

NAACP[®] **RESOLUTIONS**

2017

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

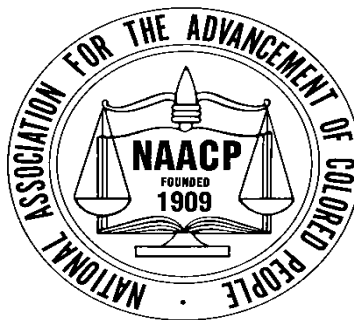
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP

2017

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 108th Convention of the NAACP, held July 22 through July 26, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 21, 2017 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

1. *Hate Crimes Against Muslims*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) affirms the constitutional right of all citizens to religious freedom and life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and reaffirms its past resolutions (from 2003, 2010, 2011 and 2012) supporting the fair treatment of Muslims; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes that law-enforcement officials are sworn to protect all of the citizens in the communities in which they serve; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes against Muslims have soared to their highest levels since the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, according to data compiled by researchers, an increase apparently fueled by divisive language on the 2016 campaign trail; and

WHEREAS, the most current hate crime statistics have documented hundreds of attacks- including arsons at mosques, assaults, shootings and threats of violence - since the beginning of 2015 and the Southern Poverty Law Center reports that hate crimes against Muslims increased to 481 in 2016; and

WHEREAS, new data from researchers at a California public university found that hate crimes against American Muslims were up 78 percent over the course of 2015. Attacks on those perceived as Arab rose even more sharply and police and news media reports in recent months have indicated a continued flow of attacks, often against victims wearing traditional Muslim apparel or seen as being Middle Eastern; and

WHEREAS, there is some evidence that the violent backlash against American Muslims is driven by the Trump administration's recent proposed ban on immigration by Muslims from designated countries and proposed national registry of Muslims in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, two mosques in Texas and one in the state of Washington were destroyed by arson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP categorically opposes any Trump administration executive order seeking to impose any religious-based ban on persons entering the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the President of the United States to discontinue his demonization of Muslims as persons primarily responsible for terrorism in the United States and to disavow in unequivocal terms all hate crimes against Muslims; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the United States Department of Justice and all state and local officials to prosecute hate crimes against Muslims to the fullest extent of the law.

2. *Opposing Conversion Therapy and Other Religious Redirective Practices for Persons Who are LGBTQIA*

WHEREAS, many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersexual and asexual citizens are subjected to coercion, discrimination and hardships stemming from misinformation, prejudices and homophobia; and

WHEREAS, credible studies have indicated that there are biological indices that determine sexual orientation and gender identification; and

WHEREAS, some extreme religious sectors believe that sexuality, asexuality and/or gender identity can be redirected through so-called “conversion therapy” and other adverse practices and, to this end, have established archaic and inhumane methods targeted at redirecting a person to become what the institution feels to be “straight” or “normal”; and

WHEREAS, these extreme approaches are harmful, both mentally and physically, to the individuals who are subjected to them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) opposes the use of conversion therapy and other unscientific practices which undermine and violate the civil and constitutional rights of the LGBTQIA community.

COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

1. *Honoring Brownsville Tennessee Branch Charter Members Especially Elbert Williams Who was Murdered June 20, 1940, in the Struggle for African American Voting Rights*

WHEREAS, in 1939, Elbert Williams became a charter member of the Brownsville, Tennessee, NAACP Branch. Thereafter the funeral business of

first Branch President Ollie S. Bond, father of the NAACP's beloved Mildred Bond Roxborough, came under a white economic boycott. President Bond began to receive death threats, was harassed and beaten by police, his home was burned, and a plot to murder him forced him to leave the state to preserve his life; and

WHEREAS, the Brownsville Branch in 1940 launched a voter registration effort that was met by a white terror campaign that included: termination of the employment of Branch members; threats of death to Branch leaders; armed mob action that forced the Reverend Buster Walker, second Branch President, to flee for his life; the kidnapping of Elisha Davis, leader of the voter registrants, and forcing him from the county on threat of death; and

WHEREAS, in the face of mortal danger, on June 20, 1940, Elbert Williams was overheard planning a Branch meeting to carry on the voter registration campaign and was reported to police, and on the night of June 20, 1940, Elbert Williams was kidnapped by police from his home, locked up, questioned about the NAACP, and then murdered, becoming the first NAACP member murdered for his civil rights activity; and

WHEREAS, then NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins, at the funeral of Medgar W. Evers, publicly recognized Elbert Williams as a pioneer fighter and the first NAACP martyr for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2015, the 75th anniversary of the murder of Elbert Williams, the Association's President and CEO, Cornell William Brooks, delivered the keynote address in Brownsville, Tennessee, at a memorial service honoring Elbert Williams as a civil rights hero.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP"), recognizes the courage of all the Brownsville Branch 1939 charter members, and expresses its deepest appreciation for their sacrifice for voting rights, with special thanks to Ollie Bond and wife Mattye Tollette Bond, Buster Walker, Elisha Davis, and Elbert Williams; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP recognizes Elbert Williams as a voting rights hero, the first NAACP member to die in the struggle for civil rights, and offers its eternal thanks to his memory and his family.

2. Recognition of Gullah-Geechie Culture and the Origins of “Kumbaya”

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1926, Mr. H. Wylie an African American of Gullah-Geechie Heritage, was the first to record the song now known as “Kumbaya”; and

WHEREAS, the Gullah-Geechie culture is birthed out of a determination of enslaved persons and their descendants, who lived in the Sea Islands of Georgia and South Carolina, to retain aspects of their various African cultures, language, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 Congress designated the area between Wilmington, NC and St. Augustine, FL as the Gullah-Geechie Cultural Heritage Corridor; and

WHEREAS, these Gullah-Geechie cultural practices and traditions have been preserved by descendants throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the song Kumbaya was popularized and earned national significance in American history, music, and culture during the modern civil rights movement of the 1940s-1970s.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) calls the United States National Park Service to include information on cultural origin and significance of the song “Kumbaya” into each of its markers along the Gullah-Geechie corridor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP shall demand that the United States Congress fully fund the Gullah-Geechie Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, which works to preserve the heritage and area.

3. NAACP Commemorates the Life and Legacy of Roger Wilkins

WHEREAS, the late Roger Wilkins from his young adult days to his last position as Chairman and Publisher for The Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., publisher of *The Crisis* magazine, the official publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”), was an active participant and national leader in the ongoing campaigns for civil rights and economic and social justice; and

WHEREAS, while as a young man, he interned at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., under the direction of Thurgood Marshall; was appointed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1966 as Assistant Attorney General at the United States Department of Justice, the first African American to achieve this rank; and in 1973, he, along with others, earned the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for exposing the Watergate scandal that eventually forced the resignation of President Richard Nixon; and

WHEREAS, he made race and poverty central to his multifaceted career in law, journalism, and education during which he demonstrated diverse talents and notable achievements as an author, news commentator, professor, and broadcast and print journalist; and

WHEREAS, his contributions and personal sacrifices, courage and integrity, including his service as an Assistant Attorney General, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, University professor, commentator, historian, author and publisher, made him an incisive catalyst of social change; and

WHEREAS, to this end, during his Chairmanship of The Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., he did invigorate and hold high the mission of *The Crisis* magazine as set forth by its founding editor, W.E.B. Du Bois.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is privileged to be the beneficiary of Roger Wilkins's many contributions and is proud to pay richly deserved tribute to him as a courageous and outstanding Civil and Human Rights leader.

4. Celebrating the Life and Honoring the Memory of William T. Coleman, Jr.

WHEREAS, the late Secretary William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr., from his early years as a young civil rights lawyer from Philadelphia, broke racial barriers; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Coleman was the first "Negro law Clerk" in the Supreme Court's 158-year history when he clerked for Justice Felix Frankfurter from 1948 to 1949. He went on to serve as a member of the National Legal Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and he is best memorialized for his talent and tenacity as a civil rights attorney, advocate and public servant; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Coleman was accepted into Harvard Law School but left in 1943 to enlist in the Army Air Forces spending part of his time as a defense team member in court-martial proceedings. In one such case, he helped defend black airmen who had been arrested for challenging segregation at an officers' club. At the end of his service, he was accepted by The Harvard Law School and graduated first in his class in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Coleman was the first African-American staff member of the *Harvard Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Secretary Coleman was recruited by NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall as the lead strategist and coauthor of the legal brief in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Secretary Coleman coordinated research efforts in 37 states, which ultimately became five cases, collectively

known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. He also helped to write the legal briefs that formed the basis of Marshall's arguments before the Supreme Court. The Court ultimately declared state laws establishing separate public schools for African-American and white students to be unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, ten years later in *McLaughlin v. Florida*, Secretary Coleman appeared before the Supreme Court and argued against a Florida law that barred "any negro man and white woman, or any white man and negro woman" from living together. The Supreme Court overturned the Florida law, thereby establishing the constitutionality of racially mixed sexual relations, interracial marriage and cohabitation. Three years later, in *Loving v. Virginia*, the Court unanimously declared all race-based legal restrictions on marriage unconstitutional. In 1982, in *Bob Jones University v. United States*, Secretary Coleman persuaded the Court, by a vote of 8-1, that private schools practicing racial discrimination should be barred from receiving federal tax exemptions telling the court, "when fundamental public policy is violated, a defense of religious belief is not available," and

WHEREAS, Secretary Coleman argued a total of 19 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Coleman was named by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the Commission on Employment Policy and was named an assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, his career in law and public service included his appointment by President Gerald Ford to serve as the fourth United States Secretary of Transportation, the second African American to hold a cabinet-level position; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Coleman was named president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in 1971 and was its chairman from 1977 to 1997. He turned down offers from two Presidents for federal judgeships; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President William J. Clinton; and

WHEREAS, to this end, he dedicated his life to upholding the ideals of the U.S. Constitution to protect the rights of all people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") is privileged to be the beneficiary of the many contributions of Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr. and is proud to pay richly deserved tribute to Secretary Coleman, as a courageous and outstanding public servant for civil rights; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP honors the contributions towards the advancement of civil rights by Secretary William T. Coleman Jr. who rose above racial barriers himself as a student, military member, influential lawyer and a cabinet secretary.

