

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

## **2018**

**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

2018

## 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 109<sup>th</sup> Convention of the NAACP, held July 14 through July 18, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 20, 2018 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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## COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

### 1. *Camp Logan Mutiny*

**WHEREAS**, August 23, 2017, marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Camp Logan Mutiny, the NAACP Houston Branch request a pardon for 13 soldiers; and

**WHEREAS**, in the summer of 1917, shortly after the United States entered World War I, the United States Army sent a unit of the famed Buffalo Soldiers, the Third Battalion of the African American 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, to guard construction of Camp Logan in Houston, Texas, where the soldiers regularly encountered cruel and inhumane treatment and police harassment in the segregated city; and

**WHEREAS**, tensions reached the boiling point on August 23, 1917 when a military policeman from the 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Charles W. Baltimore, inquired about the pistol-whipping and arrest of an African-American soldier by a Houston police officer; the police officer beat Corporal Baltimore, fired shots at him as he tried to flee, then beat him again and hauled him to the police station; word of the assault spread throughout the camp, and more than 100 soldiers started to march to the jail; a violent confrontation ensued which ultimately claimed the lives of 4 black soldiers, 5 police officers and 11 white residents; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1917, the largest court-martial in United States military history convened for the trial of 63 African American soldiers from the Third Battalion 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on charges of disobeying orders, mutiny, murder, and aggravated assault; a single military officer was appointed as attorney to represent all of the soldiers, with only two weeks to prepare for trial; and,

**WHEREAS**, the following 13 men (Sergeant William C. Nesbitt, Corporal Larsen J. Brown, Corporal James Wheatley, Corporal Jesse Moore, Corporal Charles W. Baltimore, Private William Brackenridge, Private Thomas C. Hawkins, Private Carlos Snodgrass, Private Ira B. Davis, Private James Divine, Private Frank Johnson, Private Rosley W. Young, and Private Pat MacWharter) were convicted on December 1, 1917, and hanged on December 11, 1917; The sentence was approved by the Commanding General and carried out without further review by Army Headquarters or appeal being given the 13 soldiers. Although 16 additional soldiers were condemned to hang in a subsequent court-martial, President Woodrow Wilson eventually

commuted 10 of those death sentences and more than 60 soldiers received life imprisonment; and

**WHEREAS**, no white civilians or abusive police officers that were involved were brought to trial, and the two white Army officers who faced court-martial charges were simply released from active duty with honorable discharges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution mandates effective assistance of legal counsel in all criminal prosecutions and the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution mandates no person shall be deprived of life liberty, or property without due process of the law and equal protection of the law; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Nesbitt, Cpl. Brown, Cpl. James Wheatley, Cpl. Moore, Cpl. Baltimore, Pvt. Hawkins, Pvt. Snodgrass, Pvt. Davis, Pvt. Divine, Pvt. Johnson, Pvt. Young, and Pvt. MacWharter were denied effective assistance of counsel, due process of law and equal protection of the law.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP seek a posthumous Presidential pardon to set aside the convictions of Sgt. Nesbitt, Cpl. Brown, Cpl. Wheatley, Cpl. Moore, Cpl. Baltimore, Pvt. Hawkins, Pvt. Snodgrass, Pvt. Davis, Pvt. Divine, Pvt. Johnson, Pvt. Young, and Pvt. MacWharter, 13 Buffalo Soldiers of the all black Third Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, in the 1917 Camp Logan Mutiny, Houston, Texas.

## **2. August Hip Hop Recognition Month**

**WHEREAS**, on August 11th 1973 at a “Back To School Jam” held at the recreation room of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, Bronx, NY, Clive “DJ Kool Herc” Campbell introduced his innovative style of music as a Disk Jockey and Master of Ceremony at a party organized by his sister Cindy Campbell, engaging the crowd with Rap music on the microphone, while partygoers known as B-Boys and B-Girls danced, this event which on this day joined together these elements of Music, Art, Fashion, and Dance introduced what is now known as Hip Hop; and

**WHEREAS**, from its humble beginnings in urban New York City, the music, lyricism, dance, fashion, and art of Hip Hop has become a vibrant culture now found in communities across America, and has become an international phenomenon; and

**WHEREAS**, the art and culture of Hip Hop is an American creation, and

**WHEREAS**, Hip-Hop artists, originally of African heritage, and supporters transcend many diverse ages, ethnicities, religions, geographical, political, social, and economic classes, which shows Hip Hop through art and culture is a virtual melting pot; and

**WHEREAS**, the art and culture of Hip Hop has been adapted in many innovative forms such as, inspirational, challenging, humorous, thought-provoking, and spiritual; and

**WHEREAS**, Hip Hop has provided opportunities for extracurricular activities, youth counseling, creative outlets, physical fitness, vocabulary exercises, poetry, analytical thinking, entertainment, employment, economic impact, and is now an annual worldwide billion dollars a year industry; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that if given support, the potential of Hip-Hop art, education, and culture may have positive effects on society; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of August, cities and towns throughout the United States will observe Hip Hop Recognition Month, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) members are encouraged to plan Hip-Hop related activities, and programming in conjunction with the original objective from the first Hip-Hop Jam to encourage Back To School activities for the youth, while also observing the contributions in the area of arts and culture.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP, will build partnerships with their local Hip-Hop entities and other members of the creative arts and music community in their cities and towns, and shall proclaim the month of August as Hip Hop Recognition Month, annually henceforth.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### 1. *Gun Control in the Wake of the Parkland High School Massacre*

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) has a long-standing record of supporting gun safety initiatives that would make it more difficult for people with questionable motives and impaired mental capacity to obtain firearms, ensure a permanent renewal of the assault weapons ban, and mandate the authorization for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to receive notifications of persons who are mentally ill or dangerous. Further, the NAACP opposes any attempt to increase the presence of armed guards inside schools; and

**WHEREAS**, 33,594 people died by gun violence in 2014; subsequently there has been a spike in gun violence as the death toll alarmingly rose to over 38,000 deaths in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, a study conducted in 1998 found that every time a gun in the home was used in self-defense or for a legally-justifiable shooting, there were four unintentional shootings; and during the time period of 2007 through 2011, 235,700 self-protected behaviors involved a firearm; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2008 study found that a one percent increase in gun ownership correlates with a roughly 0.9 percent increase in the firearm homicide rate; and a 2013 study reports that across all 50 states, “during 1981 and 2010, states that had higher rates of gun ownership had disproportionately large number of deaths from firearm-related homicides.” A 2015 study reported that “firearm assaults were 6.8 times more common in states with the most guns versus those with the least;” and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2008 study, individuals in possession of a gun were 4.46 times more likely to be shot in an assault than those not in possession; among gun assaults where the victim had at least some chance to resist, this adjusted the odds ratio and *increased* it to 5.45; and a 2015 study found that people who had access to firearms at home were nearly twice as likely to be murdered as people who did not; and

**WHEREAS**, recently, several horrific school shootings have occurred in the United States, including one on February 14, 2018 at the Parkland High School in Florida, have caused to even greater concerns for the safety of children, staff and faculty within the confines of school grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been proposals to give firearms to teachers and other school staff with the expectation that these personnel, while caring for frightened children in an emergency, would risk their lives, and the children’s lives, by engaging assailants who are firing multiple-round military-style weapons; and

**WHEREAS**, regardless of length of firearm and safety training, it is not safe for teachers to possess guns in the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers are trained as educators and are not qualified to act as licensed or trained sheriff deputies or police officers; and

**WHEREAS**, firearms in the classroom will frighten students and interfere with the learning environment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms its 2008 Resolution, *NAACP Continues to Support Laws to Prevent Gun Violence and Increase Gun Safety Nationwide*, and its 2013 Resolution, *NAACP Support Safe, Sane, and Sensible Laws to Prevent Gun Violence*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP adopts the following as its gun control legislative priorities and urges their adoption nationwide:

- Raise the age to purchase a firearm to 21 years old;
- Ban future purchases and possession of bump stocks and other automatic capacity conversion kits, accessories, and parts;
- Ban future purchases and possession of military-style assault guns, and military high capacity ammunition clips exceeding 11 bullets;
- Ban Straw purchases;
- Conduct universal background checks to include the alerting and reporting of mental health issues that should disqualify an individual from gun possession;
- Ban domestic terrorists or animal abusers, the seriously mentally ill, and those on the Transportation Security Administration terror watch lists from purchasing firearms;
- Allocate increase resources to mental health programs for children enrolled in educational system from K-12;
- Restore funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study gun violence as a major public health crisis;
- Allocate federal resources to incentivize and assist states in improving reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);
- Continue requiring background checks and permits for gun silencers;
- Require microstamping or ballistic fingerprinting of all new firearms and ammunition sold in the U.S.;
- Repeal all state “stand your ground” laws, restoring the use of deadly force as a last resort; and
- Encourage local jurisdictions to utilize their “buyer power” to create incentives for firearm manufacturers to employ “counter-marketing” strategies to ensure that their retailers are using all available procedures to prevent illegal firearms diversion.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP opposes arming teachers, faculty and staff with firearms on school campus grounds; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms its continued support for safe, sane, and sensible measures to end gun violence.

## ***2. Eliminate Racial Sentencing Disparities***

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") is a defender of racial equality in every aspect of American life, including equal justice for those who have been convicted of criminal offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, if an accused person is to reintegrate into society and live a productive life, he

or she must have full confidence in the criminal justice system, but that is impossible if he or she was sentenced to more time in prison or is sentenced to a more extensive probationary period than other defendants because the accused is African American; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sentencing Project has reported that "[o]nce minority defendants are convicted, they are likely to be sentenced more harshly than white defendants convicted for similar crimes," that such "racial disparity is particularly pronounced in cases involving ... the death penalty", and that "two racial variables affect capital punishment sentencing: the race of the perpetrator and the race of the victim"; and

**WHEREAS**, decades of research has shown persistent sentencing disparities in jurisdictions across the nation. For example, a year-long public records investigation by the *Sarasota (FL) Herald Tribune*, analyzing millions of felony cases from 2003-2015, found that for the most serious first-degree crimes, Florida judges sentenced African Americans to 68% more time than Whites with identical points; for burglary, it was 45% more, and for battery, it was 30% more; and

**WHEREAS**, extreme disparities such as these shock the conscience, defy rational explanation, and are the product of racial prejudice- whether knowingly or unknowingly administered and have gone unnoticed, unanswered and uncorrected by the criminal justice system for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of factors have been shown to contribute to these disparities, including pretrial detention, mandatory minimum sentences, sentencing enhancements (such as drug zone and habitual offender laws), inadequate legal representation, and biased decision making by law enforcement, prosecutors, juries, and judges; and

**WHEREAS**, prosecutorial decisions are particularly impactful because of prosecutors' broad discretion to pursue mandatory minimum sentencing and sentencing enhancements which causes wide variations in the potential sentence for defendants who have committed the same crime, particularly when the prosecutor threatens a long sentence unless a defendant pleads guilty; and

**WHEREAS**, disparities in the criminal legal system exacerbate racial disparities in health, economic opportunity, education, and environmental justice.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP demands that the United States Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics resume and expand its Felony Sentences in State Court report, last published with 2006 data, in order to compile and make publicly available a national database of sentences that allows in-depth analysis of racial disparities; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP endorses remedial measures likely to reduce sentencing disparities such as extended probation, including:

- Full funding of public defense services for indigent defendants;
- Investing in high school completion, including education programs for incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism;
- Investing in interventions, including youth employment opportunities, that promote strong youth development and respond to delinquency in age-appropriate and evidence-based ways;
- Removing barriers that make it harder for individuals with criminal records to turn their lives around and fully reintegrate into society, such as extended probationary periods and the unnecessary invocation of criminal records to deny employment, housing, and consumer credit, jury service eligibility, and voter registration to those who have paid their debt to society;
- Developing and implementing training to reduce racial bias, and making such training mandatory at every level of the criminal justice system, including police officers, public defenders, prosecutors, judges, and jury members;
- Ending the "war on drugs" and use those resources to make greater use of community-based options for treatment;
- Rejecting mandatory minimum sentencing and sentencing enhancements that create disparities and allow for coerced plea bargains;
- Putting an end to the death penalty; and
- Advocating for the creation of state commissions that would examine the factors that contribute to racial inequity at every stage of the justice system, and provide legislative, administrative solutions to address these factors.

