permit under the Clean Air Act, that has contaminated their ground water by emission of coal ash waste in ponds; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to focus additional education and action in local communities and build on the partnerships that have been developed nationally.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will ensure that local branches and state conferences, with the assistance of the Environment and Climate Justice Program, establish local partnerships with environmental organizations who recognize the need for equity to ensure that local environmental efforts include the climate, economic and environmental justice concerns of the African American community and draw attention to critical climate and environmental concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP seeks to improve the quality of lives of those most adversely impacted by high rates of energy consumption, while promoting safer, affordable, and equitable energy alternatives and supplier options; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on all levels of government to expand their policymaking and enforcement mechanisms to combat environmental disparities tied to race and economic status.

2. *NAACP Effort to Replace Lead Pipes Carrying Potable Water*

WHEREAS, lead in water, potential or detected, from lead pipes is not caused by deliberate actions of current or the original property owners, rather by the then acceptable standards of now outdated municipal building codes prescribed at the time of hook up to properties at construction time; and

WHEREAS, delayed solutions in changing out lead pipes for safer, more acceptable ones, increasingly exacerbate low property values, abandonment of property and property tax collection problems; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local government entities have a responsibility to take control of replacement of hazardous lead pipes; and

WHEREAS, lead pipes which carry water are recognized as not just a localized physical building hazard, but a national concern with health care and education cost implications effecting millions of homes, schools and commercial buildings in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, even though Congress has recognized its obligation to assist in mitigating Flint, Michigan's water pipe funding dilemma, this effort falls significantly short of the prolific sweeping reforms needed in assuring the replacement of lead pipes to ensure clean safe drinking water and sanitation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urges federal, state and local governments to immediately identify funding to address health and environmentally hazardous water supplies to assure the basic human right of clean, safe water to all throughout the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for the replacement of all remaining lead water pipes to become a national human rights issue to be raised in local municipalities, state houses and on the floors of Congress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP recommends that communities adversely impacted by the lack of access to clean, safe water are provided with economic opportunities during the water supply remediation process through a jobs creation initiative.

3. *Resolution Against Natural Gas as a Climate Solution, or a "Bridge" Fuel to a Clean Energy Future*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has adopted resolutions and action items on Environmental and Climate Justice in 1993, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, previous NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice resolutions have warned of the increasingly high levels of methane in gas produced through hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") procedures, such that the increasing use of natural gas for electricity generation has serious adverse climate implications and is not a climate solution, as it poses significant damages to the health and well-being of frontline communities; and

WHEREAS, electricity generated by natural gas is rapidly replacing coal-fired power and is yet another form of fossil-fuel-generated electricity posing considerable public health risks and environmental injustices and fueling climate change; and

WHEREAS, the increasing use of natural gas for electricity is resulting in a huge build-out of pipelines and increased "fracking", which has caused frontline communities to experience large increases in air and water pollution, earthquakes, illness and other environmental devastation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. spent an estimated \$37 billion on the production of natural gas for electricity in 2013, and North Carolina and other states have dramatically increased dependence on natural gas for electricity, which is shutting out clean energy and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, when burned to create electricity, natural gas emits 60% of the carbon dioxide that coal emits, nonetheless, natural gas has been seen by some as a "bridge fuel" to clean energy, and

WHEREAS, the concept of natural gas as a bridge fuel was based solely on carbon dioxide emissions, while ignoring emissions of methane, a very potent greenhouse gas with an impact on global warming 86-100 times worse than carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that current emissions of methane equal the current emissions of carbon dioxide as a driver of global warming; and

WHEREAS, electric utilities' increasing reliance on natural gas for electricity puts consumers at risk for price spikes and fuel supply shortages, and crowds out clean, locally-produced energy, just as the cost of solar and wind is decreasing rapidly; and

WHEREAS, it is those who are least able to afford the costs of new plant construction and escalating fuel costs who will bear the burden for the increased use of fracking gas: and

WHEREAS, communities benefit from clean, local, distributed energy as it provides good jobs, helps to reduce toxic air and water pollution, and is a safe, renewable, natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recognizes that burning natural gas (including "fracked" gas) for electricity (1) is not a climate solution, (2) puts customers at risk for price spikes and fuel supply shortages, as well as crowds out clean, locally-produced energy, and (3) puts frontline communities at risk for health and environmental damages

from the production, distribution and burning gas and emitting methane for electricity; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP implores the fossil fuel industry and environmental protection agencies to halt the burning natural gas-emitting methane, which is simply another form of fossil fuel based electricity which poses a detriment to our long term health, and generates even more greenhouse gas emissions than burning coal; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes that fracking gas hurts frontline communities by polluting the air and water and degrading the local environment and hurting public health and local economies and calls upon regulatory agencies to curtail the use of this fossil fuel based energy method; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP appeals to regulatory oversight authorities to protect the vulnerable families who are least able to afford the cost of overbuilding new plants and escalating fuel costs; and

BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will continue to promote policies and urge federal, state and local government establishments to support locally-owned and locally- produced clean, non-fossil-fuel energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, and energy-reducing programs such as energy efficiency and demand response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that only clean natural gas be used; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will encourage and advocate for the establishment of programs that provide clean energy and energy efficiency jobs, as well as opportunities for African-American business development and ownership in clean energy industry sectors.

HEALTH

1. *Prostate Cancer Awareness*

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is a disease that disproportionately affects African-American males, with incidence rates 1.6 times higher than non-African-American males; and

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is a disease that disproportionately affects all men with a family history of this disease (particularly brother and/or father) and as they advance in age; and

WHEREAS, African-American males die from prostate cancer at a rate 2.5 times higher than White males; and

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is detected in African-American males, on average, at a younger age than White males; and

WHEREAS, race, age and family history present a triple risk for older African Americans; and

WHEREAS, early detection and treatment of prostate cancer can prevent deaths and metastatic spread of prostate cancer in the body and related pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS, early detection and treatment of prostate cancer can save lives; and

WHEREAS, the National Medical Association, representing over 50,000 African-American physicians, recommends that males at high risk of lethal prostate cancer to be screened, beginning at the age of 40; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that African-American men become better informed about prostate cancer and health care options in screening, diagnosis and treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its previous resolutions on Prostate Cancer from 1997; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that African-American males are urged to talk to their physicians and seek screening for prostate cancer, beginning at the age of 40.