5. NAACP Recognizes and Honors Ina Boon for her Contributions in the Struggle for Equality for All

WHEREAS, the late Ina Boon, an outspoken, tough, smart and capable foot soldier, spent over 55 years of her life as an indefatigable crusader for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, (“NAACP”) to bring equality and justice to all on a regional and national level; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boon, as a young woman, volunteered for the St. Louis, Missouri NAACP branch, and in the 1950’s, quit her job with the U.S. Government and began working for the NAACP as the first paid branch secretary in St. Louis, moving up to become the executive director of the branch in the 1960’s; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boon was the Missouri NAACP field director and the first regional director of Region IV, and retired as the longest tenured director of NAACP Region IV; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boon went on to work at the NAACP national office where she managed a campaign to promote lifetime memberships; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boon, serving under six national NAACP presidents, supervised fundraising, voting, housing, job and education initiatives of the branches and state conferences in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boon help spearhead the integration of the St. Louis Fire Department where she helped spawn the Firefighters Institute for Racial Equality, a group that has challenged hiring and promotional practices which discriminated against Black people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP is privileged to be the beneficiary of Ida Boon’s many contributions and is proud to pay richly deserved tribute to Ina Boon as a courageous and outstanding public servant for civil rights.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. Prisoner Education Through Tablet Computers

WHEREAS, many prisoners have no access to computers while incarcerated. Ninety-five percent of prisoners will eventually be released. Upon release from prison, prisoners face a culture shock when faced with the task of having to learn to utilize technology that did not exist when they were last in society; and

WHEREAS, post-high school education has been shown to dramatically reduce recidivism. Many colleges offer college and self-help courses that many prisoners cannot access because they do not possess the technology; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing number of technological advances such as tablet computers that allow prisoners to participate in programs that are educational and rehabilitative opportunities, such as classes in job skills, job training, self-help, computer literacy, and business. This technology allows prisoners with disabilities to access information and for all prisoners to do legal research, while also allowing prison officials to monitor prisoners' computer related activities and restrict prisoners' access to any online venue deemed inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, many prisoners need to have large amounts of paperwork related to criminal appeals and case files; while prison officials also have a legitimate interest in limiting the amount of paperwork in each prisoner's possession; and

WHEREAS, many prisoners are limited to ownership of a small number of books because of the need for prisons to limit the amount of paperwork in a prisoner's possession; and

WHEREAS, computer access can provide significant incentive to better behavior; it reduces staff workload by reducing paperwork, books, etc., thereby making searches of the prison easier; and it lowers recidivism rates by connecting prisoners with their families, while introducing prisoners to technology, and allowing more access to education; and

WHEREAS, tablet computers are already available to prisoners in California, Washington, Georgia, Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, North Dakota, Louisiana, Idaho and Pennsylvania with extremely positive results.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) shall advocate for the provision of technology such as tablet computers that will allow prisoners to pursue education and learn necessary computer skills; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP shall call upon all prison officials and state and federal legislators for immediate research, adoption and implementation of allowing tablet computers and other technology to be afforded to prisoners without financial exploitation of prisoners or their families.

2. Campaign to Stop Financial Exploitation of Prisoners and their Families

WHEREAS, the vast majority of prisoners and their families are poor and have lost their main wage earner, and have depleted their savings paying off high legal fees, court fines and associated costs; and

WHEREAS, prisoners are paid the equivalent to slave or sweatshop wages. For example, the few "high paid" prisoners in Missouri working for Missouri Vocational Enterprises earn only between \$.15 to \$.71 per hour, while the majority of prisoners in Missouri earn only less than \$10 per month for 4 full work weeks; and

WHEREAS, there have been no increases in basic prisoner pay in more than 30 years, while canteen prices have increased each year. These increases include higher prices for basic necessities such as toothpaste, soap, stamps, and envelopes; and

WHEREAS, many prisoners are forced to rely heavily on their families for any financial assistance, when possible; and

WHEREAS, many prisoners are forced to either eat very little and go hungry or purchase supplemental foods from the prison canteen in an effort to have a balanced diet despite unhealthy prison food; and

WHEREAS, prisoners and their families are exploited through canteens, commissaries, and other services that grant monopoly interests to vendors who promise profit sharing to the prisons; and

WHEREAS, prison canteens add excessively high markups to the price of canteen items as well as governmental taxes, forcing prisoners to pay more than the average American consumer; and

WHEREAS, many prisons are housed in remote locations far from prisoners’ families, making regular in-person visits virtually impossible. However, some jails and prisons have limited inmates’ contact with visitors who are willing to take this

arduous journey by restricting or eliminating in-person visits because of the availability of video visitation; and

WHEREAS, many prisoners struggle to keep contact with their family by mail because U.S. Postal rates increase yearly without accounting for indigent prisoners whose monthly allotments are less than the cost of mailing of a single package; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communication Commission has recognized the exorbitant phone rates paid by prisoners. The FCC has recognized that “[i]n most cases, inmates' telephone calling options are limited to one or more of the following calling types: collect, debit account or pre-paid account. Also, incarcerated persons typically cannot choose their calling provider. These factors, combined with unrestricted rates, have often resulted in unreasonably high phone bills for inmates' families.”; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that keeping prisoners connected with their families assists tremendously in their rehabilitation and lowering recidivism, while keeping stress levels lower, which creates a safer environment for both staff and prisoners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) strongly supports measures that will provide services, canteen, commissary, and telephone rates that are commensurate to outside rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon prison officials and their families to divest from any interest in prison services, canteen, commissary, and/or telephone companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to prisoners receiving a minimum wage and job opportunities that can provide useful training and skills; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will advocate on the state and national level to ensure that federal and state laws and regulations prohibit the financial exploitation of prisoners.

3. Independent Civilian Oversight Board for Review of Prisoner Grievances

WHEREAS, prisoners are expected to resolve issues through a biased grievance procedure, where prison officials are not even required to respond & are often encouraged not to give reasonable or rational responses; refuse to investigate & often investigate their own or coworkers/friends misconduct, while overwhelmingly denying any misconduct in the face of obvious evidence; refuse to hold staff accountable for the wrongful acts; regularly obstruct prisoners

complaint forms; and retaliate against prisoners for filing complaints; and

WHEREAS, prison and jail officials take advantage of the fact that many prisoners lack basic education, or have learning disabilities, or mental illness (these prisoners often being medicated). Prisoners are forced to continually endure retaliation, brutality, sexual abuse, undue pain & suffering and other abuses (including unhealthy & dangerous prison conditions and inadequate medical treatment in the face of serious life-threatening illnesses) while navigating the lengthy, biased and unfair prison grievance procedures; and

WHEREAS, prison and jail officials take advantage of the fact that many prisoners are unable to properly understand and comply with the myriad prison policies, nor are they able to properly navigate complicated Grievance Procedures while enduring these traumatic events along with an seemingly impossible task of learning even more complex legal procedures in weeks to defend against attorneys who have years of experience & education from law Schools.; and

WHEREAS, prison and jail officials take advantage of the fact most prisoners & their families are poor & unable to afford to hire private counsel & are often regularly denied requests for appointment of counsel by biased judges who favor prison and jail officials; and

WHEREAS, prisoners face expensive deterrents in financial hardships of court fees & legal expenses that take years to pay down leaving prisoners unable to afford even the most basic supplies to stay in contact with family & friends for years; and

WHEREAS, prison and jail officials have employed a strategy of denying and delaying the vast majority of legitimate grievances arbitrarily. In this way they are able to continue their abuses because most prisoners give up because: 1) they cannot afford the high cost of filing a lawsuit or hiring a private attorney, and 2) most prisoners do not have the education necessary to defend complex legal procedures & litigate *pro se*; and

WHEREAS, most prisoners desire and deserve a grievance procedure with some form of independent review, and fair remedies to eliminate abuses and unduly harsh conditions without fear of retaliation or extreme financial burdens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) shall call upon all federal, state, and local officials & legislators for the immediate creation, adoption and implementation of an Independent Civilian Oversight Board for the Review of Prisoner Grievances, while independently holding abusive prison and jail officials accountable for their misconduct.

4. Abolish Penal Slavery and Involuntary Servitude

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was purportedly enacted to bring an end to slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Section 1 of the Thirteenth Amendment states: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, *except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted*, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction;” and

WHEREAS, under the exception, slavery was not abolished. Instead it was merely changed so that it could only be lawfully imposed as a punishment for crime; and

WHEREAS, there are international regulations that have been enacted to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners globally. They include: The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; The Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners; and the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment. Some of the rights they require are: (1) all prisoners be treated with respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings; (2) there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status; and (3) conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into society and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to the support of their families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) shall call upon the federal government and all state governments to abolish penal slavery and involuntary servitude; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP shall call upon Congress and all State legislatures to adhere to international standards for the humane treatment of prisoners.