### **3. Justice for Eric Garner and the Urgent Need for Police Accountability**

**WHEREAS**, in July 2014, Eric Garner, a 43-year-old Black man was killed by New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers, including Daniel Pantaleo, who applied a chokehold to the neck of Eric Garner. Before dying, Mr. Garner was able to say 11 times that he could not breathe; and



**WHEREAS**, a Staten Island grand jury came back with no indictment against Officer Pantaleo, and the grand jury minutes remain sealed despite numerous attempts by the NAACP and other advocacy groups to unseal them; and

**WHEREAS**, since July of 2014, the United States Department of Justice has had the case under investigation, but despite the recommendation of federal civil rights prosecutors, Justice Department officials have not approved the filing of federal charges; and

**WHEREAS**, the NYPD is awaiting the results of the federal investigation to determine whether to discipline Officer Pantaleo; in the meantime he has been relieved of his gun and badge but remains on desk duty where he has earned at taxpayers' expense \$105,061 in fiscal year 2015 and \$119,996 (including \$23,000 in overtime pay) in fiscal year 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Garner's daughter, Erica, became a national figure in the fight for justice for her father and against police mistreatment of Black people in America, and it is quite possible that the huge amount of stress she endured in this struggle contributed to her death in December 2017, at the young age of 27; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Garner is one of the approximately 1,000 men, women, and children killed by police violence each year, and a disproportionate number of victims of police violence are Black; and

**WHEREAS**, California, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Hawaii lack the authority to revoke police officers' licenses to serve, a process known as "decertification;" other states with decertification authority have weak decertification laws that do not effectively remove problematic officers; and

**WHEREAS**, in states without an effective decertification authority, officers removed or disciplined by one law enforcement agency or department are not prevented from obtaining employment in other agencies or departments; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to end the epidemic levels of police violence against Black people, states must have tools for the removal of problem officers along with appropriate recruitment, training, transparency, accountability, and community oversight.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, ("NAACP") reaffirms its positions on police accountability, community oversight, justice for victims of police violence, and models for police reform, which are set forth in the following resolutions:

- 2016  
Legislative Accountability to Eliminate Wrongful Use of Deadly Force by Law Enforcement

### 2015

- Law Enforcement and the Use of Body Worn Cameras

### 2014

- Emergency Resolution NAACP Condemns the Use of the Excessive Force Tactics that Led to the Death of Eric Garner
- Examination of Law Enforcement/Peace Officers Bill of Rights for Possible Inconsistencies with the US Constitution

### 2013

- Police Misconduct and Abuse in the Performance of Duty

### 2012

- Police Brutality Against African Americans and other Minorities
- Ending Racial Profiling in the United States
- Requiring Mandatory Investigations by the Department of Justice in Cases Where Individuals Die While in Police Custody

### 2011

- A call for Smart and Safe Policing strategies and an end to racially disparate stop and frisk policing by law enforcement
- Video Surveillance of law Enforcement traffic detentions

### 2010

- Mandatory Reporting and Review of Taser by Officer
- Establishing model standards, polices and training to prevent misconduct and excessive use of force
- Investigate shooting death of Iman Luqman Ameen Abdullah

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP petition the Staten Island Supreme Court to direct Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon to correct the manifest injustice caused by the non-indictments of NYPD Officers in the death of Eric Garner and to convene a new grand jury, as is its authority pursuant to the New York Criminal Procedure Law, Section 190.75; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, based upon the recommendation of civil rights prosecutors within the U.S. Department of Justice's Washington, DC office, the NAACP calls upon U.S. Department of Justice to seek an indictment of the officers involved in violating Eric Garner's civil rights; and

## 2018 RESOLUTIONS

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges the United States Department of Justice to reopen or continue its criminal and/or civil investigation into the victims who died or suffer serious bodily harm as the result of police action or non-action across the nation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for the creation of model police certifications standards and processes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for the immediate termination of the police officers responsible for the death of Eric Garner, including, but not limited to Daniel Pantaleo; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for all states to develop and implement an efficient and effective process to decertify law enforcement officers that violate the law or fail to meet public standards for law enforcement professionals; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for 1) all states to report decertified officers to the National Decertification Index to ensure the effects of decertification across state lines; 2) require law enforcement agencies and agencies hiring security officials to search the National Decertification index and use the information in their hiring decisions; 3) urges the federal government to discontinue funding support via the Law Enforcement Assistance Act, etc., to State and local security agencies or entities that do not query this index and use the resulting information in their hiring decisions.

#### ***4. Calling for Reparative Racial Justice Measures in an Efforts for Marijuana Legalization***

**WHEREAS**, drug arrests and enforcement have caused racial disparities throughout the criminal justice system, and many drug laws were first created to target racial and ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Latinx people make up nearly 80% of those in federal prison and 60% of those in state prison for drug crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans and Caucasians use marijuana at similar rates, but the arrest rate of African Americans for marijuana charges is almost 4 times that of Caucasians; and

**WHEREAS**, recreational marijuana is legal in nine states and decriminalized in 13 states, and medical marijuana is legal in 29 states; but expungement related legislation vary in each state, and continues clear disparities in sentencing and punishment for acts that are now considered legal; and

**WHEREAS**, the cannabis industry generated 9.7 billion in sales in 2017, according to Arcview Market Research and BDS Analytics. There also needs to be funding put in place for the creation of robust restorative justice programs; and

**WHEREAS**, without reparative measures being put in place, legalization and decriminalization could leave many people incarcerated or with criminal records from drug arrests or convictions that can have lasting effects on opportunities for housing, employment, and higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to mitigate the harm of the War on Drugs, legalization efforts must work to make whole the individuals and communities that have been harmed by the War on Drugs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms its 2016 resolution *Advocacy & Social Justice Issues Embedded in the Economic Regulation of Medicinal Cannabis*; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the NAACP will advocate for marijuana legalization and decriminalization legislation which will include individual remedies for those who have been arrested for or convicted of marijuana possession or sale, including release from incarceration and automatic pardon and expungement of records; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will continue to advocate for rehabilitation therapy and public health approaches for all those struggling with addiction; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP units will advocate that marijuana legalization legislation and decriminalization must include reparative measures for communities by ensuring equal access to business licenses in the marijuana industry, and investing in communities that have been harmed by the War on Drugs.

## **5. Law Enforcement Policy Regarding: Alert for Missing Persons**

**WHEREAS**, there being no uniform national or local public policy establishing a public alert for missing persons from ages nineteen to sixty-four; and

**WHEREAS**, despite representing 13.5% of the population, African Americans accounted for 33% of the 651,226 people whose names were entered into the national missing person database in 2017, including 169,426 children; and

**WHEREAS**, researchers have found that several media outlets are more likely to cover missing white women and girls and will cover the cases with more intensity than when the missing person is African-American; and

**WHEREAS**, each year thousands of African-American families are left wondering what has happened to their loved ones who have sometimes been missing for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, searches for missing people can be delayed because many states do not have an alert system for missing persons unless they are children or senior citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Black and Missing Foundation, as of 2014, more than 64,000 black women and girls remain missing across the United States, and many people of color are initially considered runaways severely impeding and delaying the search for and recovery of the missing person.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will host town hall meetings with lawmakers, law enforcement, justice department officials, and child advocate groups regarding missing black women and their children to educate and motivate more action on finding them; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP insists that all media coverage be equal regardless of race so that African American missing women and children's families are treated fairly in the time of their greatest need; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP urges State governments to create comprehensive notification and alert systems for ALL MISSING PERSONS regardless of race, color, or age; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocates for more federal funding to be allocated to agencies, groups, and organizations for the purpose of researching and locating missing women and children of color.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **1. *Supporting Funding for, and Involvement with, Re-building our Nation's Public Infrastructure***

**WHEREAS**, communities of color, located in underserved communities or elsewhere, are traditionally left out of the planning and construction of critical infrastructure and the education, training, job placement and career opportunities in the clean, renewable, and energy efficient technologies and environmentally friendly sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, the participation of communities of color and women in the emerging energy economy and modernization of the electric grid, transportation, flood protection and water and waste water systems will strengthen our nation's infrastructure and protect the lives and restore the properties of communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, all communities deserve accesses to safe, clean water supplies, stable and affordable energy supplies, and protection from the catastrophic effects of flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color often lack the same access to safe, clean drinking water supplies as is enjoyed by non-minority communities; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color have experienced disproportionate, adverse impacts from the lack of access to safe, clean drinking water due to aging, crumbling infrastructure as evidenced by the recent water quality crisis in Flint, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, building flood protection projects, and drinking water and wastewater, and clean energy infrastructure is costly to local communities, and the permits required to build them is difficult to obtain in a timely and efficient manner; and

**WHEREAS**, given the high costs to build and rehabilitate such infrastructure and the extensive process to obtain a permit which is required to build and rehabilitate the infrastructure, these projects often cannot be built using only local funding, and need additional funding from local, federal and state sources.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP will advocate to influence Federal and State infrastructure legislation, and its implementation, to ensure that African Americans, other communities of color, and women are not excluded or left behind in the distribution of infrastructure, clean green and renewable energy dollars; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocates that the regulatory process for infrastructure and clean energy projects be streamlined without compromising the environmental protections or increasing the negative impacts in African American and other communities of color; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will advocate that federal, state, local authorities and private entities engage African Americans, other communities of color, and women in discussions and developments of infrastructure, energy and critical infrastructure policies, regulations, research & development technologies, and environmental issues; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will advocate to ensure that clean and renewable energy jobs, business opportunities, education and workforce, development opportunities are accessible and provided to African Americans and other communities of color, and women.

## EDUCATION

### 1. *Proscribing Unsupervised Confederate Flag Displays in K-12 Schools*

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate flag is a racially inflammatory symbol, which is undeniably rooted in slavery and racism, which was the battle flag of Robert E. Lee’s Army in Northern Virginia but took on new significance in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1948, the States Rights Democratic Party, or “Dixiecrats,” began to use the Confederate flag as a political symbol to show opposition to desegregating the military, and Article 4 of the Dixiecrats’ 1948 platform stated, “we stand for the segregation of the races;” and the Ku Klux Klan also began using the Confederate flag as a symbol of hatred and terror directed at African Americans during the 1940’s and has continued to use it as a symbol of their White supremacist agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, photos of the avowed white supremacist, Dylan Roof, holding a Confederate flag surfaced after he murdered nine African American church members in Charleston, South Carolina after they had welcomed into their Bible Study in a racially motivated attack. In 2017, the ‘Unite the Right Rally’ in Charlottesville, Virginia flooded the streets with White nationalists, neo-Nazis and members of the Ku Klux Klan waving the Confederate flag, many armed with assault rifles and body armor resulting in the murder of Heather Heyer; and

**WHEREAS**, while students do not shed all of their First Amendment rights when they enter school, conduct by students, in class or out of it, which “materially disrupts classwork” is not “immunized by the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech;” and

**WHEREAS**, hate speech in school, such as open and school-sanctioned displays of racist symbols such as the Confederate flag, creates a hostile learning environment for African American schoolchildren, frightening many of them and causing them to lose interest in education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederate flag should be shown in libraries and discussed in history classes by trained teachers to provide historical context for students to understand the flag’s racist origins. This is particularly important today because, according to a study by the Southern Poverty Law



Center, only 8% of high school seniors correctly identified slavery as the central cause of the Civil War. While hate crimes are on the rise in the United States, understanding of slavery and the American Civil War is in steep decline; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the U.S. Department of Education saw a 25% increase in student racial harassment complaints from the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, recently numerous school districts around the country begun to ban Confederate flag clothing and related items because student arguments led to school-wide disruptions.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP supports the prohibition of the unsupervised display of the Confederate flag in K-12 schools; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP shall transmit this Resolution to federal, state and local elected and appointed officials responsible for education policy.