2. *Support State and Local Restrictions on the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products*

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate hatred and racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the foundation and enjoyment of all such rights begin with healthy individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP and all of its units are committed to the health and well-being of African Americans and are particularly concerned about preventing tobacco use among youth; and

WHEREAS, tobacco-related deaths continue to be the number one preventable cause of death, claiming 47,000 African-American lives a year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco-related deaths continue to claim more lives than violence, AIDS, car accidents, and (non-tobacco-related) cancer COMBINED; and

WHEREAS, when compared to Whites, African-American men continue to have the highest lung cancer mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, from 1968 to 1999 the lung cancer death rate for males increased by 15%, whereas for females it increased by 266%. In the 1970s the rising tide of lung cancer in women led to predictions that by the 1980s it would eclipse breast cancer as a leading cause of death. Those predictions unfortunately were realized in 1987, when lung cancer surpassed breast cancer as the leading cause of death in women; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, over 4,000 pages of secret documents were revealed in the United States Congress, proving that as early as 1950, the tobacco industry knew that smoking caused cancer and that nicotine was addictive; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry has a well-documented history of developing and marketing brands targeted to African Americans and their youth; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry manipulated the manufacturing of cigarettes to ensure the uptake and continued use of tobacco, especially by African-American young people and other vulnerable populations for many years; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry has perniciously targeted African Americans with mentholated products and as a result nearly 83% of African-American smokers smoke menthol cigarettes, compared with 24% of white smokers; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Philip Morris (Altria), RJ Reynolds Tobacco Co., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co., British American Tobacco Ltd., Lorillard Tobacco Co., and Counsel for Tobacco Research-U.S.A. were all found guilty of federal racketeering for conspiring to hide the health effects of smoking under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, (RICO); and

WHEREAS, 88% of African-American, 51% of Asian-American and Hispanic, and 37% of white high school-aged smokers use menthol cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, mentholated and flavored products have been shown to be “starter” products; and

WHEREAS, for decades the tobacco industry has been manipulating the dose of menthol in cigarettes to ensure the uptake and continued use of tobacco, especially by young people and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, other tobacco products (including but not limited to smokeless tobacco, little cigars and cigarillos such as Black N' Milds and Swisher Sweets, blunt wrappers, electronic nicotine delivery systems such as e-cigarettes, hookah tobacco, and dissolvable tobacco products) have recently come under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"); and

WHEREAS, federal courts have upheld the authority of state and local governments to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's final rulemaking extending its authority to all tobacco products, including e- cigarettes, cigars, hookah tobacco and pipe tobacco, and other electronic nicotine delivery systems, which helps implement the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009 and supports efforts by state and local governments in the United States to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that legal enforcement and implementation measures should only target commercial cigarette and tobacco product manufacturers and distributors and should not target or penalize individual consumers.

3. *Critical Shortage of Primary Care Doctors in America*

WHEREAS, disease prevention programs for certain communities are not being implemented because health deserts, that is, communities without doctors in pockets of the inner city and rural communities, are increasing and causing huge health disparities once again; and

WHEREAS, this shortage of doctors, especially primary care doctors, as well as the lack of diversity in our physician workforce, have been long overlooked because many of the people harmed usually do not have a political voice and the clout to hold elected leaders accountable; and

WHEREAS, medical schools remain closed systems and do not generate sufficient numbers of primary care physicians and few minority physicians, thus they are not responding to the needs of society ensuring positive patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Association of American Medical Colleges (“AAMC”) reports that in 1978, there were just 542 black males enrolled in U.S. medical schools and in 2014 there were only 515; and

WHEREAS, the few doctors who will now take Medicare and Medicaid patients are limited by the federal government preventing them from having the resources necessary to provide the patients with adequate care; and

WHEREAS, there are alternatives to the traditional American medical school's shortages. Quality, accredited, off shore schools are significant sources of primary care doctors of color who are American citizens but attended an off shore medical school. Primary care doctors of color who attended such accredited, off shore schools face an implicit bias and most doors remain closed to them, especially in most American teaching hospitals. The AAMC reports that in 2013, over 48,000 students applied to medical school and just over 20,000 matriculated. That leaves 28,000 prospective students with no school. Many of them will head to medical schools in the Caribbean, and many will enter primary care, which has the largest shortage; and

WHEREAS, “pipeline” programs have been proven to work but are underfunded, sporadically funded and undervalued; and

WHEREAS, “pipeline” programs engage underrepresented students into a career track and may involve service, education, or research, while others may involve multiple components; and

WHEREAS, “pipeline” programs have proven to be effective at the elementary, middle and high school levels, as well as the college and post-baccalaureate levels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on Congress to increase the funding for African-American medical students and African-American primary care residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for federal and state laws to support continuous, sustainable funding for the implementation and assessment of pipeline programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will initiate a plan of action to obtain sustainable private-sector support for pipeline programs for African Americans and other represented people of color at all levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that most of this funding be distributed to institutions that focus on hiring and training African-American and other underrepresented doctors seeking to work in communities most in need; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that such legislation should include additional funding for medical school students focusing on general (primary care), internal medicine and family medicine.

4. *Exploring the Option of Becoming an Organ Donor*

WHEREAS, more than 121,000 people in the United States are on waiting lists to receive an organ transplant and another name is added every 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two people die every day from the lack of available organs for transplant and one deceased donor can save as many as eight lives through organ donations; and

WHEREAS, the need for organ transplants is rapidly growing among the African-American community as 30% of those currently waiting for an organ donation are African-American ; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, which increases their risk of organ failure. African Americans make up 13% of the population, 34% of those waiting for a kidney, and 25% of those waiting for a heart; and

WHEREAS, there is no cost to the donor or their family for them to become an organ donor; and

WHEREAS, persons wishing to become organ donors usually may register at the Office of Motor Vehicles and may also sign up online; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP Health Committees should be proactive in advocating organ donation and educating others to the alarming facts about organ donations within the African-American community; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People decrees April 16th as National Organ Donation Day!