5. NAACP Opposes Gun Homicide and Calls for it to Rightfully Be Seen as a Public Health Epidemic

WHEREAS, over 30,000 lives are claimed by gun violence annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans suffer disproportionately from gun violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans are 14 times more likely to be killed with guns than whites, and among young black men, gun violence is the leading cause of death; and

WHEREAS among whites, the predominant cause of firearm-related deaths is suicide; among African Americans 80% of firearm-related death is homicide; and

WHEREAS, every day 93 people die from gunshot injuries, seven of whom are children, while more than 180 people are victims of nonfatal gunshot injuries every day, 40 of whom are children or teens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to death and injury, gun violence creates a sense of a lack of safety and exposes people and communities to traumatic events, which include but are not limited to: witnessing gun violence, being fearful to go or be outside because of gun violence, fear of being near areas or activities which often escalate to violence, having had to hide due to gun violence or violent activity in the neighborhood, and/or having lost a relative or close friend to gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the known impacts of chronic and complex trauma include low self-regulation, poor impulse control, mental health problems, cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes, and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, Congress has blocked the passage of sensible gun legislation to protect the American public and our children by significantly curtailing the proliferation of, and access to, illegal guns in America. This includes bills that would create a requirement to report lost and stolen guns; reauthorize an assault weapons and high capacity magazine ban; close the gun-show and fire-sale loopholes; and repeal restrictions on state and local law enforcement's access to trace gun data; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of the groundbreaking Brady Bill in 1993, the U.S. Congress has consistently cut and blocked funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an agency that supports research into the issues that contribute to homicide and gun violence. Congress has also instituted structural restrictions that prevent the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire Arms and Explosives (ATF) from effectively and comprehensively carrying out its role of oversight of the firearms industry; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109-92, The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act passed in 2005, prevents firearms manufacturers and dealers from being held liable when crimes have been committed with their products. PL 109-92 effectively prevents victims of firearms violence in the United States from successfully suing manufacturers and dealers for negligence and or contributory negligence. It closes an avenue by which victims can seek redress for suffering caused by the murders of loved ones, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice's report, Vision 21, called for reform to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and identified African-American boys and men, and their families, as among the victims of crime who are under-served, facing barriers to services, denial of services, and/or denial of funding, and

WHEREAS, while America has laws that protect our children from products, activities, or situations that may cause them harm or injury, and make it illegal for them to purchase substances such as alcohol and tobacco, we have not done enough to protect children and teens from access to guns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) reaffirms its commitment to fighting violence stated in these resolutions:

- 2013 – Anti-Violence Social Media Campaign
- 2010 – Making Communities Smart and Safe through Violence Reduction
- 2010 – Gun Violence Prevention and Safety at Public Events
- 2009 – National Day of Nonviolence

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP at the national, state, and local levels will work to have gun violence recognized and defined as a Public Health Epidemic and National Health Crisis. The NAACP will work to ensure that elected officials address this crisis by enacting legislation and promote policies that protect the rights of all Americans to live in safe environments free from gun violence and allocating sufficient funding for education, awareness and research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will promote sensible gun violence prevention legislation including, but not limited to, legislation on the federal, state and local level, which:

- Requires universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers;
- Bans military-style, semi-automatic assault guns and military high-capacity ammunition clips;
- Enacts tough new criminal penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers;
- Bans suspects on the terror watch list from purchasing firearms;
- Overturns the current prohibition and allows the Center for Disease Control to research gun violence as a major public health issue;
- Maintains current law requiring background checks and permits for gun silencers;
- Allows states to maintain and enforce their own “concealed carry” laws;
- Requires microstamping or ballistic fingerprinting of all new firearms and ammunition sold in the U.S.;
- Repeals all state “stand your ground” laws;

- Encourages local jurisdictions to utilize their “buyer power” to create incentives for firearm manufacturers to employ “countermarketing” strategies to ensure that their retailers are using all available procedures to prevent illegal firearms diversion.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the reform of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to ensure equal access to benefits without discrimination to families in communities with higher than average rates of homicide, and designate funding to provide community-based mental health services and supports to families who have lost loved ones to gun violence and homicide; and

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *In Support of Preserving Historic Places that Tell the Full African-American Story*

WHEREAS, in the past, African-American communities and neighborhoods of color have been disproportionately decimated by mass demolition and so-called “urban renewal”; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, only 8% of the 87,000 listings in the National Register of Historic Places and 3% of 2,500 National Historic Landmarks represented stories of women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation has proven to be a powerful tool for community reinvestment, enhancing prospects for small businesses, creating space for entrepreneurship, providing quality and affordable housing, and working to prevent the displacement of families from neighborhoods in the midst of transformation, thereby ensuring opportunities for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the experiences of the past are refracted through our contemporary landscape, and continue both to impact and inspire opportunities for social justice in the present; and

WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has asked to partner with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to identify historic African American sites.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) will work with the National Trust for

Historic Preservation to identify properties/sites to support the work of their historic preservation.

EDUCATION

1. *Civics and Character Education in Schools*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) advocates equity for all citizens and views education as key to success in students’ personal lives as well as in their becoming productive and contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, education influences and reflects appropriate behaviors in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, character and civics instruction can guide students daily in making decisions that are moral and ethical; and

WHEREAS, an emphasis on basic ethics, values, and civic responsibilities fosters understanding and appreciation of others’ differences among students; and

WHEREAS, targeted character and civics instruction can help students become productive and socially responsible citizens who lead fulfilling lives and make positive contributions to society; and

WHEREAS, all students should have knowledge of the tenets and functions of government and the law in democratic society; and

WHEREAS, children’s acquisition of personal morals and values are fortified by their life experiences, including schooling; and

WHEREAS, in a diverse population, it is important not only to teach character but also to layer that instruction with cultural differences; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of educational agencies to promote self-respect and respect of others among students; and

WHEREAS, character and civics education are proactive approaches to establishing positive discipline and behavior in schools; and

WHEREAS, schools should prepare youth to be accountable to standards of conduct consistent with the values of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, character and civics education positively affects behavioral changes in groups and individually to decrease negative behaviors such as discipline referrals, suspensions, dropouts, and fighting; and

WHEREAS, character and civics education can be embedded in curricula, delivered to students by direct instruction, infused into lessons across academic disciplines, and routinely reinforced at teachable moments; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP reaffirms the 2007 resolution “NAACP Supports Myriad of Federal Legislative Initiatives to Fight the Emergency of Global Disease and Extreme Poverty” [found under Legislation at 9.] which, among other things, supported proposed federal legislation promoting ‘civic education and life skills training; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP asserts that character and civics education is vital to the welfare of students as well as the nation and should be integral throughout schooling.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP urges all units to advocate that state and local education agencies make character and civics education a mandatory component of every student’s Pre-K through 12 instructional program.

2. *Combined Resolution Charter School Finances, Charter Funding to Schools that Counsel Students out of Charter School, Election of Charter School Board, Charter School Teacher Certification*

WHEREAS, transparency and accountability of public funds are critical to ensuring to the taxpayers that funds are used properly on behalf of the students; and

WHEREAS, charter schools that receive a specific allocation of public funds per student have been known to counsel students out of their schools; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that students receive an effective education in charter schools, it is essential to institute some basic regulations; and

WHEREAS, many charter schools are unregulated and do not have direct democratic accountability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) advocates that charter school authorizing entities establish charter school salaries in line with traditional district school salaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its demand for full and open financial accountability to the public, including requiring annual reports that delineate exact, detailed expenditures that includes salaries, management fees, material and textbook expenditures, gifts, advertising, recruitment, political purpose expenditures, and fees paid to private management organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocates that charter school information noted in the previous two paragraphs be collected and reviewed by the charter authorizing agency prior to approval of a new budget for the charter school and/or reauthorization of the charter school. In addition, the charter school's academic performance shall be rated and all the foregoing information shall be made public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocates for public funds attached to students counseled out of charter schools must be returned to the public school district from which it came; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate that all charter schools must hold public elections of their board members in accordance with state election laws; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate that teachers of pre-K through 12 must adhere to the same certification regulations as those required of teachers in traditional district schools.