## **2. Diversity and Inclusion Training in School Systems**

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) played a pivotal role in affirming the goal of equality of educational opportunities for all children by persuading the U.S. Supreme Court to issue the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. For four generations, the NAACP has been the nation’s leading organization in promoting a quality education for all children; and

**WHEREAS**, the workforce for schoolteachers in the United States does not reflect the racially diverse population of students. In the 2011 – 2012 school year, White teachers comprised 82 percent of public school teachers, while 51 percent of 2012 elementary and secondary public students were White. Sixteen percent (16%) of students were Black, but only seven percent (7%) of teachers were Black. Further, while 24 percent of students were Hispanic, only 8% of teachers were Hispanic. While five percent (5%) of students were Asian and Pacific Islander, only 2% of teachers were Asian and Pacific Islanders; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Education Statistics projects there to be an increase in diversity within the school population. Specifically, in 2024, White students will represent only 46 percent of the public school student population, which is a drop from the 51 percent in 2012. The proportion of Hispanic students is expected to increase to 29 percent of the total enrollment in 2024, an increase from 24 percent in 2012. The proportion of Asian and Pacific Islander students is expected to increase to six percent (6%) in 2014 from five percent (5%) in 2012. (It is projected that in 2024, Black students will be 15 percent of all public school students, a statistically insignificant decrease from 16 percent in 2012.); and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2015-2016 school year, “about 80 percent of all public school teachers were non-Hispanic White, 9 percent were Hispanic, 7 percent were non-Hispanic black, and 2 percent were non-Hispanic Asian”; and



**WHEREAS**, these statistics overwhelmingly support the need for diversity and inclusion training in education, as teachers and school leaders do not come close to reflecting the diversity of the student population; and

**WHEREAS**, diversity and inclusion training helps ensure that teachers, administrators, and staff, in the classroom and when performing disciplinary, counseling and other management functions, do not unconsciously favor those students perceived to be most like themselves in race, class, and values. Diversity and inclusion training also helps ensure that teaching is culturally relevant, which means consciously working to develop commonalities with all students; and

**WHEREAS**, diversity and inclusion training should facilitate the students' ability to learn with the designated curriculum and to ensure there are no racial barriers to learning, retention, promotion, avoidance of discipline, participation in extracurricular activities, and educational advancement; and

**WHEREAS**, diversity and inclusion training should include curricula, textbooks and instructional materials that focus on racial, cultural, socioeconomic and learning differences; and

**WHEREAS**, those undergoing diversity and inclusion training should be trained on how culture affects specific learning behaviors, resulting, where necessary, in the modification of classroom interactions and instructions to embrace differences.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that all units of the NAACP support and promote the positive impacts of a culturally diverse student population through diversity and inclusion training for all school boards, senior administrative staff, instructional and support staff at every level, and students.

### **3. *Eliminate Racial Disparities in School Discipline***

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

**WHEREAS**, education should be regarded as a fundamental right of all people, giving students the ability to grow and succeed as productive members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, through resolutions adopted in 1997, 1998, 2010, 2011 and 2012, the NAACP has demonstrated its unwavering opposition to school policies, such as "zero tolerance," that lead to extreme racial disparities in school discipline; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent data show significant racial disparities in educational outcomes and that these disparities have improved little to none over time; and

**WHEREAS**, school discipline policies, particularly out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, have a profoundly negative impact on a student's future, leading to the infamous "school to prison pipeline." Students who are suspended or expelled are more than twice as likely to be arrested

in the following two months. Further, students incarcerated in the juvenile justice system are significantly less likely to graduate from high school; and

**WHEREAS**, at every step of a Black student's education, he or she is significantly more likely to be suspended or expelled than a White student. In Pre-School, Black children only make up 18% of students but make up nearly half of all students with multiple suspensions; and

**WHEREAS**, Black K-12 students are almost four times more likely to be suspended than White students and are almost twice as likely to be expelled as White students; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in the number of armed police officers on school campuses has been linked to harsher punishments and even violence toward Black students; and

**WHEREAS**, social science evidence shows that racial disparities in school discipline are caused in great measure by harmful racial biases and stereotypes in the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, implicit biases, and unconscious stereotyping people by race, result in many White teachers having lower expectations in academics, classroom behavior and overall success in life for Black students than White students; and

**WHEREAS**, racial anxiety - the fear of interacting with people of a different race - results in disciplinary scenarios which could easily be resolved instead of escalating into unnecessary conflict because of subconscious racial tensions; and

**WHEREAS**, stereotype threat - the tendency to categorize people based upon preconceived racial stereotypes - results in a dysfunctional relationship between students and teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, these unconscious racial biases in teaching can be counteracted by assessing one's biases, cultivating inclusivity, and soliciting feedback from outside observers and students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls on the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Education, state departments of education, and local school boards to collect more data on school discipline disparities and their causes and effects; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls upon the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Education, and State Departments of Education to initiate and institute school faculty and staff training programs to expose and counteract racial biases in the classroom; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that in-school and out-of-school discipline disparities must be a part of any pending school desegregation litigation.

#### 4. *School Resource Officer*

**WHEREAS**, in the 2015-16 school year, Black students were 15% of the school population nationwide but were 31% of the students referred to law enforcement or arrested; and

**WHEREAS**, in 28 states, the share of arrested students who are black is at least 10 percentage points higher than their share of enrollment. In 10 of those states, that gap is at least 20 percentage points; and

**WHEREAS**, the overwhelming majority of these arrests are for relatively minor issues such as misbehavior, arguments or theft. For example, in Fairfax County, VA, in 2016 there were 75 arrests for disorderly conduct, 29 for trespassing, and 23 for grand larceny; and in Prince William County, Virginia, a 14-year-old boy was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and petty larceny in the Fall of 2017 after the School Resource Officer (SRO) accused him of stealing a carton of milk. The boy, who qualified for free lunches, said he had gone back to the cafeteria cooler to get the milk after he forgot to pick one up when he first went through the serving line; and

**WHEREAS**, school shootings such as the February 2018 one occurring in Parkland, FL, have intensified calls from parents for more SROs, but not an equivalent amount transparency, accountability, and clear definition of their duties; and

**WHEREAS**, only 12 states require specialized training for SROs, according to a 2015 study by the American Institutes for Research; and

**WHEREAS**, many of our children aren't afforded the appropriate support needed to overcome the challenges posed by poverty. Analysis of the 2013-14 civil rights data by the U.S. Department of Education found that 1.6 million students attended schools with police presence but with no school counselors and that these students were more likely to be Hispanic or Black; and

**WHEREAS**, many school districts allow SROs to switch from being law enforcement officers to administrators. This intentionally ambiguous policy allows officers to conduct activities such as searches and seizures, stop and frisk, or interrogations as administrators that would otherwise be prohibited as officers, and then use evidence collected to instigate criminal proceedings, potentially creates constitutional violations that the average child would not be aware of or have the wherewithal to defend against; and

**WHEREAS**, most SRO policies do not empower parents to intervene on their children's behalf to protect against self-incrimination or unwarranted searches. Much more needs to be done to ensure that parents know what SROs are doing on a regular basis; and parents certainly deserve the right to intervene prior to their children being questioned in relation to an alleged crime.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all NAACP units advocate to their local school boards that the primary responsibility of educating the children must reside with the teachers and the principals in the school and in the school system; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local NAACP units advocate to the local school board that the primary disciplinary responsibility for the students, where needed, must reside with the teachers and principal in the school and the school system; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP urges all school districts with SROs to narrow the scope of responsibilities of SROs to only intervene in potentially life-threatening situations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a standard SRO policy and procedure manual describing SRO's duties and that distinguishes them from those of school administrators is developed for nationwide use and that the SRO's duties are included with the student code of conduct and the disciplinary matrix; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocates for an annual report of data, aggregated by race, gender, and type of offense, that includes all student offenses and actions charged by SROs to be released and monitored, to ensure the safety of all students in said school; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NAACP units will use this annual report along with the data from the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights Data Collections to educate communities about racial disparities in school based arrests and will advocate to local school districts, state legislators, courts, and local law enforcement agencies to eliminate racial disparities in school-based arrests; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will advocate for legislation or other appropriate action that prohibits SROs from engaging in racial profiling and 'stop and frisk' policies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will advocate for legislation or other appropriate action to mandate that all SROs must have specific yearly training in child development, de-escalation techniques, mental and physical limitations and trauma, and recognizing and addressing implicit bias; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will advocate for SRO policies to empower parents or the responsible adult for the child to intervene on the child's behalf before the child is questioned or legally detained.

**5. *Toward Greater Academic Achievement Through Hiring Greater Diversity of Faculty, Staff, and Administrators in Public Schools***

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) works to ensure that all disadvantaged students and students of color are on the path to college education, or a successful career by ensuring access to great teaching, equitable resources, and a challenging curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is dedicated to eliminating the severe racial inequities that continue to plague the education system in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the ultimate goal of the NAACP is that every student of color receives a high quality public education that prepares him or her to be a contributing member of a democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes that there is persistent disparity in academic achievement between minority and disadvantaged students and their white counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes that the largest factor in the persistence of the achievement gap is the creation and maintenance of an environment that is as conducive to learning as is possible for each individual student; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP also recognizes that students of color in general, and Black students in particular, disproportionately experience school disciplinary actions. This, we acknowledge, likely contributes to lagging educational achievement as school discipline typically results in a loss of educational time; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is aware that students of color are consistently more likely than their white peers to be rated as disruptive by their teachers and experience school discipline but are also much less likely to have a teacher of the same race; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is aware that studies show that exposure to a Black teacher during elementary school raises long-run educational attainment for Black male students. For the most disadvantaged Black males, conservative estimates suggest that exposure to a Black teacher in primary school cuts high school dropout rates by 39%. It also raises college aspirations; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes studies wherein Black primary school students matched to a same-race teacher perform better on standardized tests and enjoy more favorable teacher perceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is aware that there is credible evidence that students of all races have more positive ratings of Latino and Black teachers than white teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is aware of credible studies which have shown that while the presence of a Black teacher does not guarantee academic success for students of color, however, the research literature suggests that a white teacher's failure to address or value a student of color's primary culture could be a significant factor in student of color's academic success; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP stands in favor of moving the United States' school systems toward greater academic achievement through the process of diversifying faculties, staffs and administrations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mary McLeod Bethune Process to hire more African American teachers would consist of:

- school systems shall each interview at least one qualified minority candidate for each faculty, staff and administrative opening;
- school systems shall notify the NAACP in advance, and before publishing same to the staff faculty or public, of every new and anticipated job opening in each school for every faculty, staff and administrative position;
- school systems shall at least participate in any hiring/job fairs which are held at each of the below listed Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and/or actively and affirmatively partner with the respective career services representative at each school regularly to identify, interview, and recruit qualified minority candidates;
- each school system shall each maintain, concurrently with the local Branches of the NAACP, an active database of resumes of qualified minority candidates to review upon the availability of a position opening; and
- School systems must retain resumes until a period of three years from the date the resume was submitted has elapsed, and shall each engage in an affirmative and active partnership with members of local Branches of the NAACP Education Committee in all aspects of the search, recruitment and hiring process.

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP believes that it is clear from a review of the numbers of faculty, staff and administrators in many of the respective school systems in this country that current recruiting practices are an insufficient process for attracting and employing qualified minority candidates.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the national NAACP will encourage all local branches to work directly with local school systems and through the local, state and federal legislative processes in order to establish and maintain more aggressively inclusive hiring practices in school systems; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to advance, and work to implement the Mary McLeod Bethune Process outlined above in all Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

## **6. Vision Screening to Detect Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

**WHEREAS**, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) occurs more frequently in school-aged children than it is being diagnosed; and

**WHEREAS**, 70 percent of TBIs result in vision impairment. At the 2009 NAACP National Convention in New York City, a health resolution was adopted concerning Vision Screening to Prevent Recidivism, and subsequently, at the 2010 National Convention in Kansas, the NAACP adopted a resolution entitled "Vision Screening for Children and Learning to Create Awareness," and the Maryland legislature successfully passed the Atticus Act on improving parent vision education and vision screenings; and

**WHEREAS**, TBI can be a detriment to a child's health, education, safety, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, early detection of a TBI, whether congenital or occurring after birth may initiate a child receiving intervention therapies that can assist them in overcoming obstacles; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health only 16 U.S. States require vision screenings in preschool-age children; and

**WHEREAS**, visual rehabilitation has been effective in treating oculomotor dysfunction from TBI according to Walter Reed Vision Center of Excellence but limited insurance coverage prevents access to this effective rehabilitation treatment, and the Department of Defense has developed a community of interest consisting of clinical subject matter experts to fully evaluate the effectiveness of vision therapy and orthoptics for coverage under the TRICARE program; and

**WHEREAS**, America is essentially incarcerating disabled persons because of the government's unwillingness or inability to provide them services. Research shows 70 percent of incarcerated youth, 64 percent of incarcerated adult males and 75 percent of incarcerated adult females have a TBI, an injury that could be caught through a vision screening.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocates that the TBI screening is conducted in screening in preschool-age children in all 50 states and shall advocate for state and federal legislation to increase access to treatment, eye exams, and visual rehabilitation; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocate that all State and Local juvenile detention centers or incarceration facilities to provide vision and hearing screenings to all juveniles prior to trial so that the results can inform the pretrial report and the presentencing report of a convicted person.