HOUSING

1. *Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) strives for equality of social and economic rights of all persons through pursuing enactment of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights; and

WHEREAS, since the subprime housing crisis (2007 to 2009) African-American household wealth has continued to decrease, producing a loss of forty percent of non-home-equity wealth. Additionally, home-equity wealth, which dropped nineteen percent during the crisis, has declined an additional thirteen percent; and

WHEREAS, because most families desire to become homeowners, over three million families have entered into a Contract for Deed in pursuit of their ambitions of homeownership. A Contract for Deed is a seller finance method to purchase a home where the seller retains the legal title to the property until the homebuyer finishes paying all principal payments and interest owed under the contract. Contracts for Deeds are used by low-income homebuyers who are unable to obtain a traditional mortgage or financing because of poor credit ratings, inadequate income or other issues; and

WHEREAS, Contracts for Deeds allow the seller to avoid health and safety regulations, and crucial repairs to the property, while transferring the burden of property taxes, property insurance, and repairs to the homebuyer; and

WHEREAS, in comparison to renting, the homebuyer must pay more per month for the property under Contracts for Deeds, make a larger upfront payment, and take better care of the premises, because the homebuyer believes he or she will eventually become the homeowner. However, sellers rarely end up transferring the title to the prospective homebuyer; and

WHEREAS, Contracts for Deeds are often consummated between the homebuyer and the seller without the benefit of a title searches and title insurance, government regulatory protections and standardized legal documents in many states including Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, West Virginia, South Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Florida; and

WHEREAS, investment firms (“Investors”) that acquired land during the recent recession use Contracts for Deeds to target vulnerable people—largely low income minorities—who either: (1) are unable to fully comprehend the risk associated with a Contract for Deed; or (2) lack the financial means to satisfy the contract; and

WHEREAS, Investors use Contracts for Deeds to “sell” homes requiring major repairs to low-income homebuyers; these repairs are made necessary due to: (1) physical damage (drywall damage, broken windows, wood rot, and damaged roofing); (2) biological contaminants (black mold); (3) structural problems (foundational issues); and (4) missing or improperly functioning building systems (electrical wiring, water pipes and furnaces); and

WHEREAS, the Investors typically include in a 30-year Contract for Deeds provisions that require the homebuyer to: (1) pay an interest rate in excess of nine percent; and (2) bring the property to a habitable condition within four months of the contract. These terms force low-income homebuyers to devote large amounts of money into properties to satisfy the contracted provisions, on top of large monthly payments with exceptionally high interest rates; and

WHEREAS, investors promptly seek to evict the homebuyer for violating the contract once the homebuyers fail to bring the house up to a habitable standard in the brief time frame or afford payments pursuant to the contract. Moreover, investors include in the Contract for Deed a one-sided clause for compulsory binding arbitration to avoid homebuyers’ consumer protections from being adjudicated in a court of law; and

WHEREAS, the eviction causes the low-income homebuyer to lose rights to the home and all capital spent on the property prior to the eviction. The seller retains the title to the property, income paid pursuant to the contract, and improvements the homebuyer was able to afford. The seller is then able to enter into a new contract for deed with a new prospective homebuyer and continue the cycle of contracting and evicting; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation and abuse of Contracts for Deeds presents the risk of creating yet another large drain on African-American wealth comparable in impact to the housing finance abuses that brought about the 2007-2009 subprime crisis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP condemns the use of Contracts for Deeds to exploit low-income homebuyers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP requests the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture to enact regulations and safeguards against predatory uses of Contracts for Deeds, and to prohibit the

practice of using Contracts for Deeds to unjustly evict low-income families from their homes.

2. *Need for Stronger Enforcement of Section 3 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress passed Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 at 12 U.S. C. 1701(u); and

WHEREAS, the 1968 Act states that Congress found that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs provide substantial funding to state and local government agencies, and entities such as public housing authorities, and that the funding provides substantial employment opportunities and other economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the 1968 Act states that Congress also found that low income and very low income persons often have restricted access to these employment/economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the 1968 Act states that Congressional policy and purpose to ensure that employment and economic opportunities generated by HUD Federal financial assistance shall be, to the greatest extent feasible, directed to low and very low income persons, particularly those low income and very low income persons who are recipients of HUD funding; and

WHEREAS, the 1968 Act directs that HUD shall require that Public and Indian Housing Authorities (PHA's) and their contractors and their subcontractors, make their best effort to give training, employment/economic opportunities generated by HUD funding to low and very low income persons; and

WHEREAS, the 1968 Act further provides that where feasible, priority for employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD funding should be given to low income and very low income persons residing in the area of the HUD funding project, or neighborhood where the HUD project is located; and

WHEREAS, the 1968 Act required the Secretary of HUD to implement regulations to implement the provisions of the 1968 Act; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations implementing Section 3 of the 1968 Act were not enacted by HUD until June, 1994, and were then revised in February, 1995, at 24 CFR Part 135; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has found that implementation of the congressional policy to ensure that low income and very low income persons receive greater access to the employment and economic opportunities that are generated by HUD funding to state and local governments and PHAs was delayed from 1968

through 1994 because of the lack of HUD regulations implementing Section 3 of the 1968 Act; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has further found that the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a June 24, 2003 Audit Report citing various ongoing problems with HUD's enforcement of Section 3, including the lack of oversight, vague regulations, and lack of priority for the Section 3 program nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has further found that the HUD OIG issued a June 23, 2013, Audit Report on HUD's failure to enforce the HUD Section 3 report requirements nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity issued a third notice dated December 15, 2014, addressed to all recipients of HUD funding, advising of continued failure with the HUD Central Office System for Section 3 reporting and advising all recipients to continue to refrain from submitting Section 3 reports: and

WHEREAS, the HUD Central Office issued a notice dated August 24, 2015, advising that the HUD Section 3 reporting system was not operational, and that all recipients of HUD funding could submit Section 3 reports for 2013 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, HUD issued proposed new regulations on Section 3 for public comment on March 2, 2015, but has not yet published a final rule on the proposed Section 3 regulations; and

WHEREAS, HUD has failed to enforce Section 3 and/or ensure that Section 3 provides greater access to employment opportunities resulting from substantial HUD funding provided to state and local governments to low income and very low income persons as mandated by Congress in the 1968 Act.

WHEREAS, the NAACP takes note of the fact that the failure of HUD to enforce Section 3 has deprived low income and very low income persons in large urban communities nationwide, the vast majority being African Americans and other low income and very low income minorities, of substantial employment, training and other economic opportunities resulting from the tremendous amount of HUD funding given to State and local governments and PHAs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls for urgent action to ensure that HUD makes Section 3 enforcement a priority as mandated by Congress through the 1968 Act so that low income and very low income persons in poor communities nationwide begin to receive the employment, training and other economic opportunities resulting from the vast funds going to state and local governments and PHAs nationwide.