3. *Public & Charter Schools Fulfilling the Promise of Brown v. Board*

WHEREAS, to best educate children attending schools in the poorest communities, all schools (traditional, charter, and community) in the inner city must ascribe and adhere to the following opportunities to learn:

Employ certified teachers who are qualified and believe that all children can learn;

Employ academic administrators who are courageous, hands-on leaders, who can mentor weak teachers and reassign incompetent teachers;

Develop a salary schedule and monetary rewards commensurate with the teacher's skills and seniority;

Offer the same rigorous curriculum to every child, if not, then consult with the parent and review the alternative curriculum;

Provide mandatory make up classes for students missing their academic learning because of excessive substitute teaching in the classes;

Develop a parent learning center that teaches successful parenting partnership with the school;

Engage in effective community-based teacher evaluation as well as valid and appropriate student learning evaluation and measures of parent partnership effectiveness; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) local units advocate for the adoption of this resolution by local school boards and city councils.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. *Calling for an End to Industrial Developments Posing Toxic Environmental Hazards and Contamination in Low Income Communities and Communities of Color*

WHEREAS, socioeconomically deprived populations and rural areas are overwhelmingly disproportionately exposed to noise and toxic air, soil and water pollutants; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive research and numerous studies have shown that exposures to toxic environmental contaminants such as lead, arsenic, asbestos, carbon dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxides, and carbon monoxide are primarily responsible for disproportionate diseases and disabilities in low-income and/or racial and ethnic populations; and

WHEREAS, well-documented epidemiological studies, since the 1970's, have consistently shown that African Americans are disproportionately exposed to toxic ambient air quality and suffer from cognitive disabilities and serious illnesses, including a variety of major respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis, emphysema, asthma and increased asthma morbidity and mortality in United States; and

WHEREAS, chronic exposure to noise pollution has been linked to widespread sources of stress, discomfort, annoyance, long-term memory loss, reading deficits, sleep disturbance, impaired cognitive performance, hypertension, and the onset of cardiovascular diseases; and

WHEREAS, the prolific media coverage of the water crisis in Flint,

Michigan, a city with a 56.6% African-American population, chronicled how that the State government endangered the health and welfare of its residents by switching their water supply from Lake Huron to the highly corrosive, iron infested Flint River, in an emergency budget money savings scheme; and

WHEREAS, the water source switch was compounded by the unlawful failure to treat the Flint River water with an anti-corrosive agent; thus prompting iron to corrode the lead-built service lines, which caused toxic lead to begin leaching into the water supply; and

WHEREAS, while the cameras were fixated in Flint, on what was considered to be the most egregious environmental breach in recent history, another environmental catastrophe was unfolding in East Chicago, Indiana, a city with a demographic of 90% people of color and a 34% poverty rate; and

WHEREAS, in the West Calumet housing complex and surrounding East Chicago community, homes, churches, an elementary school and other public dwellings were constructed 40 years ago on the superfund site of former lead and arsenic plants, resulting in the toxic exposure to lead contamination in excess of 91,000 parts per million - over 227 times the acceptable Indiana standard of 400 ppm; while arsenic levels were around 567 ppm, which is much higher than the regulated limit at 26.4 ppm; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of toxic industrial emissions which contaminated the air, soil and groundwater in the freed town settlement of Mossville, Louisiana, wreaked havoc on the lives of residents through the exposure of a vast array of deadly pollutants including dioxide and ethylene dichloride-ultimately eradicating the existence of this historic community; and

WHEREAS, the predominantly white, affluent residents of the Porter Ranch community of California, who suffered excruciating health concerns from exposure to noxious fumes from methane leaks, were afforded vastly differential treatment than those in the much poorer, mostly African-American town of Eight Mile, Alabama with identical symptoms from the exact same type of toxic exposure; and

WHEREAS, Flint, East Chicago, Mossville and Eight Mile are just a few of the mounting, heinous examples revealing how economic advancement has been and continues to be used to justify widespread industrial-generated environmental racism, which has contributed to deaths, moderate to severe mental and physical health deterioration, loss of culture, loss or decline in property values, forced migration, gentrification and numerous other environmental perpetrations on low-income and minority populations communities; and

WHEREAS, despite the staggering escalation and severity of environmental

breaches, the Trump Administration callously slashed the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency and has vowed to dismantle existing regulations which safeguard the health and welfare of our nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) petitions the Trump Administration and the United States Congress to reverse the reckless budget cuts made to the Environmental Protection Agency and not only restore, but increase much-needed funding and widen the scope of its oversight/enforcement authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon President Donald J. Trump, the United States Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency, United States Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Defense, and Agriculture, and any and all pertinent federal and state regulatory and oversight agencies to establishment meaningful and viable contingency and compensatory remedies in mitigating damages caused to the properties subjected to toxic environmental annihilation, and also to prioritize the restoration of wellness and livelihood of the impacted populations, such as in East Chicago, IN; Flint, MI; Eight Mile, AL; and other communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP implores President Donald J. Trump, the United States Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency to issue a moratorium on permitting new industrial developments to be located within disadvantaged communities and conduct an extensive investigation and study of environmental hazards posed by existing industrial sites, especially including, but not limited to, those which are already located or are slated to be constructed in and around the areas of former hazardous manufacturing facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP encourages the Environmental Protection Agency to be proactive in identifying toxic areas for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct ongoing toxicological testing of vulnerable communities living in close proximity of superfund sites, who are at high risk of contamination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocates for federal, state and local governments to impose compensatory penalties commensurate with damages caused by industries responsible for malfunctions causing toxic releases as well as negligent, accumulated operational exposures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges local zoning authorities, municipalities, state and federal regulatory and permitting agencies, including the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to end the sanctioning of predominate placement of toxic industrial developments in low-income

communities and/or communities of color; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP supports environmentally responsible, safe economic developments which do not present noise, air, soil or water toxic contamination exposures to low-income communities and people of color and instead directly benefit vulnerable communities through Community Benefits Agreements to ensure the hiring and entrepreneurial advancement needed to enhance the quality of lives of low-income communities and communities of color.

HEALTH

1. *Precision Medicine*

WHEREAS, the emerging field of precision medicine focuses on providing the right treatment for the right patient at the right time; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2015, President Barack Obama unveiled his Precision Medicine Initiative, which calls for a \$215 million investment to support research and innovation in the field; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Health Disparities and Inequalities Report in 2013 documented significant health care disparities for African Americans in areas such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, infant mortality, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest death rates for cancer; and

WHEREAS, precision medicine promises to move health care away from a "one size fits all" approach that overlooks the differences in the genetics and environments of African Americans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") supports further investment in the field of precision medicine and the advancement of new targeted disease prevention and treatments that will reduce disparities in health care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges leaders in the scientific and medical communities to ensure that people of color are fully represented in the genetic research, patient and population information, and environmental and

lifestyle data that informs and fuels precision medicine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP supports the Precision Medicine Initiative and urges federal legislators to champion the Initiative under the new administration; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP exhorts federal, state and local governments to use findings gleaned through precision medicine research and practice to advance public health practice, eliminate health disparities and advance health equity for all Americans.

2. *Prescription Drugs – Price Gouging – Prohibition*

WHEREAS, a 2016 study by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that nearly a third of about 1,400 generic drugs had at least one "extraordinary" price increase of 100 percent or more between 2010 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, concerns about sky-high drug prices have been building for years nationally. They boiled over last year after it was revealed that Turing Pharmaceuticals and Canadian drug maker Valeant Pharmaceuticals were hiking prices on previously low-priced medicines for patients with heart problems and other life-threatening conditions; and

WHEREAS, when an unconscionable increase in the price of a prescription drug, by doubling, tripling, or multiplying by 50 the price of medication ("price gouging") occurs, it imperils the health and negatively impacts finances of patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, the cost of naloxone, a medication that can reverse the effects of a heroin or opioid overdose, doubled in the past couple of years; the price of an EpiPen ballooned from \$50 to \$600; the price of doxycycline, an antibiotic used to fight infections, has increased from \$20 to more than \$1,800 in six months (an 8,000 percent increase); and the cost of albuterol, an asthma medication, shot up from \$11 to \$434 in six months (a 4,000 percent increase). This price gouging of prescription drugs threatens public health; and

WHEREAS, during its 2017 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that gives the state attorney general authority to pursue companies that price gouge generic drugs. The legislation is the first of its kind in the nation, and it's designed to be a deterrent. The legislation gives the attorney general the power to take legal action against drug companies that dramatically increase the price of off-patent or generic drugs. The Maryland legislature passed the measure with bipartisan support in both houses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") stands opposed to the practice of

price gouging of generic or off-patent prescription drugs in the United States of America and will work through the local, state and federal legislative process to advocate for the prohibition of such practices and for policies that correct market factors that enable generic drug price spikes, such as policies that correct market distortions and promote competition; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to enact legislation similar to the enrolled Maryland bill *SB 415/HB 631 Public Health –Essential Generic Drugs – Price Gouging – Prohibition*. that prohibit manufacturers or wholesale distributors from engaging in price gouging in the sale of an essential generic drug and give the state attorney general authority to pursue companies that price gouge generic drugs - to take legal actions that will lead to damages awards, and to seek injunctions to stop unjustified price increases.

3. *Transportation and Medical Access for Chronic Disease Management*

WHEREAS, the uninsured and underinsured often rely on public transportation to get to medical appointments; and

WHEREAS, the uninsured and underinsured often have more than one pre-existing or co-morbid health condition, especially high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and depression, which require them to visit doctors not located in same location; and

WHEREAS, not being able to find or afford transportation can be an enormous cost for these patients; and

WHEREAS, without reliable, culturally appropriate transportation, these patients may use emergency services as an alternative to proper self-management of conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic conditions, and monitoring and adjustment of medication and medical advice. They have poorer health outcomes and disease progression leading to aggressive treatments such as amputation of limbs and very often miss preventative appointments; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to have diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, transportation is provided by Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) will advocate for the increase in funding and monitoring of the Medicaid NEMT, which spends \$3 billion annually in transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will request review (by state and federal agencies) of the process for transportation and medical access to include culturally appropriate contractors and providers for medical appointment transportation services by NEMT; and

BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will promote legislation and regulations that amend the current language for persons receiving Medicaid to include and cover NEMT services for reliable roundtrip transportation for medical appointments.