## **7. Widespread Homelessness Among College Students**

**WHEREAS**, each year more than a million young people in the United States experience homelessness. Some of these young people, known as unaccompanied homeless youth, will face the challenge of living on their own without the support of a caring adult; and,

**WHEREAS**, a new study, the largest national study assessing the basic needs security of university students, by Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab found more than a third of college students can't always afford to eat or have stable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the report focused on 43,000 students at 66 institutions, 31 community colleges and 35 four-year universities in 20 states and Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, the report found that homeless college students devote as much time to the classroom and to studying as do college students who are not homeless. However, they also work more, commute more, spend more time taking care of other people, and they sleep less; and

**WHEREAS**, many unaccompanied homeless youth have higher education aspirations, but find the barriers to enrollment and attendance to be overwhelming; and

**WHEREAS**, to combat this trend, an initiative has been proposed that would provide housing scholarships to students in undergraduate colleges and universities who self-report as homeless; the program would give these students aid in paying for off-campus housing, which would allow for these students to attend a university without the worry of finding funding for housing; applicants would be required to get a Homeless Status Certification from the Secretary of State Driver Services department and be full-time students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges all State Legislatures to adopt and fund a program that provides housing scholarships to college students that are registered as homeless and to include funding for this program for every public university in the state; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NAACP units are encouraged to email (or send by other means) a copy of this resolution to the state legislatures and all boards of trustees of public universities within their respective jurisdictions.



## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### 1. *Calling Upon the United States Congress to Restore Climate Funding*

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2018 the United States Congress passed its \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending package for the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18), which kept the government funded from October 2017 through September 20, 2018, thus avoiding a potential government shutdown; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY18 Budget passed the United States Representatives by a vote of 256-167 and passed the U.S. Senate by a vote of 65-32, with bipartisan support in both Houses; and

**WHEREAS**, President Donald Trump signed the bill despite his fierce criticisms of the bill and his previous threats of a veto of the funding package, as a result of his perception that there was a failure to address the immigration issues which he continues to champion; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY18 spending bill eliminated allocation for funding for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and

**WHEREAS**, the GCF is the largest and newest international climate fund which the Obama Administration pledged \$3 billion in 2014 and made two installments totaling \$800 million, which left the United States with a balance due to the fund of \$2.2 billion, which is roughly 20% of the fund's \$10.3 billion in total pledges; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress' refusal to honor our country's pledge of support to the Green Climate Fund not only damages the United States' credibility and prominence in international negotiations and influence over the fund's direction, but also undermines the 76 GCF approved projects which will avoid 1.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions and bolster the resilience of over 217 million people to climate impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the IPCC and the UNFCCC are the chief international entities responsible for integrating state of the art climate science with climate diplomacy; and

**WHEREAS**, after funding was completely eliminated in the FY17 budget, a number of European countries voluntarily moved to increase their funding, and Bloomberg Philanthropies pledged \$15 million to make up for the deficiency created by the United States in not honoring this vital international covenant.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges the United States Congress to maintain the international prominence and probity of our nation by restoring much needed funding of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and restore our country's leadership in global climate diplomacy.

**2. *In Opposition to Nuclear and Fossil Fuel Technologies as Safe, Viable Alternatives to Renewable Energy***

**WHEREAS**, the Congressionally mandated 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA), a rigorously evaluated document that is peer reviewed by scientists at the National Oceanography and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Climate Science Special Report (CSSR), the National Aeronautics, Space Administration (NASA), the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the nation's most accomplished climate scientists, is the core blueprint used to inform the public and craft public policy decisions to address climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the unassailable, explicit warnings issued in the NCA's November 2017 conclusions of this non-partisan report that extreme weather events are being intensified by climate change and that carbon pollution is warming the planet at an unprecedented rate, the Trump administration presented a program at the 2017 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entitled: "The Role of Cleaner and More Efficient Fossil Fuels and Nuclear Power in Climate Mitigation," which promoted coal, natural gas and nuclear energy as American energy resources to help poor countries meet electricity needs and drive down greenhouse gas emissions as an answer to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration has been reckless in its attempts at undermining the terms and goals of the United Nations 2016 Paris Climate Accord, by globally promoting what it references as "cleaner and more efficient fossil fuels" (clean coal) in helping countries meet their climate objectives at international forums such as the G-20 summit; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of exploring fundamentally safer, renewable forms of energy, most fossil fuel industries are still clinging to the use nuclear or more profitable, but equally, if not more harmful fossil fuels methods, such as natural gas and carbon capture sequestration (CCS), also known as geo-sequestration. At the same time the industry is misleading consumers by promoting and labeling these fossil fuels as "safe, natural or clean"; and

**WHEREAS**, so called "clean coal" is an expensive, failed, experimental, oxymoronic myth which promises to prevent carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from entering the atmosphere in the industrial coal burning process, and instead compresses and diverts it into pipelines which transports the CO<sub>2</sub> to be injected and stored underground in geologic rock formation; and

**WHEREAS**, “clean coal” has been embraced as a possible remedy to catastrophic climate effects- without contemplation of possible consequences including its short-term, non-sustainability, inflated cost to build and maintain these plants, possible deadly pipeline leaks, the possibility of hydro-fractured induced earthquakes, and other potential vulnerabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, even in his 2018 State of the Union Address, President Trump announced that his administration had “ended the war on beautiful, clean coal”; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal production has risen since Trump took office — a fact that he has proudly boasted in his infamous tweets; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the most visible examples of failed carbon capture sequestration energy alternative debacles, is the experimental Kemper, County, Mississippi plant, which was touted as a revolutionary “clean coal” lignite plant and located in a community with a 60% African-American population, at an astronomical cost of \$7.5 billion dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi, the state with the highest percentage of African-Americans, in addition to being one of the poorest states and subject to some of the highest energy costs in the country, would have benefitted its 186,000 ratepayers by wisely and smartly investing in more economical, dependable renewable energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity or transportation continue to pose substantial hazards to our climate through the emissions of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere, accelerating global warming; while risking the erosion of human health, quality of life and social factors, including the dynamic between property values, race, and socioeconomic status; and

**WHEREAS**, low income and minority populations are the most disproportionately impacted by the production of fossil fuel based energy and continue to be the least able to combat the adverse effects due to less financial resources and inability to pay discriminatory fixed and grid access costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has chronicled the disproportionate class and racial inequities of coal based energy generation, a primary use of fossil fuel, in its widely acclaimed 2011 report, *“Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People”*, which studied and ranked the environmental justice performance of the nation’s 378 coal fired power plants.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, the NAACP stands in opposition to nuclear energy and attempts to avoid the much needed, inevitable energy transition by merely converting from one fossil fuel source to another, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms its support of renewable energy sources as the safest, most viable power alternative and emphasizes the need for a just energy transition that will avail equal opportunities, job training skills for 1) reclassification of the fossil energy labor force and 2) provide access, ownership, economic, and job opportunities for workers, people of color and low to moderate income individuals who continue to be the most adversely and disproportionately impacted by the use of fossil fuels; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP urges international allies of the United States, federal, state and local governments to deny taxpayers and ratepayers funding of experimental fossil fuel projects which continue to preserve and maintain fossil fuel energy production.

## HEALTH

### 1. *Alzheimer's/Dementia Care*

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of Alzheimer's/Dementia is on the rise by all available measures; and

**WHEREAS**, Dementia is a large and growing problem, caused by: drugs and medicines, alcohol, malignant hypertension, and Alzheimer's; and

**WHEREAS**, some forms of Dementia can be prevented or controlled; and

**WHEREAS**, the progress of Alzheimer's can sometimes be slowed for a while (approximately 2-10 years); and

**WHEREAS**, the resources of the Alzheimer's/Dementia patient's family are often strained while they attempt to provide for increasing care needs for their loved one; and

**WHEREAS**, households of color are often under-resourced for long-term medical needs; and

**WHEREAS**, households of color are often reluctant to seek professional diagnosis and/or help for the family member with indicia of diminished mental capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, family members often lack the training required to deal with the new needs of the recently impacted Alzheimer's/Dementia patient; and

**WHEREAS**, the families often are left to “take in” or “watch” the patient to make sure that the potential for injury is mitigated; and

**WHEREAS**, each family member of working age called upon to aid in the care of the patient may lose the opportunity to earn wages during the care period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alzheimer’s/Dementia patient can fail to remember the names and faces of their spouses, children, and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, Alzheimer’s/Dementia patients may become agitated with directions contrary to their desires of the moment or refusals to allow their free movement; and

**WHEREAS**, the general public often lacks information regarding care resources, insurance and estate planning, and counseling services available to family members; and

**WHEREAS**, private insurance varies significantly in what is deemed appropriate care for the patient; and

**WHEREAS**, working–age family members of Alzheimer’s/Dementia patients may be impacted in various ways, including being required to actually provide care for their family member; and

**WHEREAS**, the care of the patient can be so demanding that necessary wages are lost, available sick leave is depleted, and property maintenance is often neglected causing significant economic reverberations for the individual, the family, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, the consequences of these patient care demands impact everyone directly or indirectly; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of funding for mental health services in the United States has created a national crisis which directly involves and includes many communities of color.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls for an increase of funding at the Federal level for overall mental health and for Alzheimer’s/Dementia research, including for early diagnosis, care, and treatment; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP units will educate their members and families on the above facts, and the importance of getting early diagnosis and treatment and providing long term care.

## **2. Elimination of Food Deserts**

**WHEREAS**, food deserts are geographic areas where access to affordable, healthy whole foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, is limited and sometimes nonexistent, including many low-income communities and communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, 23.5 million people in the United States live in food deserts and nearly half of those food deserts are in low-income areas which makes eating healthy harder for residents of those communities; and

**WHEREAS**, 2.3 million people (2.2% of all US households) live in low-income and rural areas that are more than 10 miles from a supermarket. Across the country, low-income zip codes have 25% fewer supermarkets and 30% more convenience stores than middle-income zip codes; and

**WHEREAS**, while food deserts are scattered across the United States and no region of the country lacks food deserts, it is clear that the South has more food deserts than the rest of the country. Urban food deserts also exist in highly populated places such as New Orleans, Chicago and Atlanta; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the lack of supermarkets with inexpensive, whole foods, residents in food deserts are left with two unfortunate options, small costly convenience stores and fast food places, neither of which provide healthy food; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of so many high calorie, high fat foods puts food desert residents at a much greater risk for diabetes and other lifestyle and environmentally caused conditions.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NAACP units will encourage convenience stores to provide affordable fresh produce in their stores; encourage and support community garden initiatives in urban and rural areas; and support mobile markets and produce trucks that come into many underserved areas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP partner with food providers to develop community education programs in and near food deserts, such partners to include but not be limited to big and small box stores, and entrepreneurial food providers; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NAACP units will work diligently to educate the community on the benefits of eating healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables in order to decrease the illnesses that plague African-American and rural communities, such as diabetes and other lifestyle and environmentally-caused conditions.