IMMIGRATION/INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. *The NAACP Urges the Dominican Republic to Reinstate Full Citizenship Rights and Recognition to Dominicans of Haitian Descent*

WHEREAS, up until January 2010, with limited exceptions, the Constitution of the Dominican Republic provided Dominican citizenship on the basis of an individual's birth within the country's territory; and

WHEREAS, in September 2013, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Dominican Republic issued a ruling that held, retroactive to 1929, that children of undocumented migrants, despite their Dominican birth and registration, are not citizens of the Dominican Republic, and as such, stripped over 200,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent of their identity and affiliation with the Dominican Republic, effectively creating the largest stateless population in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, in May 2014, after an international outcry, the Dominican government passed Naturalization Law 169-14 as a legislative "fix" to the devastating outcomes of the Constitutional Tribunal's ruling, which was unprecedentedly designed to require persons affected by the 2013 Constitutional Tribunal's decision to be re-recognized as citizens or apply to gain state recognition based on their birth status and year. Naturalization Law 169-14 established unrealistic timetables for the law's application, imposed onerous registration requirements and had a disproportionate and discriminatory impact on Dominicans of Haitian descent. Only a negligible number of individuals eligible for registration under this law were registered by the February 2015 deadline; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held that the denationalization of Dominican citizens of Haitian descent is discriminatory and that parts of Naturalization Law 169-14 violated the Dominican Republic's binding obligations as a signatory to the American Convention on Human Rights, including the right to nationality and the right to identity; and

WHEREAS, both the ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal and Naturalization Law 169-14 have further separated Dominicans of Haitian descent from the larger Dominican community, allowing them to be more easily targeted by those perpetrating acts of discrimination and violence, including lynching; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of any due process protections, the recent expulsions of Dominicans of Haitian descent, with no family or social networks in Haiti from which they can draw support, further underscores the precarious conditions to which Dominicans of Haitian descent are subjected and has led to the creation of squalid refugee camps at the Haitian border; and

WHEREAS, The International Organization for Migration has documented that an alarming number of individuals, including hundreds of unaccompanied minors, were forcibly removed from or left the Dominican Republic under the threat of violence, and that a huge number of individuals are actually Dominicans with government-issued identification establishing their legal right to be in the Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which the Dominican Republic is a signatory, guarantees all people the right to nationality and states that, “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality;” and

WHEREAS, internationally, civil rights, human rights, academic, legal, political, and dozens of other groups have called for immediate action by the Dominican government to reverse the effects of the Constitutional Tribunal ruling and Naturalization Law 169-14.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP strongly urges the government of the Dominican Republic to return the rights of citizenship to all persons born on Dominican soil, regardless of parental immigration status, to cease any and all expulsion efforts, and to actively pursue ending all acts of violence and discriminatory practices perpetrated against those of Haitian descent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on the United States government to provide emergency refugee status to all Dominican-born children of Haitian descent and their families until repatriation to the Dominican Republic occurs with all of the rights, protections, and privileges of citizenship fully restored; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, upon adoption by the NAACP, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the Dominican Republic’s Presidential Ambassador to the United States.

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL ACTION

1. *NAACP Reaffirms its Opposition to a So-called “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the US Constitution and Calls on States to Repeal Legislation Calling for a Constitutional Convention*

WHEREAS, in 1979 and again in 1994, the NAACP established a clear policy in opposition to a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, citing the resulting dangerous, draconian, deleterious, and disastrous cuts to the federal budget and to vital programs upon which so many Americans depend should such an amendment go forward; and

WHEREAS, a national effort is again underway to pass state resolutions calling for a constitutional convention to include a harmful Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, proponents now claim they have 28 of the 34 states needed to compel Congress to call a constitutional (“Article V”) convention to consider a Balanced Budget Amendment; and

WHEREAS, legal scholars and others who have studied the Constitution, representing the most progressive and the most conservative thinkers among us, all agree that there is no way to effectively control for or limit the issues that a constitutional convention could consider once called; and

WHEREAS, therefore, perhaps even more alarming than the damage which would be inflicted on the American people, families, communities, and the nation as a whole if a Balanced Budget Amendment were adopted, if a convention were called, the entirety of the Constitution would be up for grabs; and

WHEREAS, if the entire U.S. Constitution were to be opened up for re-write, our cherished rights and protections would be at risk, including the protections called for in the Reconstruction Amendments, (13th, 14th & 15th); voting rights; religious freedoms; and some of our most important civil rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its opposition to a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP opposes any effort which would lead to the U.S. Constitution being compromised by extremists in whole or in part; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will work at the national, state, and local levels to advocate that state lawmakers pass no more resolutions calling for a constitutional convention that could be used to amend the Constitution with a Balanced Budget Amendment and calling for lawmakers in states which have already passed such resolutions to rescind or repeal them immediately.

2. NAACP Calls on the Federal, State, and Local Governments to Establish a Better Balance Between Religious Freedoms and Civil Rights

WHEREAS, in 1993, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to expand protections for religious exercise as a response to the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *Employment Division v. Smith* – a case regarding the ceremonial use of peyote by American Indians. Under RFRA, Congress gave religious liberty a heightened protection requiring that government action may only substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion only if it is in the furtherance of a compelling government interest and is the least restrictive means to achieve that interest; and

WHEREAS, while attempting to strike a careful balance, the 1993 federal RFRA bill actually grants legal legitimacy to the imposition of harm, as it is the essence of “establishment” and thus runs afoul of the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the 1993 Federal RFRA, twenty-one states have passed convoluted state versions of RFRA and there is growing concern about how RFRA may be used by some as a sword (and not a shield) to advance harm to the rights of others in the pursuit of racial and other prejudices in one’s “sincerely held” beliefs; and

WHEREAS, for example, Georgia passed a so-called religious freedom bill which was vetoed by the governor after the criticism of over 400 major companies, and an African American lawmaker was able to get the sponsor of the so-called religious liberty bill to admit that the legislation would, in fact, protect the KKK; and

WHEREAS, any balanced response to the need to guard the civil and human rights of every person while at the same time allowing an individual to pursue his or her “sincerely held religious beliefs” must ensure the protection against discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunity, including those found in the Civil Rights Act of 1964; must guarantee that there is no denial of workplace protections or protections against child abuse; must make certain there are no limitations on access, information, referrals, or coverage of healthcare items or

services; must make sure that services to beneficiaries through a government contract, grant, or cooperative agreement are not compromised in any way; and that there is never any denial of accommodations or other benefits and services protected by the government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP advocate for, and support the “Do No Harm Act”. H.R. 572, which amends the 1993 federal RFRA law to ensure that it is not in any way abusive or misconstrued to promote or permit discrimination against any individual or class of people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will provide its units with information on specific proposed legislation that would violate this principle; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon its members and units to ensure that federal, state, and local laws are not passed in the name of “religious freedom” which would permit any individual, business, or local or state government body to deny any person his or her basic civil rights.