4. *Promoting Outreach to Increase Awareness of Alzheimer's Disease*

WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Association, 21% of African Americans over the age of 70 are effected by Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia compared to just 11.2 percent of Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, the number of African Americans age 65 and over will more than double by 2030, from 2.7 million in 1995 to 6.9 million by 2030, including 'Baby Boomers' whom began turning 65 in 2011; and Alzheimer's disease is the fifth leading cause of death for those over 65; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is committed to supporting the cure of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia through the advancement of research including clinical research, and to reducing the risk of dementia through the promotion of "brain health"; and

WHEREAS, many African Americans have "co-existing conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol obesity, which are considered risk factors for Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP supports the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act [The "Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act" (S.857/H.R. 1559)] that was presented to the 114th Congress by the Alzheimer's Association's; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease within the African American community urgently requires increased awareness of the NAACP regarding the disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP recognizes the need for culturally-sensitive and specific support services for seniors in communities of color and others living with Alzheimer's disease; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports efforts to disseminate information and increase outreach and educational programs to raise

awareness and understanding of Alzheimer's disease; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports legislation at the federal level that requires federal commitment through the Public Health Service Act to include Alzheimer's disease research, in effect advancing treatments for people with Alzheimer's disease; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP also supports federal legislation that provides Medicare and Medicaid coverage for clinical diagnosis and appropriate planning for treatment and support.

5. *Alcohol Taxes as a Public Health Revenue Measure*

WHEREAS, alcohol is the number one drug among young people, and is responsible for 4300 deaths per year of persons under 21; and

WHEREAS, excessive drinking is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States, a causal agent in liver cirrhosis, cancers of the head, neck, digestive tract and female breast, and is involved in one third of violent crimes and two in three cases of intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans are less likely to drink and binge drink than the general population, but if they do drink excessively, they are more likely to suffer in terms of personal relationships, employment, financial and legal problems, as well as higher rates of alcohol-induced heart disease and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that increasing alcohol taxes is one of the most effective ways to reduce excessive drinking and prevent alcohol-related problems; and

WHEREAS, excessive drinking cost an estimated \$249 billion in the U.S. in 2010, or \$2.05 per drink, while federal alcohol taxes are approximately 8.5 cents per drink and state alcohol taxes are an average of 5 cents per drink; and

WHEREAS, all federal and most state alcohol taxes lose value every year because they are based on the volume of the beverage and therefore do not rise with inflation; and

WHEREAS, increasing alcohol taxes has been shown to reduce underage drinking, heavy drinking, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, sexually-transmitted diseases, and numerous other negative consequences of alcohol use.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) encourages states and the federal government to increase taxes on alcohol in order to decrease underage drinking, reduce and prevent a wide range of negative consequences of alcohol use, and raise revenues that can be used to support health care and other measures to improve and safeguard the health of the population; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will work with public health advocates and elected officials to educate political leaders and the general public about the public health benefits of reducing the consumption of alcohol by increasing taxes on the purchase of alcohol in order to safeguard our communities.

6. *Sickle Cell Disease Funding: Treatment, Prevention and Education*

WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia and sickle cell disease, used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders that affect hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to the cells throughout the body; and

WHEREAS, having only one sickle cell gene confers a status called "sickle cell trait," which occurs in one out of every 12 African Americans and one out of every 100 Latinos in the United States; and

WHEREAS, when the cells are deoxygenated they turn into a sickle, crescent or other inflexible shape, get stuck in blood vessels and block the blood flow, which can cause pain and organ damage; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that sickle cell is present in one out of every 500 African American births and one out of every 36,000 Latino births where there are two sickle cell genes from one parent; and

WHEREAS, sickling can become a life-threatening condition when the sickling patient's access to comprehensive healthcare is limited by social, economic, cultural and geographic barriers; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the estimated annual cost of medical care for people with sickle cell disease exceeded \$1.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, other barriers limit the number of experienced, knowledgeable health care providers available to manage and treat sickle cell anemia; and

WHEREAS, the lack of education in communities where individuals live with sickle cell disorders without ever knowing it can be addressed through education,

testing and preventive measures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) calls for increased funding of sickle cell programming, to include treatment, prevention, and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls for implementation of programs that endeavor to educate and bring awareness to African American and Latino communities about sickling disorders and hemoglobin-related diseases through health agencies, education forums, community cultural centers, and local and national sickle cell awareness campaigns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP demands that African Americans and other people of color have access to experienced health care providers with knowledge and experience to prevent or manage sickling disorders, from family and community education to testing to preventing complications; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon Congress to fully fund programming for preventing and/or comprehensively managing sickling and other hemoglobin-related disorders.

7. *Addressing the Shortage of African-American Doctors in the United States*

WHEREAS, implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act has highlighted the existence of “medical deserts” within inner cities and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of Africa-American doctors in the inner city; and

WHEREAS, it is known that a healthy America requires a diverse pool of medical providers reflective to their communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 there were 1,410 Black men who applied to medical degree-granting institutions, of which 542 matriculated, as opposed to 2014, when just 1,337 applied and 515 matriculated; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report issued by the Association of American Medical Colleges in conjunction with the National Medical Association entitled "Altering the Course: Black Males in Medicine," the number of Black male applications to medical school has not increased since 1978, and the number of Black female applicants has remained low and flat; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that by 2025 there will be a shortage of physicians in the United States of 46,000 to 90,000, which will have a profound negative effect

on the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) approved the resolution “Critical Shortage of Primary Care Doctors in America” but also recognizes the detrimental impact of current scoring practices for medical school testing on African Americans’ admission to medical school.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that all medical schools, state governors, and Black caucuses of all state legislatures take definitive steps to double by 2025 the percentage of African Americans entering medical school in their respective states. These steps shall include: 1) pipeline programs for junior and senior high schools, 2) pre-medical programs in colleges (all HBCUs and all land grant colleges), and 3) revisions in entrance recruitment, interviewing, testing and scoring to meet culturally-appropriate standards.

8. *Psychotropic Drugging of Children*

WHEREAS, individuals, especially children, can be controlled by physical and chemical means; and

WHEREAS, “child endangerment” refers to an act or omission that causes children distress through psychological, emotional or physical abuse and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) defines "child abuse and neglect" as meaning, "at a minimum, any recent act or failure to act," which "results in death, serious physical or emotional harm"; and

WHEREAS, children and adolescents are prescribed psychotropic drugs with known side effects that can include stroke, diabetes, pancreatitis, obesity, and a variety of these drugs targeted towards the central nervous system are associated with cardiac issues, including arrhythmia and sudden death, while some of the drugs are likely to cause suicidal thoughts, and are linked to suicides and other deaths; and

WHEREAS, persons of color are overrepresented in high poverty areas and an analysis of national Medicaid claims for foster youth found 49% were on antipsychotics and 48% were on antidepressants, despite a "black box" warning – the Food and Drug Administration's most serious drug labeling -that antidepressants may increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will work with advocates to oppose

the misdiagnosis and over-prescription of psychotropic drugs for children, including children falling within the authority of Children and Family Services, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and the Juvenile detention and probation systems; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP urges all governmental jurisdictions (local, state and federal), that fund or support Children and Family Services, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and the Juvenile detention and probation agencies/systems, to adopt rules and regulations that protect children and youth from misdiagnosis and over-prescription of psychotropic drugs that can result in physical abuse and cause injury or endangerment to a child's health.

9. *Protecting Individuals from Electroshock Treatment*

WHEREAS, Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) is a controversial mental health treatment that involves as much as 450 volts of electricity being forced randomly through the brain, overwhelming delicate brain circuitry and function; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports the following adverse effects of ECT: cardiovascular (heart) complications; cognition and memory impairment; death; dental/oral trauma; medical device malfunction; manic symptoms; pain/discomfort; physical trauma; prolonged or tardive (latent) seizures; pulmonary (lung) complications; skin burns; and potential worsening of psychiatric symptoms; and

WHEREAS, in more than 40 years, the FDA has never required the manufacturers of the ECT device to provide clinical studies proving that the devices are safe and effective; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the FDA sought public comment on reducing the high-risk classification that the ECT device currently has, which would make ECT more widely available despite its risks, and the FDA received more than 3,000 comments, most of which (79%) opposed reclassifying ECT devices; and

WHEREAS, the FDA, federal and state governments do not maintain a record of how many Americans, including children, are given electroshock, with the FDA relying instead upon a 1995 study estimating 100,000 Americans receive it annually; and

WHEREAS, state-by-state requests for the number of people receiving ECT under Medicaid generated documents showing that children five or younger are being administered electroshock; and

WHEREAS, four U.S. states—California, Colorado, Texas and Tennessee—

have already banned the use of electroshock on children; and the February, 2013 United Nations Special report on Torture also describes ECT without consent as "torture" and recommended "an absolute ban on all forced and non-consensual" use of electroshock; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization's Resource Book on Mental Health, Human Rights and Legislation 2005, states: "There are no indications for the use of ECT on minors, and hence this should be prohibited through legislation;" and

WHEREAS, professor Herb Kutchins notes in the 2008 publication *Creating Racism: Psychiatry's Betrayal*: "Defenders of slavery, proponents of racial segregation...have consistently attempted to justify oppression by inventing new mental illnesses and by reporting higher rates of abnormality among African Americans or other minorities;" and

WHEREAS, psychiatrists now diagnose African-American men in mental hospitals as having a serious mental disorder at rates up to 1,500 percent higher than white men, and classify more than twice as many African Americans than whites as mentally retarded; African Americans are given significantly higher doses of neuroleptic (nerve-seizing) drugs than are whites; and African Americans are at risk of receiving electroshock when labeled with a serious mental disorder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) vehemently opposes any attempt by the FDA to reduce the risk classification of the ECT device, to allow its continuance when there are no clinical trials submitted by the ECT device manufacturers to the FDA proving safety and efficacy, and therefore, as the treatment constitutes "torture" without consent, we support a ban on the use of ECT in the treatment of children and young adults up to the age of 21, and the indiscriminate use on adults.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- 1. *Provision to Allow Electronic Notification of Branch, College Chapter and Youth Elections, Revision Bylaws for Units Article IX, Section 2(g), Section 4(e) and Section 5(e)***

Article IX, Section 2(g)

Current Language

Notice of September, October Meeting and November Election. Each Branch shall mail one notice to each member in good standing, postmarked at least ten (10) days prior to the September meeting, listing the time, place, date and purpose of the September and October meetings and time, place and date of the November election. In addition, to this notice, each Branch shall place the announcements of such meetings and election in one or more local newspaper of general circulation at least ten (10) days before the date of the November election. Should a run-off election be necessary that election shall occur on the following date at time certain (at least 1 hour) at this location, run-off elections shall be conducted not less than ten (10) days after the original election.