### **3. Prescription Drugs – Eliminating Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PMB) Gag Clauses**

**WHEREAS**, to protect our lives and well-being, every family in America requires access to affordable prescription drugs. Many people are concerned about the high cost of drugs and are being forced to make tradeoffs between paying for their prescription drugs and buying food or paying rent; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans are more likely to die at earlier ages from all diseases. African Americans ages 18-49 are twice as likely to die from heart disease as whites. African Americans ages 35-64 years are 50% more likely to have high blood pressure than whites; and

**WHEREAS**, skyrocketing costs are making some medicines virtually inaccessible to our families and neighbors. Overall drug prices increased almost 9% in 2016, while general inflation increased just over 2% in the same period. Moreover, since 2013 drug prices have risen an average of 10% annually, but inflation has only increased 1.2% on average; and

**WHEREAS**, prescription drug spending accounted for over 22% of each health insurance premium dollar in 2014, and nearly a quarter of people in their deductible period never picked up their prescriptions from the pharmacy, presumably because of the cost. For many people, out-of-pocket prescription costs are a matter of life and death. Studies on cancer patients show that the higher a patient's out-of-pocket spending, the less likely the patient is to fill her prescription. Patients who do not fill their prescriptions become sicker and require more intense care, which ultimately drives up total health spending; and

**WHEREAS**, most people pay for health insurance to reduce their out-of-pocket medical expenses. With most health insurance plans, patients are responsible for a co-pay. Typical co-pays run somewhere between \$10 and \$25 per prescription. With some prescriptions, a co-pay exceeds the actual price of a medication. Many generic drugs can cost just \$5 per month; and

**WHEREAS**, unless patients specifically request information about alternative pricing, "gag rules" compel pharmacists to remain silent. There are Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) who reportedly ban pharmacists from discussing lower-priced drug choices with their patients. If pharmacists violate the rules, they could be fired, cut from drug-distribution networks, or face other penalties; and

**WHEREAS**, it is up to states legislatures to prohibit gag rules. Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, and most recently Maryland, have already banned these gag clauses; and

**WHEREAS**, blocking the "gag clauses" that prohibit pharmacists from telling patients that they could save money by paying for their prescription rather than using their health insurance would help make prescription drugs more affordable.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP supports eliminating the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) gag clauses; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to enact legislation that prohibits a PBM from preventing a pharmacy or pharmacist from providing customers with information to permit them to reduce the out-of-pocket cost for a prescription drug.

## HOUSING

### **1. *NAACP Decries Weakening of Fair Housing Enforcement and Defunding of Fair Housing Programs***

**WHEREAS**, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 is an essential component of our Nation's civil rights legislation intended to advance equal opportunity in housing and achieve racial integration for the benefit of all people in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, private, nonprofit, fair housing centers funded by Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) are the frontline in the effort to resolve housing discrimination and train local housing providers on how to comply with the Fair Housing Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) funds fair housing grants annually on a non-competitive basis to State and local fair housing enforcement agencies which are used for complaint processing, administrative costs, special enforcement efforts, training and other projects designed to enhance the agency's administration and enforcement of its fair housing law; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Fair Housing Training Academy (NFHTA) seeks to ensure that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD or Department) and its state and local funded civil rights offices develop the capacity to employ the highest skills needed to conduct fair housing investigations; and

**WHEREAS**, fair housing education and enforcement play a pivotal role in increasing housing choice and minority homeownership and combating predatory lending; and



**WHEREAS**, it is plainly evident that the current Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (Secretary) intent is to cripple the agency's ability to promote fair housing throughout the United States, including by:

- attempting to remove from the HUD mission statement the goal of "...build[ing] inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination...";
- submitting a budget request to Congress that undermines the purpose and mission of the Department, including zero funding for the Public Housing Fund and proposed elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program and the Choice Neighborhood Program;
- terminating a number of high-profile HUD enforcement investigations into potential violations of the Fair Housing Act that began during the Obama administration, as reported by a number of national news organizations; and
- suspending the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Program ("AFFH"), which supported local leaders by providing them with resources in the form of guidance, a data and mapping tool, and technical assistance to support their planning success. The locally-driven process helps communities overcome persistent and growing challenges related to disparities in opportunity, fair housing choice and racially concentrated poverty, providing critical civil rights oversight for as much as \$5.5 billion in HUD grants per year for almost 1,000 jurisdictions across the country.

**WHEREAS**, several fair housing advocates and civil rights organizations, including the National Fair Housing Alliance, Texas Appleseed, the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Public Citizen Litigation Group, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and the Poverty & Race Research Action Council filed suit on May 8, 2018, charging that the Department's suspension of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule violates the federal Administrative Procedure Act in a number of respects; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP in 2018 commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP condemns in the strongest possible terms the efforts of the current Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to cripple HUD as a strong and viable fair housing enforcement agency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP decries the Secretary's decision to suspend the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Program, and demands that the Secretary restore fair housing policies as a core function of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP commends the fair housing advocates and civil rights organizations that have challenged the suspension of the AFFH Program through litigation and calls on the Department to reinstate the AFFH program, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP demands that HUD restore robust funding to the Public Housing Fund, CDBG Program, the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program, and the Choice Neighborhood Programs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP demands that the Secretary reinstate and vigorously pursue all HUD enforcement actions begun during the Obama administration that were pending but not completed as of January 20, 2017.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

### **1. *Provision Expressly Prohibiting NAACP Units from Incorporating; Revision to Bylaws for Units – Article III, Add Article III, Section 1 (b)***

#### **Current Language**

None.

#### **Added Language**

No Unit shall be authorized to incorporate itself or to organize itself in the form of a corporation under state law unless expressly approved to do so, in writing, by the President and CEO and the General Counsel upon a showing of legal or business necessity.

**2. Seeking Authorization to Engage in Direct Action; Revision to Bylaws for Units -- Article II Section 2 (a)**

**Article II Section 2 (a)**

**Current Language**

a. *Direct Action*

*Examples.* Direct action includes agitation, demonstrations, marches, picketing, boycotts, economic sanctions and other appropriate action.

*Authority.* In accepting the mantle of leadership bestowed by virtue of their charter which requires the aggressive pursuit of the Association's mission, Units are encouraged to follow an independent course of action set out by the Unit's membership as long as it is consistent with the Association's policies and objectives. However, no Unit shall initiate, endorse or participate in direct action on behalf of the Association, or any Unit of the Association, without the express written authorization of the President and CEO and General Counsel.

*Direct Action Approval Procedure.* Any Unit of the Association seeking to initiate, endorse or participate in direct action as described above shall seek prior, timely authorization in writing from the President and CEO and General Counsel. Units must submit requests for approval within 15 business days before the date of proposed action. The President and CEO shall respond within 10 business days after receipt of said request. The President and CEO and General Counsel, at their discretion and in accordance with the objectives of the Association, shall communicate approval, or disapproval of said proposed direct action in writing to the Unit.

**Revised Language**

a. *Direct Action*

*Examples.* Direct action includes agitation, demonstrations, marches, picketing, boycotts, economic sanctions and other appropriate action.

*Authority.* In accepting the mantle of leadership bestowed by virtue of their charter which requires the aggressive pursuit of the Association's mission, Units are encouraged to follow an independent course of action set out by the Unit's membership as long as it is consistent with the Association's policies and objectives. However, no Unit shall initiate, endorse or participate in direct action on behalf of

the Association, or any Unit of the Association, without the express written authorization of the President and CEO and General Counsel.

*Direct Action Approval Procedure.* Any Unit of the Association seeking to initiate, endorse or participate in direct action as described above shall seek prior, timely authorization in writing from the President and CEO and General Counsel. Units must submit requests for approval within ~~45~~ **10** business days before the date of proposed action. **The subject line of the e-mail sent by the unit seeking authorization should read “Direct Action.”** The President and CEO shall respond in a timely manner after receipt of said request. The President and CEO and General Counsel, at their discretion and in accordance with the objectives of the Association, shall communicate approval, or disapproval of said proposed direct action in writing to the Unit. **If the 10 business days makes the direct action irrelevant due to the pressure to respond immediately, the unit shall receive approval by email to ensure that the response to the unit is timely.**

### 3. ***Duties of Political Action Committee; Revision to Article II Section 2 (d) of Bylaws for Units***

#### **Current Language**

*d. Political Action*

All Units of the Association are expected to: increase registration and voting; work for the enactment of municipal, state and federal legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of minority groups; work to repeal racially discriminatory legislation; improve the administration of justice; secure equal enforcement of the law; and keep the National Office and the Branch informed of all proposed legislation which affects minority groups. All political action shall be non-partisan and shall not endorse candidates for public office.

#### **Revised Language**

*d. Political Action*

All Units of the Association **at the appropriate jurisdictional level** are expected to: increase registration and voting; work for the enactment of municipal (**local units**), and federal (**national office**) legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of minority groups; work to repeal racially discriminatory legislation; improve the administration of justice; secure equal enforcement of the law; and keep the National Office and the Unit informed of all proposed legislation which affects minority groups. All political action shall be non-partisan and shall not endorse candidates for public office. **Statewide ballot measures proposed by a unit must first obtain the approval of the National legal staff before filing with the local balloting authority.**

#### **4. Changes to Special Meetings; Revision to Article V, Section 5 of Bylaws for Units**

##### **Current Language**

##### **5. (Special Meetings of Branches, Youth Units and Authorized Committees)**

Special Meetings may be called at any time and place and on three days written notice to all members by the President, or by any three members of the Executive Committee; or by any ten members of the Unit by signed declaration to the Secretary, who in turn must call the meeting. The notice must state the purpose for which the meeting is called.

##### **Revised Language**

##### **5. (Special Meetings of Branches, Youth Units and Authorized Committees)**

Special Meetings may be called at any time and place and on three days written notice to all members by the President, or by any three members of the Executive Committee; or by any ten members of the Unit by signed declaration to the Secretary, who in turn must call the meeting. The notice must state the purpose for which the meeting is called: **if the meeting is to be held via teleconference or electronic meeting, then the conference call number or sign in code must be provided.**

**5. Meeting of Standing Committees; Revision to Article V, Section 7 of Bylaws for Units**

**Current Language**

**7. (Meetings of Standing Committees)**

The Standing Committees shall meet regularly once a month at places they may determine. They shall inform the President of the time and place of each meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by two members on two days written notice.

**Revised Language**

**7. (Meetings of Standing Committees)**

The Standing Committees shall meet regularly once a month at places they may determine. They shall inform the President of the time and place of each meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by two members on two days written notice. **If the meeting is to be held via teleconference or electronic meeting, the conference call number or sign in code must be provided.**



**6. Order of Business; Revision to Article V, Section 9 of Bylaws for Units**

**Current Language**

**9. (Order of Business)**

Any NAACP Unit, unless altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present, shall follow the order of business at meetings of any NAACP Unit:

- (1) Ascertainment of members present;
- (2) Reading of minutes of previous meeting;
- (3) Reports of Officers;
- (4) Reports of Committees;
- (5) Elections;
- (6) Unfinished Business; and
- (7) New Business;

**In the event that the provisions herein do not address a specific procedural question, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.** Nonetheless, mere good faith failure to adhere to such rules may not constitute grounds for removal or suspension pursuant to Article X.

**Revised Language**

**9. (Order of Business)**

Any NAACP Unit, unless altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present, shall follow the order of business at meetings of any NAACP Unit:

- (1) Ascertainment of members present;
- (2) Reading of minutes of previous meeting and sharing of correspondence received;
- (3) Reports of Officers;

- (4) Reports of Committees;
- ~~(5) Elections;~~
- (5) Unfinished Business; and
- (6) New Business;

**In the event that the provisions herein do not address a specific procedural question, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.** Nonetheless, mere good faith failure to adhere to such rules may not constitute grounds for removal or suspension pursuant to Article X.

**7. Fiscal Business Year - Installation of Officers; Revision to Article V Section 17 (b) of Bylaws for Units**

Current Language

b. Officers may be installed at the next regular meeting of the Unit following the election.

Revised Language

~~Officers may be installed at the next regular meeting of the Unit following the election.~~

**b. The installation of officers can take place following elections or at a time and place designated by the body.**

**8. Definition of Good Standing; Revision to Article VI, Section 2 (b) of Bylaws for Units**

**Current Language**

- b. *Branch.* Only members in good standing shall be eligible to run for office or vote in a Branch election. For the purpose of running for office, a member in good standing is one whose name appears on the roll of the Branch as a bona fide member of the Branch by April 1 of the election year and who lives and/or works within the Branch jurisdiction. For the purpose of being elected to the Nominating Committee or the Election Supervisory Committee, signing a nominating petition or voting in Branch elections, a member in good standing is one who has been a bona fide member of the Branch for at least 30 calendar days prior to the date the election is held or the nominating petition is filed. For all other purposes, a member in good standing is one who has paid the requisite minimum membership fee to the Branch.