3. *The NAACP Supports the Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit for Working Childless Adults*

WHEREAS, in December 2015, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law a policy provision strongly supported by the NAACP which permanently extended key improvements in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to the benefit of millions of low- and moderate-income Americans including African Americans and other Americans of color; and

WHEREAS, originally implemented in 2009 and due to expire in 2017, the improvements made permanent in the EITC and the CTC have greatly strengthened the anti-poverty impact of the EITC and CTC. These improvements currently lift about 16 million people, including about 8 million children, out of poverty or closer to the poverty line each year. Included in these figures, about 2.8 million African Americans, including about 1.5 million children, are lifted out of poverty or made less poor each year by the improvements in the EITC and the CTC which are now a permanent part of the tax code; and

WHEREAS, despite this policy victory, low-wage working adults without children remain largely excluded from the current EITC, making them the lone group of workers who the federal tax code actually pushes into or deeper into poverty; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.2 million (or 17 percent) of these childless working adults who are taxed into or deeper into poverty by federal taxes are African American; and

WHEREAS, as part of the six Game Changers for the 21st Century, the NAACP visualizes a future where every person will have equal opportunity to achieve economic success, sustainability, and financial security; and

WHEREAS, even though the workers who would benefit from the expanded EITC are “childless” for tax purposes, some of them are non-custodial parents with parenting and financial obligations to their children, which means that improving these workers’ stability and success in the labor market can improve their children’s stability and success as well; and

WHEREAS, many Members of Congress, both in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have endorsed proposals to expand the EITC for childless workers and thus extend the pro-work success of the credit to this population and make significant progress toward meeting the core principle that no American worker should be taxed into poverty; and

WHEREAS, some leading experts, including those at the Center for Budget Policies and Priorities, believe that beyond raising these workers’ incomes and helping to offset their federal taxes, an expanded EITC for childless workers would also help address some of the challenges faced by young African-American men in particular, including low and falling labor-force participation rates, low marriage rates, and high incarceration rates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports expansion of the EITC for low-wage childless workers through such actions as lowering the eligibility age, increasing the phase-in rate, and boosting the maximum credit for childless adults.

4. *Creation of Commission to Study and Recommend the Appropriate Remedies for the Descendants of African American Slaves*

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2015 President Barack Obama in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the abolishment of slavery and involuntary servitude stated, “We would do a disservice to those warriors of justice, Tubman and Douglas, and Lincoln and King, were we to deny that the scars of our nation’s original sin are still with us today”; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the United States Congress passed a resolution apologizing for slavery in America. The resolution stated, “Slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history ...” The resolution also highlighted, “It is important for this country, which legally recognized slavery

through its Constitution and its laws, to make a formal apology for slavery and for its successor, Jim Crow, so that it can move forward and seek reconciliation, justice, and harmony for all of its citizens." However, no remedy was offered or recommended to right a wrong for our nation's original sin; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the United States Senate passed a resolution apologizing for slavery. The Senate acknowledged in the resolution "the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery" and apologized "to African Americans, on behalf of the people of the United States, for the wrongs committed against them and their ancestors who suffered under slavery." However, no remedy was offered or recommended to right a wrong for our nation's original sin; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2013 United States Representative John Conyers, Jr. introduced H.R.40 entitled, "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act." The Commission is designed to study and examine "the institution of slavery, subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes." However, based upon political projections, H.R. 40 has a 1% chance of passing in Congress. Thus, denying a congressional action to right a wrong for our nation's original sin; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United Nations (UN) working group (Experts on People of African Descent) recommended that the United States give long overdue reparations to descendants of slaves. The UN working group also suggested the United States establish a national human rights commission and publicly acknowledge that the Transatlantic Slave Trade was a crime against humanity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the President of the United States of America create an executive order to establish a President Advisory Council Commission to study and recommend the appropriate remedies for the descendants of African American slaves.

5. *NAACP Reaffirms Support for Statehood for the District of Columbia; Supports Referendums on the Question*

WHEREAS, the NAACP has robust, established policy in support of the home rule, budget autonomy and Congressional representation which come with full statehood for the residents of the District of Columbia (see resolutions from 1978, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2011); and

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia pay federal taxes, serve in the U.S. military, and participate in jury service like all other Americans citizens; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all the people living in the District of Columbia identify themselves as “Black or African American”; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are more than 601,000 people living in the District of Columbia at the time of the most recent census, compared to Wyoming, which had less than 564,000 yet which has full voting representation in Congress with two Senators and one Congressperson; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2016, the gross state product for the District of Columbia was estimated to be more than \$120 billion, more than that of 16 states; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015, Washington, D.C. residents paid \$1.6 billion a year in federal taxes - more per person than the residents of every state; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, as a show of fiscal independence and for the first time, the elected officials of the District of Columbia plan to enact a local spending plan — totaling \$13 billion — without congressional appropriation of those funds. Instead, the city will begin spending its money in a manner determined by locally elected officials unless federal lawmakers act to stop it; and

WHEREAS, there is also a move to put a referendum on the ballot in November 2016 allowing the residents of the District of Columbia to decide on whether or not they want statehood; and

WHEREAS, if such a ballot were to be placed on the ballot and ultimately approved, it would provide District of Columbia residents and their struggle for statehood with more and much-needed national impact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its resolutions from 1978, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2011 supporting the residents of the District of Columbia in their struggle for home rule, budget autonomy, and representation in Congress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP supports a referendum which would give the residents of the District of Columbia the full representation they so rightly deserve and the rights and responsibilities inherent in statehood.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