Revised Language

Notice of September, October Meeting and November Election. Each Branch shall send notice to each member in good standing at least ten (10) days prior to the September meeting, listing the time, place, date and purpose of the September and October meetings and time, place and date of the November election. *Notices shall be sent via regular and electronic mail to members. The Secretary shall maintain a list of those members to whom a notice was sent and shall secure and maintain all electronic delivery receipts for the notice.*

In addition, to this notice, each Branch shall place the announcements of such meetings and election in one or more local newspaper of general circulation at least ten (10) days before the date of the November election. Should a run-off election be necessary that election shall occur on the following date at time certain (at least 1 hour) at this location, run-off elections shall be conducted not less than ten (10) days after the original election.

Article IX, Section 4(e) College Chapters

Current Language

Notice of Annual Meeting and the Meeting That Precedes the Annual Meeting. At least seven days prior to the Annual Meeting and the meeting that precedes

the Annual Meeting, written notice shall be sent to each member of the College Chapter, in good standing of the date, place, and purpose of said meetings and election. Should a run-off election be necessary that election shall occur on the following date at time certain (at least 1 hour) at this location, run-off elections shall be conducted not less than ten (10) after the original election.

Revised Language

Notice of Annual Meeting and the Meeting That Precedes the Annual Meeting. At least seven days prior to the Annual Meeting and the meeting that precedes the Annual Meeting, written notice shall be sent to each member of the College Chapter, in good standing of the date, place, and purpose of said meetings and election. *Notices may be sent via electronic mail to members for whom the College Chapter has a valid email address. The Secretary shall maintain a list of those members to whom a notice was sent and shall secure and maintain all electronic delivery receipts for the notice.*

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

Article IX, Section 5(e)

Current Language

Notice of Annual Meeting and the Meeting that Precedes the Annual Meeting. At least seven days prior to the Annual Meeting and the meeting that precedes the Annual Meeting, written notice shall be sent to each member of the Youth Council, High School Chapter and Junior Youth Council, in good standing, of the date, place and purpose of said meetings Council, High School Chapter and Junior Youth Council and shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Revised Language

Notice of Annual Meeting and the Meeting that Precedes the Annual Meeting. At least seven days prior to the Annual Meeting and the meeting that precedes the Annual Meeting, written notice shall be sent to each member of the Youth Council, High School Chapter and Junior Youth Council, in good standing, of the date, place and purpose of said meetings Council, High School Chapter and Junior Youth Council and shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified. *Notices may be sent via electronic mail to members for whom the Youth Council, High School Chapter and Junior Youth Council has a valid email address. The Secretary shall maintain a list of those members to whom a notice was sent and shall secure and maintain all electronic delivery receipts for the notice.*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/IMMIGRATION

1. *Congressional Codification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*

WHEREAS, pursuant to the United States Constitution, Article II § 2, Clause 2, "[The President of the United States] shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and

WHEREAS, on September 8th, 1992, the United States, following the advice and consent of the Senate, became a party to the ICCPR; and

WHEREAS, the ICCPR creates many civil and human rights for citizens of the United States that are not covered by the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, treaties that are not self-executing require implementing legislation before individuals can rely on their provisions in U.S. Courts; and

WHEREAS, the Senate gave its consent to the ICCPR subject to the following declaration: "That the United States declares that the provisions of Article 1 through 27 of the Covenant are not self-executing." See 138 Cong. Rec. S4781, S4783 (daily ed. April 2nd, 1992), and

WHEREAS, until Congress passes implementing legislation for the ICCPR, promises stand unfulfilled and are unenforceable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shall support federal legislation to implement the provisions for Article 1 through 27 of the ICCPR, making the Covenant enforceable in federal and State Courts throughout the United States.

VOTING RIGHTS

1. *Strengthening the American Democratic Process*

WHEREAS, since its inception, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) has worked for the political empowerment of African Americans and other people of color in our country; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP was a key leader in the passage and signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and all of its amendments, including the most recent amendment in 2006; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2013, the United States Supreme Court invalidated Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which contained a formula that determined which jurisdictions required clearance from the Department of Justice before making any changes to their voting laws or procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court expressly invited the Congress of the United States to reconstruct the preclearance formula based on current statistics, and the Congress has failed to do in the four years since the Supreme Court’s decision; and

WHEREAS, within hours of the Supreme Court’s 2013 decision, Texas and other states began the process of creating or implementing laws whose design and/or effect would be suppression of the votes of African-American and Latino voters; and

WHEREAS, the primary justification for these voter suppression efforts is the spurious claim of widespread voter impersonation or “voter fraud”; and

WHEREAS, many studies have shown that “voter fraud” is virtually nonexistent in this country and the *Washington Post* recently conducted a study which determined that only 31 out of 1 billion votes cast in the United States between 2000 and 2014 were alleged to be potentially fraudulent; and

WHEREAS, despite the absence of any factual basis for claims of voter fraud, several states have imposed voting restrictions which have affected African-American and Latino citizens in disproportionate numbers; and

WHEREAS, voter participation remains at abysmally low levels even in recent election cycles, including a participation rate at less than 60 percent in the most recent presidential general election; and

WHEREAS, despite this low voter turnout, many state officials still seek to make voting more burdensome and less convenient by passing regressive voter identification, proof of citizenship and other laws; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fourth and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeal recently held that Texas and North Carolina imposed voting restrictions that discriminated against African Americans and Latinos, and in North Carolina's case, was created with a racially discriminatory purpose; and

WHEREAS, most voting requirements and restrictions are imposed at the state and local levels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on the Governors, Attorneys General, and Chief Election Officials in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to work with us to put forth strong legislation that promotes voter registration and participation across all geographic areas and demographic groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on the President, Attorney General, and Congress to increase staffing and funding in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon President Trump to disband his task force on so-called "voter fraud" and to replace it with a task force on reducing voter suppression and increasing voter registration and participation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will work towards all future election cycles to empower our units and members to advocate on the local, state, federal level for laws that expand the vote for all citizens.

Youth Work

1. ***Women in NAACP in College Chapters, Revision to Bylaws for Units, Article VIII, Section 4(e) and Section 5(t)***

Article VIII, Section 4(e)

Current Language

Standing Committees of College Chapters. The Standing Committees of the College Chapters shall be: Membership; Finance; Press and Publicity; Programs and Research; Education; Employment; Political Action; Juvenile Justice; and Health.

Revised Language

Standing Committees of College Chapters. The Standing Committees of the College Chapters shall be: Membership; Finance; Press and Publicity; Programs and Research; Education; Employment; Political Action; Juvenile Justice; Health; *and WIN.*

Article VIII, Section 5(t)

Current Language

Women in the NAACP (WIN). State/State Area Conferences, Branches, Prison Branches of the Association may organize Women in NAACP (WIN) committees subject to the control of the Executive Committee and to such rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may enact. WIN committees shall consist of a Chairperson and/or Co-Chairperson and at least three (3) other members. WIN shall address within the framework of the NAACP, civil rights issues affecting women and children and shall carry out other civil and cultural activities to enhance membership and provide financial support to the Branch. The purpose WIN is (1) to enhance the leadership role of women; (2) to serve as an advocacy vehicle to address the social, economic, political, educational, health and welfare issues affecting women; (3) to advocate for the emotional, mental, physical and spiritual development of children and (4) to support the policies as well as the on-going mission and vision of the NAACP.