**Revised language**

- b. *Branch.* Only members in good standing shall be eligible to run for office or vote in a Branch election. For the purpose of running for office, a member in good standing is one whose name appears on the roll of the Branch as a bona fide member of the Branch by April 1 of the election year **and remains a continuous member of the branch through the election process**; and who lives and/or works within the Branch jurisdiction. For the purpose of being elected to the Nominating Committee or the Election Supervisory Committee, signing a nominating petition or voting in Branch elections, a member in good standing is one who has been a bona fide member of the Branch for at least 30 calendar days prior to the date the election is held or the nominating petition is filed. For all other purposes, a member in good standing is one who has paid the requisite minimum membership fee to the Branch.

**9. Duties of Unit Secretary; Revision to Article VII, Section 3 (a)- (b) of Bylaws for Units**

**Current Language**

The duties of the Secretary shall be:

- a.. To act as Secretary of the NAACP Unit and the Executive Committee; to give members notice of regular meetings and three (3) calendar days' notice of special meetings of the NAACP Unit and Executive Committee; to keep full and accurate records of the proceedings of the NAACP Unit and of the Executive Committee and record the same in a minute book or minute books, provided that, in NAACP Units employing paid staff, the responsibility of giving the membership required notice of meetings shall be discharged by said staff under the supervision of the Secretary.
- b. To keep a record of all NAACP Unit members and their dues, provided that wherever paid staff is employed such duties shall be discharged by said staff under the supervision of the Secretary.

**Revised language**

The duties of the Secretary shall be:

- a. To act as Secretary of the NAACP Unit and the Executive Committee; to give members notice of regular meetings and three (3) calendar days' notice of special meetings of the NAACP Unit and Executive Committee; to keep full and accurate records of the proceedings of the NAACP Unit and of the Executive Committee and record the same in a minute book or minute books, provided that, in NAACP Units employing paid staff, the responsibility of giving the membership required notice of meetings shall be discharged by said staff under the ~~supervision~~ **oversight** of the Secretary.
- b. To keep a record of all NAACP Unit members and their dues, provided that wherever paid staff is employed such duties shall be discharged by said staff under the ~~supervision~~ **oversight** of the Secretary.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/IMMIGRATION

### 1. *Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians*

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 under the Obama administration, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was given to undocumented Haitian immigrants due to the impact left on Haiti from the 2010 earthquake. The Department of Homeland Security (Department) determined that the safety of these Haitians would be at risk were they to return to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake; and

**WHEREAS**, conditions in Haiti worsened under the battering of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Families endured destroyed homes after each natural disaster; Camps for families displaced by the earthquake and the hurricanes were overcrowded, the crime rate increased in the country, and the country experienced an epidemic of cholera; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of continuing difficult conditions on the ground in Haiti, the U.S. government extended TPS for undocumented Haitians residing in the United States five times between 2010 and 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 and 2017, U.S. diplomatic personnel cautioned the U.S. government against terminating TPS for Haitian nationals in light of continuing difficult and unsafe conditions on the ground in Haiti and the request of the Haitian government that TPS for Haitian nationals be extended.

**WHEREAS**, in November 2017, under pressure from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security determined that the “extraordinary conditions” which justified the presence of TPS Haitians from the 2010 earthquake no longer exist and, on that basis, announced the termination of TPS for Haitian nationals effective July 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 60,000 Haitians who remain in the United States under TPS since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, since the 2010 earthquake, hundreds of thousands of Haitians are still in need of housing from the impact of the 2010 earthquake; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 40,000 people in Haiti remain displaced, living in temporary shelters and camps on the outskirts of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince; and

**WHEREAS**, lawmakers have cited ongoing economic and political difficulties in Haiti, which is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and is suffering from a cholera epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, those who have been under TPS since they were children now identify as American; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 27,000 U.S.-born children would suffer from the deportation of their Haitian parents who have been protected under TPS; and

**WHEREAS**, Haitians protected under TPS own homes and work in industries that benefit the United States and, especially, the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Haiti is in no position to smoothly absorb its TPS-affected nationals, and indeed would lose significant funds essential to survival of many families that now receive remissions from their relatives in the U.S.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms its support of TPS for Haitians until such time as conditions on the ground in Haiti warrant the safe return of Haitian nationals; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all NAACP branches should immediately identify TPS-eligible individuals who are NAACP members and submit their names to the National Legal Department immediately.

## **2. Continuation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program**

**WHEREAS**, on June 15th, 2012 under the Obama Administration, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, under which undocumented young people who came into the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request a deferral of deportation for a period of two years, subject to renewal; and

**WHEREAS**, DACA has allowed approximately 800,000 people who were brought into the United States illegally as children to remain in the country provided that they are working and/or going to school and meet other eligibility requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 1.3 million people who meet DACA criteria and could have applied for the program; and

**WHEREAS**, DACA recipients are people who have grown up in the U.S., are in college, own businesses, pay taxes, and contribute to society; and

**WHEREAS**, the DACA program was created to give Congress time to pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would offer those who were brought to the U.S. as children the opportunity to potentially gain permanent legal residency; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has yet to enact such legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 5, 2017, the Trump Administration unlawfully announced plans to rescind the DACA program and to not accept new applications; and

**WHEREAS**, if Congress does not come up with a solution, recipients will lose protection when their two-year statuses expire, making them vulnerable to deportation; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 200,000 U.S citizen children born to DACA participants and DACA-eligible residents risk losing their parents to deportation if the DACA program is terminated, and such deportation would lead to extreme hardships for such children who are U.S. citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has filed a federal lawsuit to halt the above-stated consequences.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP strongly supports legal and political action to extend DACA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all NAACP branches should immediately identify DACA-eligible individuals who are NAACP members and submit their names to the National Legal Department immediately; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP supports the passage of the DREAM Act to allow a path towards citizenship for “Dreamers.”

### **3. *Interfaith Unity and Pluralism in a Diverse Society***

**WHEREAS**, since its inception, the United States of America has served as a refuge and haven for oppressed people fleeing religious and political persecution; and

**WHEREAS**, freedom of religion is at the heart of civil liberties and democratic values; and

**WHEREAS**, America has been the standard of religious freedom since Rhode Island's Royal Charter of 1633 recognized “full liberties in religious concernements;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence enshrined the self-evident concept that "all [persons] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness;" and

**WHEREAS**, the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, written by Thomas Jefferson, affirmed that people should not "suffer on account of [their] religious opinions or belief;" and

**WHEREAS**, the first of all freedoms enumerated in the Bill of Rights is "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and



**WHEREAS**, the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the equal protection of the law for all individuals regardless of race, religion, national origin or other arbitrary factors; and

**WHEREAS**, an open society is enriched by the ethnic, religious, intellectual, scientific and cultural heritage of humankind; and

**WHEREAS**, minority ethnic and religious groups in the United States have suffered the damaging consequences of racial and religious bigotry, nativism, hate crimes, mob violence, intimidation, bullying and other forms of vigilantism; and

**WHEREAS**, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which admitted that the government's registration and internment of 127,000 Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor was based on "racial prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership;" and

**WHEREAS** the NAACP welcomes any and all efforts to educate and promote understanding and good will among the diverse communities, young and old that are an integral part of the United States of America's rich history and heritage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to protect the civil liberties and religious freedoms of all Americans, including immigrants and refugees seeking a sanctuary against religious and political persecution; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will advocate to protect the constitutional rights of religious minorities and all those subject to discriminatory and prejudicial actions, proposals, and intimidation.

#### **4. *Extension of Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) for Liberians***

**WHEREAS**, Liberia's history is closely tied to the United States and to African Americans since the first part of the 19th century; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 President Bush issued an order granting Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) to the thousands of Liberians previously granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) due to the continued adverse conditions following decades of armed conflict in Liberia that ended in 2003, and directed the Department of Homeland Security to implement procedures for granting work authorization to DED-covered Liberians; and in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016, President Obama finding compelling foreign policy reasons, extended the DED through March 31, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2018, President Trump issued an order directing the Department of Homeland Security to implement a wind-down period for Liberian DED beneficiaries and to end protections, without a pathway to citizenship, on March 31, 2019, citing improved conditions in

Liberia despite acknowledging an Ebola Virus outbreak as late as 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 4,000 Liberians who face deportation and separation from their families in less than a year, following President Trump's order ending DED protections; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2018, the United Nations reported that despite progress in peace-building efforts, Liberia still faces significant economic challenges and a slow recovery from the Ebola crisis and declared that the Liberian government could not be expected to handle these broad and demanding challenges alone including additional issues concerning national reconciliation, human rights, rule of law, marginalization of the periphery and basic governance capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, Congressman Keith Ellison, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the state of Minnesota, which contains the largest Liberian population in the U.S., has introduced the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 2018 (H.R. 5072); which would protect Liberians in the U.S. with DED status from deportation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP take all steps necessary to assist the Liberian refugees, to include supporting H.R. 5072 and undertaking any appropriate litigation to support the Liberians.

## LABOR

### 1. *NAACP Supports Union Labor*

**WHEREAS**, to maintain a striving and viable community, good paying and high wages jobs are essential. This has been achieved with unionized jobs that give workers the right to participate in the democratization of their work place; and

**WHEREAS**, 4.7 million Black workers are currently employed in the hotel and food service industries. They would benefit from increased unionization and increased benefits in those industries in the United States more generally; AND

**WHEREAS**, Black workers in low-wage occupations that are represented by unions earn on average \$15.60 per hour as compared to non-union Black workers in low-wage jobs earning an average of \$11.25 per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, Black union workers are more likely to have employer-provided health insurance, and employer-sponsored retirement plans, and Black union workers with less than a high school degree earn higher salaries than their non-union peers; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens; which includes advancing equal rights and eliminating racial economic disparity in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Janus v. AFSCME, a U.S. Supreme Court case that is supported by the Koch brothers' freedom foundation, represents the latest and most dangerous assault on working class people. Under current law, every union-represented public service worker has the choice whether or not to join a union even while that union is required to negotiate on behalf of all workers whether or not a worker joins; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Supreme Court upholds the lower court's decision, Janus v. AFSCME would overturn Abode v. Detroit and thus open the floodgates to Right to Work. In Right to Work states union coverage has been reduce by 9.6 percent. Workers' wages on average is \$6,109 less per year while poverty rates have increased to 15.3%. Moreover, workers have seen a 13% reduction in health care benefits and work place fatalities have increased by 49%. Employer sponsored pensions are 4.8% lower in Right to Work states; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP and unions have a long history of standing together to end labor and employment discrimination, bring economic justice to the workplace, and social justice to the nation.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") will support good hospitality jobs by prioritizing hotels with union contracts for conferences and business meetings; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will reaffirm its commitment to supporting the right and ability for labor to organize public and private employees regardless of the Janus decision; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP encourages its local branches to support, raise awareness of, and participate in, labor movements that advocate for greater equality for union workers.