1. *Port Chicago 50*

WHEREAS, in July, 1944, the United States of America was actively involved in World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the United States Armed Forces were highly segregated with the only positions open to African-Americans being menial jobs; and

WHEREAS, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Port Chicago, California, mostly African-American sailors loaded ammunitions hand-to-hand, or on hand trucks or carts on to cargo ships 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1944, while loading munitions on to two naval cargo ships, there was a major explosion which killed 320 persons and injured 390 others, most of whom were African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, about a month later, because of unsafe working conditions, hundreds of sailors refused to load munitions on to cargo ships in a incident now referred to as the Port Chicago Mutiny; and

WHEREAS, as result of their refusal to load any more munitions, fifty of the men, mostly African-Americans, were convicted of mutiny and sentenced to long prison terms; and

WHEREAS, it was the Navy policy back then to put the majority of African-Americans into highly segregated shore duty; and

WHEREAS, the unsafe munitions handling practices and lack of training led to the catastrophic detonation; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which 50 of the 258 men were singled out as mutineers was unfair; and

WHEREAS, on December 1999, one of the surviving three sailors, Freddie Meeks, was pardoned by President Bill Clinton.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP demands that the remaining sailors and their descendants be compensated for the lost wages

and benefits of the wrongly convicted sailors and the U.S. President give them an honorable discharge and a full pardon; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP demands that any of the convicted sailors who were discharged dishonorably be granted honorable discharge immediately by the United States Navy.

VOTING RIGHTS

1. *Protesting States Which Pass Restrictive Voting Rights Laws*

WHEREAS, the incidence of actual voter fraud is at a historically low level nationwide; and

WHEREAS, several states have passed new laws restricting the right to vote, from requiring strict photo ID requirements to cutting back early voting or absentee voting to restricting voter registration; and

WHEREAS, the voter restrictions passed by each state are part of a broader movement to curtail voting rights when collectively state lawmakers nationwide introduce hundreds of harsh measures making it harder to vote; and

WHEREAS, these new voter restrictions passed by several states are either hindering or acting as a barrier to African Americans wanting to vote and are therefore having a disproportionately negative impact on minority communities and young voters; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in our most recent economic boycott of the State of South Carolina, caused a negative financial impact to that state and made a public statement that we are in opposition of voter suppression laws in all offending jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP and many other organizations have entered into Memoranda of Agreement covenanting to act in unison in opposition to legislative measures that have a disproportionately negative impact on minority communities of color.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) stands opposed to and will work through the local, state and federal legislative process to make sure that new laws to curtail voting rights are not passed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will challenge newly enacted voter suppression laws passed by several states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP units will update their civic engagement programs to include voter education on the impact of suppressive voting laws and how Americans should properly navigate the barriers implemented by state laws; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution protesting states which pass restrictive voting laws be immediately circulated to all NAACP units, our partner organizations, and all state and local elected officials and chambers of commerce.

YOUTH WORK

1. *Addressing Racial Bias and Violence on College Campuses*

WHEREAS, there are increasing numbers of incidents involving racial bias and discrimination against students of color, including, among others, occurrences at the University of Missouri, Yale University in New Haven, CT, Clemson University in South Carolina, Amherst University in Massachusetts, Baylor University in Texas, The University of California at Los Angeles, and Georgetown University in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, institutions of higher education have not consistently taken an affirmative and effective approach to acknowledging and addressing these concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Jeanne Clery Act was named for a college student who was raped and murdered in her dormitory by another student in 1986. Her parents were enraged by the attitude of the school, which sought to keep the situation

quiet and not alert other students or their families to the potential dangers. The Clery Act requires all colleges and universities which receive federal funding to share information about crime on campus and their efforts to improve campus safety as well as to inform the public of crime in or around campus. This information is made publicly accessible through the university's annual security report; and

WHEREAS, the original Clery Act was amended in 2008 to include updated emergency response and warning procedures as well as hate crime reporting standards; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Clery Act can and should be strengthened to improve and promote the rights of victims of hate crimes, sexual violence, and other bias incidents on college campuses, and to increase the awareness of potential students, their families, and new employees as to the incidence of crimes, including crimes motivated by racial bias, and what progress and initiatives, if any, the school is making and undertaking to address these crimes.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) calls upon the U.S. Department of Education to improve the implementation of the Clery Act to 1) require institutions to provide information regarding hate crimes, sexual violence, and other bias incidents to potential incoming students and their families, 2) to require institutions to provide prospective new employees with these statistics and to describe in their annual security reports primary prevention and awareness programs, and 3) to make these security reports readily available to everyone who may be interested in relocating to the school, as well as the neighboring community.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

CIVIL RIGHTS

1. *NAACP Emergency Resolution Encouraging Proficiency in the Lawful Use of Mobile Video to Record Possible Civil Rights Violations*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 in response to the killings of African Americans at the hands of private citizens and public officials; and,

WHEREAS, the photographs and television images of the injustices committed against African Americans in cities such as Birmingham and Atlanta, at the hands of the police, awakened the consciousness of the Nation in the 1960s; and,

WHEREAS, video evidence of the Rodney King beating and other acts of police brutality in the 1990s led to reforms in policing practices across the country; and,

WHEREAS, cell phone recordings of police shootings, such as the recent killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, have been critically important to public understanding of what actually occurred and in public demands for accountability for the police officers involved; and,

WHEREAS, new cell phone technology makes it easier to record and store mobile phone videos to a cloud where they are less likely to be altered or destroyed; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, issued a thorough advisory letter dated May 14, 2012 stating that non-intrusive, respectful videotaping of police officers in a public setting is protected by the First Amendment; and,

WHEREAS, video recording of possible misconduct may likewise prove instrumental in reducing civil rights violations in employment, voting, housing, and other areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP commends the bravery of Ramsay Orta, Chris LeDay, Diamond Reynolds, Feidin Santana and others who have recorded police shootings of unarmed civilians and other possible civil rights violations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a deterrent to police misconduct, voter intimidation and other civil rights violations, the NAACP encourages its members

and the public at large to become proficient in the use of a mobile device with video capability and applications that will back up and preserve video in the cloud; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP condemns the harassment of those who film police violation of civil rights, such as was done to Ramsey Orta; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP encourages its units, with the assistance of the National Office staff, to offer training on the lawful use of mobile devices and applications with the ability to back up and preserve video in the cloud so that citizens may determine – based on the circumstances presented – whether to record conduct by police officers, other public officials and/or private citizens that might violate civil rights protections.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. *NAACP Opposes Continuing Violence in African American Communities; Urges State and Local Units to Continue to Work Toward Solutions*