Revised Language

Women in the NAACP (WIN). State/State Area Conferences, Branches, Prison Branches and College Chapters of the Association may organize Women in NAACP (WIN) committees subject to the control of the Executive Committee and to such rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may enact. WIN committees shall consist of a Chairperson and/or Co-Chairperson and at least three (3) other members. WIN shall address within the framework of the NAACP, civil rights issues affecting women and children and shall carry out other civil and cultural activities to enhance membership and provide financial support to the Branch. The purpose WIN is (1) to enhance the leadership role of women; (2) to serve as an advocacy vehicle to address the social, economic, political, educational, health and welfare issues affecting women; (3) to advocate for the emotional, mental, physical and spiritual development of children and (4) to support the policies as well as the on-going mission and vision of the NAACP.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

CIVIL RIGHTS

1. ***NAACP Reaffirms Support for Statehood for the District of Columbia***

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 672,000 residents in Washington, DC, a population larger than the states of Wyoming and Vermont; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC are required to and do perform all the obligations of United States citizenship including serving in the military, serving on federal juries, and paying federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC paid more than \$26.4 billion in taxes in 2014, more than 22 states; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC have been disenfranchised from electing voting representation in the United States House of Representative and United States Senate for 216 years despite the fact that Congress has total control over Washington, DC's policies, including the ability to overturn laws enacted by the District's duly-elected Council and passed by referendum with the support of majorities of residents; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this "taxation without representation" policy, the residents of Washington, DC – more than half of whom are African American, with Caucasians making up less than 40% of the population – have no voice over what wars are declared, how their federal tax contributions are spent, how their taxes are to be collected, and how any of the vital national issues affecting residents on a daily basis are to be resolved; and

WHEREAS, 86% of DC residents that cast votes supported the advisory referendum to demonstrate their desire for statehood on November 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, reflecting the wishes of the residents of the District of Columbia, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC) introduced H.R. 1291, the *Washington, DC Admission Act*, and Senator Thomas Carper (DE) introduced companion legislation S. 1278, on May 25, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has supported self-determination, autonomy, or statehood and the subsequent rights and responsibilities of statehood for the

residents of the District of Columbia in resolutions including those from 1978, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2012, and 2016.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to the self-determination of the residents of the District of Columbia, and their call for statehood, as reflected in resolutions from 1978, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2012, and 2016; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP supports legislation introduced in both the House and the Senate in the 115th Congress, the *Washington, DC Admission Act*, and calls for the NAACP Washington Bureau to urge Congress to pass this legislation.

2. A Call to Reject Participation in the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump has openly declared without any established basis of fact, evidence, or proof that as many as five million people voted illegally in the November 2016 U.S. Presidential election; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump has signed an executive order to create a commission to address alleged “voter fraud” in the 2016 Presidential election; and

WHEREAS, the current commission created by President Trump demonstrates by its membership and makeup no real integrity or evidence of objectivity or substance regarding voter protection or expansion; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Mike Pence, Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission, supported the closing of a major voter registration drive campaign under the guise of protecting the integrity of the voting process while serving as Governor of the State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Mike Pence has failed to actively support the repair and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act and to oppose the ill effects of voter suppression techniques across the country; and

WHEREAS, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission, Kris Kobach, has a record of efforts and advocacy for voter suppression policies in his home state of Kansas, where he served as Secretary of State, as well as crafting prototype voter suppression legislation utilized by other states; and

WHEREAS, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission Kris Kobach was compelled to defend four lawsuits against voter suppression policies, losing each time; and

WHEREAS, Vice Chair Kris Kobach, who still asserts that millions of people voted illegally in 2016, was recently fined by a federal magistrate for making “patently misleading representations” in a lawsuit filed by the ACLU over a law Kobach enacted requiring voters to submit proof of citizenship prior to registration; and

WHEREAS, Vice Chair Kris Kobach has helped to craft anti-immigrant laws, Post-9/11 Muslim Registry and other discriminatory voter suppression efforts in his home state; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump’s own lawyers have stated, “All available evidence suggest that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud or mistake;” and

WHEREAS, the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice in its *Truth About Voter Fraud Analysis* states, “It is more likely that an individual will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls;” and

WHEREAS, each act of voter fraud, in connection with a federal election, can be punished by five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, in addition to any state penalties; and

WHEREAS, in the course of millions of reported voters there will be clerical errors such as typos, birth date errors, or other human errors; and

WHEREAS, the ineligibility of persons with felony convictions, the elimination of early voting, gerrymandering of congressional districts, prohibiting same day registration, reducing the number of precincts in various communities, mis-processing of provisional ballots, and voter caging, among other problems, have contributed to a reduction in voter participation; and

WHEREAS, the use of purged lists in states like Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Michigan, Georgia, Wisconsin, South Carolina, and others, serves to suppress or reduce the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, a federal Court of Appeals recently ruled that North Carolina’s Republican leaders were engaged in targeting African Americans “with almost surgical precision” to reduce their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes; and

WHEREAS, neither President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, or Vice Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission Kris Kobach has called for the restoration or strengthening of extension of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Election Integrity requested intrusive data such as full voter-role data including, names, addresses, birth dates, party affiliation, last four digits of social security numbers, as well as voting history as far back as 2006, of registered voters in all 50 states.

THEREFORE, BE IT IS RESOLVED, that the NAACP firmly believes that the request of state elections officials for detailed voter information by the Advisory Commission on Election Integrity established by President Donald J. Trump is further evidence of an invidious attempt to suppress the right of citizens to vote, and to intimidate youth, minorities, and the elderly, in the exercise their constitutional franchise, while collecting information that could be used to unfairly benefit one candidate over other candidates in a national election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP decries and rejects this proposal, which violates the sanctity of the right to cast a secret ballot, especially in light of the fact that no plan has even been proposed to secure the information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for the immediate cessation of the request of this information on the part of this commission and declares that it is ill-founded, unnecessary, and does not increase the right or protection of voters but diminishes them; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon all units, state conferences, and members not to participate in or cooperate with these efforts to suppress our right to vote and to urge your state and local elected officials to withhold cooperation as well.

3. *NAACP Missouri Civil Rights Travel Advisory Recognized*

WHEREAS, the NAACP was founded to address the rise of racial violence; and

WHEREAS, Missouri has a long history of racial discrimination and harassment that has been both violent and dehumanizing; and

WHEREAS, Missouri was founded as a state where slavery was legalized as part of the Missouri Compromise; and

WHEREAS, the Dred Scott case concerned the state of Missouri is declaration that African-Americans were less than human and not worthy of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Missouri legislated segregation including at and through the University of Missouri system; and

WHEREAS, Missouri fosters racial and ethnic disparities in Education, Health, Economic Empowerment, and Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, Tory Sanford recently, died suspiciously in a jail cell in Mississippi City in Charleston County but was never officially arrested after running out of gas when he became lost and traveled into the state accidentally. The completed autopsy report has yet to be released by Charleston County; and

WHEREAS, racist attacks have occurred on students of color at the University of Missouri campus in Columbia – as the University of Missouri System has endorsed easing restrictions on civil rights protections for a decade and testified in favor of Senator Gary Romine’s Senate Bill 43 (SB43), which eliminates legal accountability for those who commit racist acts while working for a business or institution; and

WHEREAS, Missouri’s legislature Representative Rick Bratton argued on the floor of the State House that homosexuals are not human beings according to his faith; and

WHEREAS, Black high school students in St. Louis have been attacked with hot glue while being denigrated racially; and

WHEREAS, two internationally born men were gunned down outside Kansas City, Missouri after their killer mistakenly thought them to be Muslim; and

WHEREAS, according to the Missouri Attorney General, African Americans in Missouri are subjected to excessive traffic stops in violation of equal protections enshrined by the Constitution – African Americans are 75 per cent more likely to be stopped and searched based on skin color than Caucasians in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, public threats of shooting ‘Blacks’ have terrorized people of color at the University of Missouri where students and members of the public were placed in fear; and

WHEREAS, individuals traveling in the state are advised to travel with extreme caution and that they may not be safe in conjunction with Governor Eric Greitens’ signing of Missouri SB 43; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 43 legalizes individual discrimination and harassment in Missouri and prevents individuals from protecting themselves from discrimination through civil courts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department issues travel advisories to the American people when regions of the world become dangerous to U.S. travelers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) through our state and local units shall warn people of the dangers of travel through the State of Missouri and nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP shall issue a travel advisory to members of protective classes including: people of color, women, seniors, the LGBT community, those with disabilities or those perceived to have disabilities, and religious minorities regarding the dangers of traveling in Missouri; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon all of its units to share this advisory with their members, coalition partners, and communities.

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 violent, even deadly, encounters are becoming better publicized and have made more Americans aware of the racial bias and disparate treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to maintain our faith in the American judicial system 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 choose to wear; and

WHEREAS, faced with this violence, we wonder whether 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 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 and 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 reaffirms 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 policies that led to the militarization of police forces throughout the country.

COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

1. *NAACP Celebrates the Life and Contributions of Eddie N. Williams*

WHEREAS, Mr. Eddie N. Williams, who served as President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies from 1972-2004, passed on Monday, May 8, 2017 at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. Eddie Williams was the first African American protocol officer at the State Department, and he served on the staffs of Senator Edward M. Kennedy (MA) and Senator Hubert Humphrey (MN); and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Williams was recruited to lead the then 2-year old Joint Center. The organization had been founded just two years earlier to support the hundreds of new black elected officials who came into office in the aftermath of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, over the next three decades, Mr. Williams built the Joint Center into an epicenter of African-American political thought and research, including speaking before the Congressional Black Caucus. He hosted black elected officials every four years to assemble policy priorities to share with presidential candidates and transition teams; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Williams, the Joint Center founded several organizations of African American elected officials, built a Roster of over 10,000 Black Elected Officials, and founded the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; and

WHEREAS, Williams also created *Focus Magazine* to tie together black elected officials, political activists, and scholars nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Center became a full-fledged think tank with Eddie Williams at the helm, and the resulting ideas, proposals, and conversations provided a huge body of work which benefitted all policymakers, and especially African-American lawmakers and scholars at all levels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recognizes and deeply and sincerely appreciates the tremendous impact that Eddie N. Williams had on African American policymakers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP mourns the passing of Eddie Williams and celebrates his life and his contributions to the lives of all Americans.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *NAACP Open Internet/Net Neutrality Clarification*

WHEREAS, throughout the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) more than 100-year history, we have opposed discrimination and fought for greater justice and equal opportunity for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all our citizens have the right to participate in our democracy regardless of social or economic status; and