## **2. *NAACP Supports Poultry Workers and Consumers and Opposes Faux "Work Camps"***

**WHEREAS**, the food processing industry is a notoriously high-hazard industry in which workplace safety is a key concern, and there have been allegations of employer misconduct, especially instances in which poultry processing plant owners are in cahoots with local judges and prosecutors; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the majority of poultry workers are women and people of color, individuals with relatively low levels of formal education or limited English language skills, and those who do not enjoy the benefits of full U.S. citizenship, all of whom tend to concentrate in industries that have a need for low-skilled labor. An example is immigrants from the Marshall Islands, whose largest employer in Arkansas by far is the poultry industry, (poultry processing plants are currently located primarily in the Southern United States); and

**WHEREAS**, in the spring of 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) considered increasing the limit of birds per minute (bpm) processed from 140 to 175 for any poultry plant that agreed to adopt a new poultry inspection system; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP working in coalition with several other groups including unions representing the workers, consumer groups, food safety groups, and other national civil rights organizations, and even the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), opposed this increase; and

**WHEREAS**, in a definite win for the NAACP, the Obama Administration ultimately decided to limit the line speed at 140 bpm except in the approximately twenty plants which had already gone to 175 bpm and the new inspection system; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2017, the National Chicken Council petitioned the USDA to waive the existing bpm limit and allow all processing plants to operate "at any line speed"; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP again opposed this proposal, and we were thus pleased with the January 2018 decision by the USDA to keep the existing bpm limits; and

**WHEREAS**, serious concerns have also raised about the safety and healthfulness of birds which are processed using the higher speeds and the resulting dangerous and potentially unhealthy impact this increase may have on consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, there are also disturbing reports and grave concerns about the abusive handling, storage, and welfare of the animals; and

**WHEREAS**, in Oklahoma and other states, it has been reported that some judges offered defendants convicted of non-violent offenses the opportunity to go to "work farms" rather than prison in order to improve their "work ethic" and rehabilitate themselves from "addiction," regardless of their personal history with substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, these "work farms" provided laborers to poultry plants to work on processing lines where, if they were hurt or went too slowly, they were threatened with a return to the courts to be sentenced to prison; and

**WHEREAS**, if they went to the "work camp," they did not in fact receive treatment for drug addiction or other health afflictions. Instead, they provided free labor, and if they are unable to work, they are returned to court and sentenced to incarceration.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP opposes proposals which may prove dangerous to workers and consumers such as increasing poultry line processing speeds without a comprehensive assessment of the harms such increases could bring to bear, and supports a comprehensive protocol that would keep workers safe and protect against contamination that would threaten the health and safety of consumers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the NAACP supports genuine rehabilitation options for non-violent offenders in lieu of prison, and not judges steering defendants into programs that endanger the lives and safety of the men and women who are convicted which are implemented in a neo-slavery manner and which simply provide cheap labor to private industry; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for a thorough review of the impact of the line speed and the use of court-ordered “work farms” on 1) those sent to live at the facilities and working on the processing lines, 2) Americans consuming the processed fowl, and 3) the environmental impact of the discarded remains.

## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION

### 1. *2020 Census*

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires an actual enumeration of all persons residing in the country every ten years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the results of the decennial census are used to determine apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives between the states as well as disbursement of over \$600 Billion in federal program payments; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current Administration plans to conduct a largely digital census despite failing to account for the effects of a digital census on the undercounting of communities of color, lack of testing, and questions around cyber security; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Census Bureau has been without a permanent director since June 2017 to oversee the operations of the Bureau and preparations for the 2020 Census; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Census Bureau has been underfunded since at least 2012 and such underfunding has caused the cancellation of necessary pre-testing of the questions, systems, and other aspects of the Census; and,

**WHEREAS**, in March 2018 the NAACP filed a lawsuit against President Trump and officials of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau to compel the government to take all legal measures to ensure an accurate accounting of all persons during the upcoming decennial Census and elimination of the undercounting of communities of color; and,

**WHEREAS**, days prior to the filing of the NAACP's lawsuit, the Commerce Department announced that it would add a Citizenship Question to the 2020 Census "short form" questionnaire for the first time in almost 70 years, without the proper review and testing.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP continues to call on the United States Government and each State and Territory of the United States to deploy all resources necessary to ensure an accurate count in the 2020 Census and to eliminate the undercounting of communities of color; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP continues to call upon the Commerce Department to remove the problematic, untested, and unnecessary Citizenship Question that will certainly suppress participation in the Census in immigrant communities and communities of color; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP and all of its Units will continue to use their resources to inform and prepare our members and our communities regarding the importance of census participation, and to equip them to advocate for appropriate funding and leadership within the Census Bureau.

## ***2. End States' Suspensions of Drivers' Licenses Without Notice or Reasonable Cause***

**WHEREAS**, it is little known fact that hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions, of individuals drive with a suspended license without any knowledge of its suspension; and

**WHEREAS**, some licenses are suspended without the individual's knowledge because notice is mailed to the address on their license, which is often outdated; and

**WHEREAS**, drivers under 18 can have their licenses suspended for sexting, tobacco and alcohol possession, vandalism, graffiti, or other non-violent offenses. They can get pulled over on a suspended driver's license, arrested and taken to jail, making a suspended license their first entry into the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, in some states such as Florida, if an individual is cited multiple times for driving on a suspended license within a certain time frame, their license gets suspended for term of years, even if the tickets get paid; and

**WHEREAS**, in some states such as Florida, if an individual fails to make child support payment(s), the State can suspend a license automatically; and

**WHEREAS**, in some states such as Wisconsin, failing to pay a traffic ticket can result in a 12-month license suspension; and

**WHEREAS**, under the law of some states such as Virginia, when an individual does not immediately pay a court-imposed fine, the court suspends the individual's driver's license; and

**WHEREAS**, in some states such as Virginia, millions of people have a suspended license due to unpaid court debt; and

**WHEREAS**, a driver's license enables an individual to work. Moreover, jobs such as construction, manufacturing, security, electricians, and plumbers, require a driver's license. Consequently, suspending the individual's driver's license is unproductive towards getting the individual to pay for any fines or fees; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that the Constitution prohibits punishing a person because of his or her poverty, and suspending a person's driver's license when they are unable to pay does just that; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 7, 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice declared that suspending a driver's license is unconstitutional if it is done without due process and without assessing whether the individual's failure to pay was willful or the result of inability to pay; and

**WHEREAS**, since drivers' licenses are used as identification for voting, it should be a matter of great concern that states could turn away voters at the polls because their driver's licenses were suspended, even if such suspension occurred without notice to the license holder.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP will support, encourage or undertake litigation to prohibit states from suspending drivers' licenses without due process; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will support, encourage or undertake litigation against laws that allow the suspension of drivers' licenses for offenses unrelated to driving.

### 3. Our #METOO Movement

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 Tarana Burke began the #METOO movement to aid women of color affected by sexual abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, #METOO has evolved to a national movement that encourages girls and women who have been subjected to sexual harassment, abuse, and assault to use their voices to speak about their experiences and to stand united against these actions; and,

**WHEREAS**, women in every employment industry and in everyday life have been sexually demeaned, harassed and assaulted; and

**WHEREAS**, no woman should have to contend with such acts of harassment and sexual assault, and no woman should feel abused, threatened, extorted, or forced to engage in unwanted sexual conduct at any time; and,

**WHEREAS**, with each act of sexual harassment and sexual assault, or any action which demeans women or causes women to be in fear of sexual aggression, women have been compelled to endure this dehumanizing behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, many women have not felt safe enough to use their voices to stand against acts of sexual aggression, sexual harassment and sexual assault for fear of retaliation, or further sexual violence.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, that it is committed to supporting the #METOO movement and speaking out against all forms of sexual harassment, assault, and abuse; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will commit to working with leading experts on sexual harassment to ensure that all of our volunteer and NAACP staff will continue to be trained to recognize and address actions that fail to create an empowering environment for all who work and volunteer with our organization; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls on all political candidates and all participants in our democratic process to include in their policy pronouncements that they will adopt and support strong policies against sexual harassment, assault, and abuse.



# VOTING RIGHTS

## 1. *Make the Right to Vote a Fundamental Right*

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

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote is central to democracy, so much so that it is included in the dictionary definition of the word. When Americans are asked what rights they value most under the United States Constitution, over 90% of survey respondents believe that the right to vote is either the most important or one of the most important rights in a democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, by making the right to vote fundamental, any law that affects this right would be reviewed under strict scrutiny to ensure that the right to vote is not restricted unless doing so fulfills a compelling state interest through narrowly tailored means; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects liberties that are “so rooted in the traditions and conscience of our people as to be ranked as fundamental.” Supreme Court Justices have contended that this concept of liberty protects personal rights that are fundamental outside of those explicitly mentioned in the Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, examples of fundamental rights include marriage, interstate travel, and procreation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court has treated certain aspects of voting as a “fundamental political right” and applied strict scrutiny to instances where the state attempted to exclude qualified citizens from voting with the rest of the state’s electorate. Although the Constitution does not specifically recognize the right to vote as a fundamental right, amendments have been enacted to protect minority groups from having their right to vote limited; and

**WHEREAS**, although the Constitution provides that States may prescribe the “Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives,” the Court has held that States retain the power to regulate their own elections through election laws that will impose burdens on individual voters. Given the absence of a fundamental right to vote, when a state election law imposes “reasonable, nondiscriminatory restrictions” on the First and Fourteenth Amendment

rights of voters, the State's regulatory interests are usually deemed sufficient to justify the restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, a state election law may be nondiscriminatory on its face, and therefore not subject to strict scrutiny but have a discriminatory impact, for example: voter ID laws, reduced early voting days, elimination of same-day registration, voter roll purges, and the elimination of polling locations all suppress access to the ballot box for people of color, the elderly, and low-income communities; and

**WHEREAS**, voter ID laws in particular have a disproportionate effect on minorities, given that racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to have a valid photo ID. White turnout in relation to voter ID laws were unaffected; and

**WHEREAS**, while in many ways voter ID laws have replaced previously employed voting barriers like literacy tests, the modern methods employed by groups seeking to disenfranchise minority voters have focused on voting methodology and electoral schemes. Well-established threats to minority group voting rights are electoral schemes like 'at-large' districts that dilute the voting power of the minority group and make it virtually impossible to elect a candidate of the group's choice; and

**WHEREAS**, if voting were a fundamental right, any law, including electoral schemes like at-large districts would be subject to strict scrutiny and therefore would need to fulfill a compelling state interest through narrowly tailored means. It would be difficult to argue that at-large districts serve a compelling state interest when single member districts allow minority groups a greater chance to choose a candidate of their choice, particularly because the creation of majority-minority districts can be required under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP supports federal legislation, litigation, or a constitutional amendment making the right to vote a fundamental right.

# EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

2018 RESOLUTIONS

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## COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

### 1. *Commemorating the Life and Legacy of Linda Carol Brown Thompson (February 20, 1943 – March 25, 2018)*

**WHEREAS**, Linda Carol Brown, the oldest of three daughters of Leola and Oliver Brown, was born in Topeka, Kansas on February 20, 1943; and

**WHEREAS**, as a third grade student, Linda's parents attempted to enroll her in nearby Sumner elementary school and were denied due to the color of her skin, prompting them to join the group of civil rights lawsuits coordinated and supported by the National Association for the Association of Colored People (NAACP), which was ultimately decided in the renown United States Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time, Linda, had no concept of segregation and simply wanted to avoid a long walk and bus ride, and went on to become the symbolic center of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*; and

**WHEREAS**, although her right to attend Sumner was upheld in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision, by the time the case was decided by the Supreme Court in 1954, she was already in junior high school; and

**WHEREAS**, Linda later attended an integrated middle school, where she was sometimes harassed by journalists who tracked her grades (which reportedly were never less than a B on her year-end report card), and she later attended an integrated high school in Springfield, Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, Linda's advocacy for equal access to education continued throughout her lifetime, even reopening her case against the Kansas Board of Education in 1979, while her own children were attending Topeka schools, arguing that segregation continued; and was again victorious with the appeals court ruling in her favor in 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Linda Carol Brown Thompson was a wife, mother, champion for equity in education, a civil rights activist, a public speaker, an education consultant, a Head Start teacher and a program associate in the Brown Foundation, who departed this earthly life on March 25, 2018 in Topeka, Kansas.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People commemorates the remarkable life and legacy of Linda Carol Brown Thompson, the lead named plaintiff in the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, argued in the U.S. Supreme Court by the NAACP's Thurgood Marshall, which led to outlawing school segregation in 1954; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP family trusts that the family of Mrs. Brown Thompson will find solace in her indelible place in history as the iconic center of the most famous Supreme Court case in American history, which bares her maiden last name and will perpetually impact the lives of students in the nation's public education system; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP implores its units to ensure that the central plaintiff in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision is remembered and acknowledged so that future generations may be fully enlightened of the significant role of Linda Carol Brown Thompson in NAACP and United States history.