WHEREAS, from the days of slavery and lynching through the years of segregation, the Blue Codes, Jim Crow laws, and even today African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities have always been subject to racial bias, racially disparate treatment, and harsher treatment by the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, due to the increased use of personal video equipment including the use of smart phones, more of these problematic, even deadly, encounters are becoming better publicized and have made more Americans aware of the racial bias policy and disparate treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot walk down the street, drive down an interstate, go through an airport, or even enter into our own homes without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin, who we are perceived to be, or what we chose to wear; and

WHEREAS, faced with this violence, we wonder if the divides of race in America can ever be bridged, and unfortunately this fear can be used as a basis for political vitriol or fodder; and

WHEREAS, the majority of law enforcement officers are hard working, courageous men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting and serving is paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. However, if and when even one of their fellow officers engages in profiling, or behaves with bias whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of and perception of integrity by the entire community can be, and will be, lost; and

WHEREAS, prosecutors have tremendous power when determining the legal fate of an individual, including an officer of the law; unfortunately in too many cases the prosecutorial system at the local, state, and federal level often fails to secure justice in instances of alleged police misconduct and abuse due to political or personal relationships, personal biases, or basic ineptitude; and

WHEREAS, NAACP units across the nation are committed to continuing their non-violent, proactive advocacy through peaceful demonstrations, community-relations building between law enforcement and the people they serve and protect; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we reaffirm violence prevention and safe, sensible policing resolutions passed in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1996, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP reiterates its strong support for legislation to ameliorate the role of racial, ethnic and religious biases in policing including the *End Racial Profiling Act*, which clearly defines the discriminatory practice of profiling by law enforcement at all levels; creates a federal prohibition against profiling; mandates data collection so we can fully assess the true extent of the problem; provides funding for the retraining of law enforcement officials on how to discontinue and prevent the use of profiling; and holds law enforcement agencies that continue to use profiling accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP also reaffirm its support for the *Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act*, which provides incentives for local police organizations to adopt performance-based standards to minimize incidents of misconduct through appropriate management, training and oversight protocols, and requires proper, thorough investigations when incidents do occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges all units to continue to promote non-violence and to work to build community awareness and relations between neighborhoods and the law enforcement officers who are charged with

their protection and to review and utilize the “Pathways to Police Reform Community Modernization Toolkit”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for a complete overhaul of the special prosecutor system to remove personal or political biases and obstructions of justice; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly supports the findings and recommendations of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing to make communities safer and to build trust between police and communities. The recommendations call for data collection, body worn cameras and other law enforcement monitoring equipment and practices. They also call for the creation of effective civilian oversight and review mechanisms, as well as the review of the policy that led to the militarization of police forces throughout the country.

COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

1. *NAACP Celebrates the Life of Muhammad Ali*

WHEREAS, Cassius Clay was born in Louisville, Kentucky on January 17, 1942; and

WHEREAS, at age 18, he won the gold medal in the light heavyweight division at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome; and

WHEREAS, in 1963 he released a spoken word album entitled *I Am the Greatest*; the album was nominated for a Grammy Award. The moniker “The Greatest” stayed with Clay all his life; and

WHEREAS, Clay shocked everyone in February 1964 by upsetting Sonny Liston to become the youngest heavyweight champion ever; he instantly became world-famous; and

WHEREAS, he coined his most famous expression, “float like a butterfly, sting like a bee,” to describe himself, for although he was big for a boxer, well over 6 feet tall and 220 pounds, he was uncharacteristically graceful, often almost dancing on the canvas; and

WHEREAS, after his initial defeat of Liston, Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali and went on to defend his heavyweight crown eight times in three years. By 1967, Ali was 25 years old, undefeated with 29 wins and zero losses, and a household name known throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1967 he was drafted by the United States Army, which at the time was engaged in the Vietnam war, but refused to enter the service due to his religious beliefs. He was subsequently arrested, tried, and found guilty of draft evasion; and

WHEREAS, he successfully appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which eventually overturned his conviction in 1971; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his refusal to join the U.S. military, boxing officials stripped Muhammad Ali of his title and refused to allow him to fight for four years, a decision which cost him potentially millions of dollars and several important years of his career; and

WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali went on to regain the heavyweight title, and he remains the only three-time lineal heavyweight champion, having won the title in 1964, 1974, and 1978, and being involved in such fights as the “Thrilla in Manila” and the “Rumble in the Jungle”; and

WHEREAS, Ali officially retired in 1981, and in 1984 was diagnosed with Parkinson’s syndrome; and

WHEREAS, when he died, on June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali was widely regarded to be one of the most significant and celebrated sports figures of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, Ali once commented that, “I am America. I am the part you won’t recognize. But get used to me – black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own. Get used to me.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 107th NAACP Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, pauses to celebrate the life and legacy of Muhammad Ali and extends its deepest sympathies to this family, friends, and fans throughout the world; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be placed in the NAACP archives and given to the family of Muhammad Ali.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

1. *NAACP Supports Divestment of Public Pension Funds for Firearms and Ammunition, Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers*

WHEREAS, investments in firearms and ammunition put public pension fund's portfolio at greater risk than comparable investments in companies whose products do not pose such a threat to public health and safety. The firms that make these firearms and ammunition are subject to considerable litigation and regulatory risk; and

WHEREAS firearms have the ability to cause significant social harm as evidenced by the prolific tragic incidents which have become almost routine; and

WHEREAS, the African American community is disproportionately impacted by gun violence; nearly half of the victims of deadly gun violence every day are African American men, despite their comprising just 6% of the U.S. population; and the African American community is disproportionately impacted by gun violence; nearly half of the victims of deadly gun violence every day are African American men, despite their comprising just 6% of the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, the African American community is, on a daily basis much too often faced with excessive and a disparate amount of violence and / or hate crimes, including:

- Violence in our neighborhoods perpetrated by overly aggressive/abusive law enforcement actions;
- Violence perpetrated by neighbor against neighbor;
- Violence based on sexual orientation, gender identification or transgender status;
- Violence based on racial, ethnic, or point n national origin animus;
- Violence based on religious animus;
- Violence based on the immigration status of the victim;
- Violence as a result of xenophobia,
- Domestic violence; and
- Violence based on gender; and