WHEREAS, federal and state policies establish robust access to broadband internet as an extension of this right; and

WHEREAS, we also believe that as the FCC makes rules to preserve the principles of an open internet, those policies must actively protect against censorship of social and political thought; and

WHEREAS, communications technologies such as the internet must continue to be firmly rooted in our Nation's democratic and free speech principles as expressly cited in NAACP national policies, as well as the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, an open and free internet is crucial to today's fights for civil rights and equality to all; *and*

WHEREAS, our ability to have our voices heard in this democracy depends on an open Internet because it allows voices and ideas to spread based on substance, rather than financial backing; *and*

WHEREAS, an open and free internet and net neutrality helps to ensure that the Internet is a place for innovation and opportunity for all, rather than just a wealthy few.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP stands opposed to Discriminatory Prioritization. Simply put: No service should be stuck in a “slow lane” because it does not pay a fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP stands opposed to Blocking. If a consumer requests access to a website or service, and the content is legal, an ISP should not be permitted to block it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP stands opposed to Throttling. Nor should ISPs be able to intentionally slow down some content or speed up others — through a process often called “throttling” — based on the type of service or your ISP’s preferences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP strongly affirms its support for increased transparency. The connection between consumers and ISPs — the so-called “last mile” — is not the only place some sites might get special treatment; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP must urge the FCC to ensure that any rule it considers does not create barriers to entry that prevent people of color, the economically disadvantaged or any Americans from taking advantage of the civic, economic, and creative opportunities enabled by comprehensive broadband internet services.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. *NAACP Supports People of Puerto Rico in Their Call for Statehood*

WHEREAS, since 1898 the island of Puerto Rico has been an unincorporated territory of the United States, which means the island is neither a state nor independent country; and

WHEREAS, in 1917 Puerto Ricans were granted American citizenship, although since Puerto Rico does not enjoy full U.S. statehood, Puerto Ricans residing on the island cannot vote for President nor do they have voting representation in Congress; and

WHEREAS, as of the 2010 Census, 75.8% of Puerto Ricans identify as white, 12.4% identify as black, 0.5% as Amerindian, 0.2% as Asian, and 11.1% as "mixed" or other. Although estimates vary, most sources estimate that about 46% of Puerto Ricans have significant African ancestry. The vast majority of blacks in Puerto Rico are Afro-Puerto Rican, meaning they have been in Puerto Rico for generations, usually since the slave trade, forming an important part of Puerto Rican culture and society; and

WHEREAS, plebiscites regarding the status of Puerto Rico were held in 1967, 1993, 1998, 2012 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2017, a plebiscite which offered voters three options: statehood, independence/free association, or "current territorial status" (the last option was added at the request of the Trump administration) was held; and

WHEREAS, those who voted in the June 2017 referendum entitled "Plebiscite for the immediate decolonization of Puerto Rico" overwhelmingly chose "statehood": the results were 97.18% for statehood, 1.5% for independence / free association, and 1.32% for current territorial status; and

WHEREAS, an independent opinion poll conducted by one of the daily newspapers conducted in late May 2017, indicates that the majority of Puerto Ricans favor statehood; and

WHEREAS, it is now up to the U.S. Congress to determine whether the island of Puerto Rico should be admitted to the union as a state; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has long supported statehood for the District of Columbia so that the residents of our nation's Capital have greater self-determination and can enjoy democratic representation; and

WHEREAS, similar to the situation in the District of Columbia, statehood for Puerto Rico is now a civil rights issue as the majority of the people have said that they want the core voting and citizenship rights that come with statehood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) joins the majority of Puerto Ricans and its government in supporting U.S. statehood for the island nation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on the United States Congress to grant U.S. statehood to Puerto Rico, with all the democratic rights and responsibilities which go along with that status to its population.

2. *NAACP Supports Continued Opening of Ties Between the United States and Cuba*

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2017, President Donald Trump announced his intention to reverse policies which had opened diplomatic, economic, and travel ties between the United States and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, President Trump reversed much of the progress, supported by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) policies, which had been achieved by President Barack Obama when, in 2014, he announced that the United States would re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba, which resulted in the opening of the American embassy in Havana and of the Cuban embassy in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 NAACP-supported action by President Obama also resulted in the transformation of our relationship with Cuba by expanding trade, loosening travel restrictions, and strengthening diplomatic ties. Both Americans and Cubans have benefitted from these policies, with more Americans traveling directly to Cuba and returning to the U.S. with Cuban goods; and

WHEREAS, the June 2017 actions by President Trump will begin rolling back the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba, and will limit traveling to Cuba and restrict U.S. business dealings with Cuba, and costing jobs, hurting our economy, and distancing ourselves from one of our closest neighbors; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's actions sadly return the United States to policies which, after more than 40 years, have proven most effective in creating economic hardships for the people of Cuba while hurting American business opportunities,

trade relations and cultural exchange. In fact, the continuation of the embargo on trade between the United States and Cuba has proven itself to be counterproductive to both the U.S. and Cuba.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP opposes policy initiatives by President Trump to reverse the progress made by President Obama in opening trade avenues and travel opportunities between the United States and Cuba; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to enactment of legislation such as the Cuba Reconciliation Act, H.R. 574 in the 115th Congress, which would: repeal the embargo placed upon all trade with Cuba; repeal the denial of foreign tax credits to Cuba; permit the installation and maintenance of telecommunications equipment and facilities in Cuba; permit travel to and from Cuba by U.S. citizens or residents; and allow the U.S. Postal Service to provide direct mail service to and from Cuba.

NAACP NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: 2017

LEON W. RUSSELL

Chairman

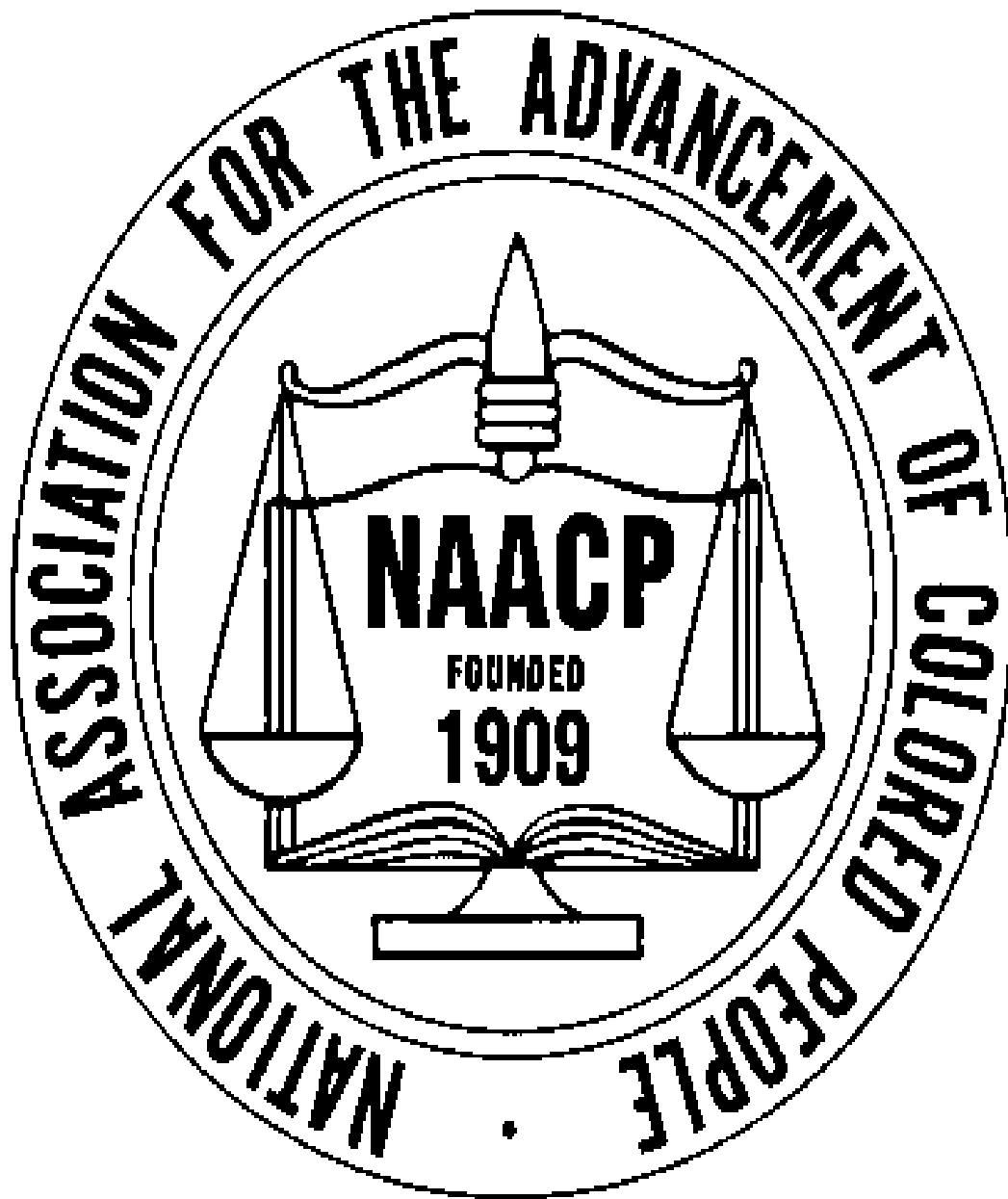
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