WHEREAS, from 2002 through 2014, gun-related deaths in the United States, including homicides, suicides and unintentional or undetermined cause deaths have averaged over 30,000 per year, with a total of 33,599 gun deaths reported in the United States in 2014; and

WHEREAS, federal law requires a license for firearms manufacturing and as of 2014 there were approximately 10,000 gun companies in the United States; this is nearly double the number of the 5,400 manufacturers reported in 2011. In 2014, domestic firms produced 9.1 million small arms - including handguns (4.4 million), rifles (3.4 million) and shotguns (0.9 million). An additional 3.6 million small arms were imported; and

WHEREAS, with much of the firearms industry in private ownership, revenue and profit statistics are limited. However, IBIS World estimates \$13.5 billion in revenues and \$1.5 billion in profits from the manufacturing of guns and ammunition; and

WHEREAS, certain companies have already engaged in divestment from firearm companies, including:

- The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) - In January 2013, CalPERS undertook an evaluation of their holdings of manufacturers of assault weapons and following the fund's divestment policies divested approximately \$5 Million from Smith & Wesson and Sturm Ruger; and
- The California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) - In January 2013, following the fund's divestment policy divested approximately \$5 million in Smith & Wesson and Sturm Ruger; and
- NYC Teachers - On February 15, 2013, the NYC Teachers' Pension Fund Board of Trustees voted to divest from five firms. This action was taken after staff had determined that the action would be consistent with the fund's fiduciary standards and investment process.

WHEREAS, investments in firearms and ammunition puts pension funds at high risk.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP mount a public policy campaign to ensure public pension funds across the nation divest their investments in the firearms and ammunition manufacturing companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon public pension funds to provide an implementation plan and timeline for divesting from their current public market holdings in these firearms and ammunition manufacturing, distribution and dealer companies and not investing in other firearms and ammunition manufacturing, distribution and dealer companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages members, vendors, and all corporate partners to review their investments with a view to taking action to end the grip of the gun manufacturers, through actions such as public divestment of their holdings in said companies, supporting shareholder activism designed to promote common sense gun regulations including universal background checks and preventing individuals named to terrorist watch list from purchasing a weapon; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP encourages public pension funds to provide regular public reporting on said divestment.

NAACP NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: 2016

LEON RUSSELL

Chairman

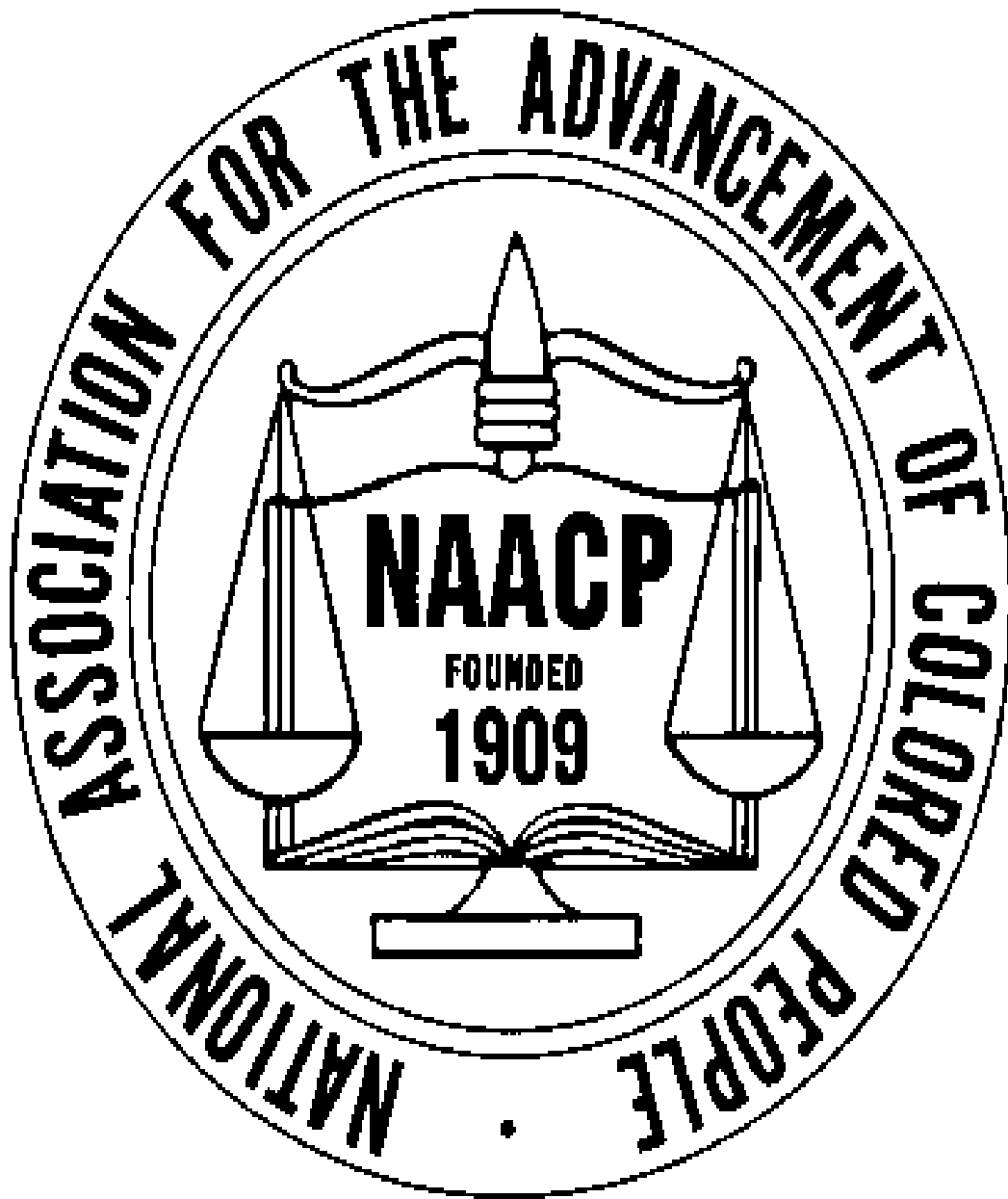
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