## **2. NAACP Celebrates the Life of James Weldon Johnson**

**WHEREAS**, James Weldon Johnson was born in 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida, the son of Bahamian immigrant parents. He became an American author, educator, lawyer, diplomat, songwriter, and civil rights activist; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1897, he was the first African American admitted to the Florida Bar Exam since the Reconstruction era ended. He was also the first black in Duval County to seek admission to the state bar; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1899, Johnson composed the lyrics of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," originally written as a poem for a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday at Stanton School. A contest was held to determine what the United States anthem should be, and "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" was entered and chosen as the winner; however when Johnson came forward to claim the prize the Judges rejected him and chose the second choice for the anthem "The Star Spangled Banner". This song became widely popular and has remains the "negro national anthem"; and

**WHEREAS** President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to be US consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua from 1906 to 1913. In 1914 he was the first African-American professor to be hired at New York University. Later in life he was a professor of creative literature and writing at Fisk University; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnson joined the NAACP in 1915 and started working as a field secretary in 1917. In 1920 he was the first African American to be chosen as executive secretary (a position equivalent to the President and CEO today); and

**WHEREAS**, as a founding member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1915 Mr. Johnson led the NAACP campaign to have D. W. Griffith's award-winning "The Birth of a Nation" withdrawn or cut and reedited as it led to mob violence and contained extensive racist stereotypes; and

**WHEREAS**, in support of the July 28, 1917 NAACP Silent March in New York City, which drew over 10,000 African Americans along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and which he led along with W.E.B. Du Bois, churches and community leaders to protest lynching and other forms of violence against African Americans nationwide Johnson sent letters to branches urging them to organize parallel demonstrations throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, after the East St. Louis riots, he led a delegation to Washington, D.C. to meet with Woodrow Wilson to make the plea that lynching and mob violence be made a national crime through a Federal enactment or constitutional amendment, but he met with his secretary, Joseph Tumulty, instead; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1918 James Weldon Johnson was responsible for an unprecedented increase in NAACP memberships especially in the South; in his first year, Johnson organized 13 new branches in the South; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1918 James Weldon Johnson led a delegation to the White House to ask for clemency for the men of the Twenty-fourth, soldiers who stormed the town near Camp Logan near Houston after being angered by the arrest of a Black corporal who assisted a black woman and Black soldier who had been abused by a city policeman. The NAACP delegation was able to get 30 minutes of Wilson's time and Johnson gave him a petition of about 12,000 names and a large number of telegrams from branches and individuals across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnson was also able to address violence against African Americans such as the Illinois riot, three lynchings in Memphis, Dyersburg and Estill Springs, Tennessee. He asked for amnesty for the soldiers and wanted the president to use the power of his office to make a public appeal against lynching and mob rule. Wilson promised to review the records of the Twenty- fourth Infantry and that he would "seek the opportunity" to speak out against lynching. Shortly after this meeting, the government commuted ten death sentences to life imprisonment but the remaining six were executed. For two decades the NAACP fought to free the remaining Twenty -fourth Infantry. In 1923, under Johnson, the NAACP secured 43,000 signatures on a petition asking for the release of the prisoners from Leavenworth. By spring, the War Department informed the NAACP that 54 of the men were eligible for parole and were released over a four year period; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1919 Johnson lead the NAACP and others to form the National Conference on Lynching, a 2-day conference where legislative and law-enforcement proposals. It ended with a large public meeting at Carnegie Hall addressed by Johnson and presidential candidate Charles Evans Hughes; and

**WHEREAS**, when Johnson assumed the role of Executive Secretary in 1920, he reorganized the NAACP. The first order of business was to assist African American farmers in Arkansas who wanted a fair price for their cotton. The Black farmers were attacked and they retaliated. The NAACP hired attorney Scipio Jones to defend the farmers and after five years of trials that went as far as the U.S. Supreme Court, all 79 men were freed; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after Mr. Johnson was named NAACP Executive Secretary was that he worked with Walter White (whom he convinced to join the NAACP staff) to lead a fierce two-year anti-lynching

campaign for a federal anti-lynching law. This effort served as a model for the NAACP anti-lynching lobbying for the next three decades; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1923 under Executive Secretary Johnson, the NAACP organized a major conference on race relations in Kansas City, Kansas attended by 500 delegates from 28 states. At this meeting, Johnson stated, "We are here to serve notice that we are in a fight to the death for the rights guaranteed us as American citizens by the Constitution"; and

**WHEREAS**, as Executive Secretary, James Weldon Johnson continued to put a premium on membership; within a three-year period, he increased the number of branches from 68 to 310, and due in large part to his relentless efforts in Florida and elsewhere, membership in the South exceeded that of the rest of the nation. He tirelessly traveled to branches to urge activism and solicit financial support of the NAACP; and

**WHEREAS**, in May of 1928 Executive Secretary Johnson was able to announce the "smashing of a 39 year record" where there were no reported lynchings for the first four months of the year. The total fell to 11 for 1928 and 10 in 1929; and

**WHEREAS**, James Weldon resigned from his position in 1930 to teach at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnson died in an automobile crash in 1932 in Wisasset, Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 6, 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 5005, a bill introduced by Congressman Al Lawson (FL -5) to direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida as a unit of the National Park System.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP strongly supports H.R. 5005 and directs its Washington Bureau to use its full arsenal of advocacy tools to see the legislation pass the U.S. Senate and become law; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every member and unit of the NAACP become educated on the life and work of James Weldon Johnson; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP celebrates the life of James Weldon Johnson and we are thankful for his spirit and example in helping lead our great association.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

### 1. *The NAACP Supports the Creation of a Daisy Bates Institute to Advance and Protect Public Education*

**WHEREAS**, as of fall 2017, about 50.7 million students attended public elementary and secondary schools. Of these, 35.6 million were in prekindergarten through grade 8 and 15.1 million were in grades 9 through 12; and

**WHEREAS**, the percentage of children attending public schools continues to grow; in 2000, about 12 percent of American children went to private schools; today that number is closer to 10 percent. By 2021, it is predicted that private schools will enroll about 9 percent of preK-12 students, while public schools will enroll 91 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, as of the 2017 school year, 51.8% of all public school students were racial or ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, 95 percent of all African American children attend public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, children of color in public schools continue to face problems because of their race or ethnicity including the fact that they are disciplined more often and more harshly; they are more likely to be involved in the school-to-prison-pipeline; they are less likely to be identified as gifted; they are more likely to go to schools in high poverty areas; they are less likely to have access to high quality teachers; and they are more likely to suffer from a lack of adequate resources, among other challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, African American and Latino children are increasingly becoming isolated from their white, affluent peers in the nation's public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these challenges, and the impact of them on our children and our future as a nation, have been drawn out and discussed at Daisy Bates Education Summits throughout the years, as well as the most recent Summit, held in San Antonio, Texas, July 12, 2018 – July 14, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is absolutely determined to eliminate the racial disparity in educational outcomes and ensure a high quality public education for all children by 2040. To achieve this critical goal, we will combine forces with the best in America's traditional public schools and the best in America's non-profit public charter schools to identify, share and promote the standards and best practices that lead to the quality of education that can make true equality possible. At the same time, we



will demand an end to the operation of underperforming for-profit schools that put financial gain ahead of the needs of children.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP shall establish an institute to be deemed the preeminent education, advocacy and researching body, advancing and protecting public education as well as access and successful matriculation from Pre-K through higher education; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this shall be a policy institute dedicated to research and advocacy across the educational, civil rights and social justice spectrum, pertaining to sustaining a high quality and equitable public education system throughout the United States in service to all children and students generally, and African American children and students specifically, with a focus on those in predominantly underserved communities; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this new body shall be known as the Daisy Bates Institute.

## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

### 1. *NAACP Supports U.S. Participation in the U.N. Human Rights Council*

**WHEREAS**, on February 16, 1946, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights was created to strengthen, promote and protect human rights around the globe; and to address situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) has been long involved in the United Nations efforts to protect human rights worldwide since its inception; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1947, on behalf of the NAACP, W.E.B DuBois organized the preparation of a 155 page petition, “An Appeal to the World,” documenting the history of racism in America, which was presented to the United Nations. The NAACP petition was debated for two days at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, of the Drafting Committee of the United Nations Human Rights Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1968 NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins was designated Chairman of the US delegation to the International Conference on Human Rights, which met in Tehran, Iran

under the auspices of the United Nations. Mr. Wilkins presented the American position on human rights to the Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, founded on February 16, 1946 became the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), on March 15, 2006 comprised of 47 nations; and

**WHEREAS**, since the inception of the UNHRC, the council has been involved in strengthening its capacity to promote and protect human rights worldwide and be more responsive to the needs of victims of human rights violations; and

**WHEREAS**, the UNHRC investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in UN member states, and addresses important thematic human rights issues such as freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States became a member of the UNHRC in 2009 under the Obama Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 2018, the United States, under the Trump Administration resigned from the UNHRC, stating that the organization was not worthy of its name; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions of the Trump Administration will remove the United States from the forefront of human rights protection across the globe.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP opposes the decision of the Trump Administration on June 19, 2018, to withdraw from the UNHRC and to reverse the progress we as a nation have made in protecting the human rights of all people; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP, as an NGO and frequent representative of civil society urges the Trump Administration to return to the negotiations of the council in order to better advocate for human rights throughout the globe; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NAACP units and members become educated on the work of the UNHRC and urge the Administration to return to the United Nations Human Rights Council, as a member-nation in good standing.

**2. NAACP Opposes the Nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court; Calls on the U.S. Senate to Delay Consideration of the Nomination to Fill the Seat Left Vacant by the Retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy Until the Beginning of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress in January, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the announcement on June 27, 2018 by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy that he is retiring from the bench is monumental. In a number of historic Supreme Court decisions Justice Kennedy cast the decisive 5<sup>th</sup> vote on a deeply divided court; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP sometimes agreed with and applauded Justice Kennedy's position (such as in the 4-3 decision to uphold Affirmative Action programs in education in the seminal *Fisher v. University of Texas* case; or the landmark 5-4 decision to permit same-sex couples to marry nationwide in the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges*) and at times we disagreed with him (including the 2000 5-4 decision in *Bush v. Gore* or the 5-4 decision in the 2013 *Shelby v. Holder* case which decimated the pre-clearance provision in the 1965 Voting Rights Act or the recent anti-Union 5 - 4 decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*); and

**WHEREAS**, the stakes for nominating and confirming a new Supreme Court Justice could not be higher at this moment in our history; and

**WHEREAS**, now is not the time for a divisive and biased appointment who will further shake the public's faith in our nation's justice system; the country desperately needs a fair-minded and independent jurist on the Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the next Supreme Court Justice, once confirmed to a lifetime appointment, will have a clear impact on any number of hard-won gains securing equal opportunity in areas including education, employment and housing, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, if the wrong justice is appointed to replace Justice Kennedy, we could see further exclusion of communities of color from full participation in our democracy. We could see racism continue to flourish within the criminal justice system. We could see the elimination of effective tools for proving discrimination and addressing it. We could see the overturning of guaranteed access to quality health care for millions of Americans. The rights of African Americans and all racial and ethnic minorities to fully participate in our democracy and in every facet of political, educational, social, and economic life, on an equal basis, are on the line; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 9, 2018, President Trump announced that he would nominate Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, after thorough research and evaluation the NAACP opposed Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, although we are still in the process of closely updating and scrutinizing his record, even the most cursory of reviews demonstrates that Judge Brett Kavanaugh does not empathize with the very real needs of most working middle-class Americans or with the unique concerns of racial and ethnic minority Americans, the LGBT community, women, workers, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, as a judge on the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Judge Kavanaugh has consistently demonstrated right wing extremist views, including his intense dislike for the Affordable Care Act (ACA, or "Obamacare"). In a case challenging the ACA, Kavanaugh wrote a dissenting opinion that would have kept alive a frivolous attack on the health care of millions of Americans. Furthermore, over and over again, Judge Kavanaugh has ruled against civil rights protections, workers' rights protections, consumer rights protections, and women's rights protections; and

**WHEREAS**, this nomination is too important to rush; and

**WHEREAS**, the constitutional process for appointing and confirming the next justice must be thoughtful, thorough, careful, deliberative, and conducted with well-informed bipartisan support.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP opposes the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this nomination should only be considered by the U.S. Senate after the American people vote in the November, 2018 election, when they are fully aware of the stakes and after the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress is sworn in January, 2019. The Senate should not consider a nominee until a new Senate is seated next year, after the results of the midterm election are in place. This will fully allow the American people, those who will be most affected by the confirmation, to truly have a voice in the selection; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that every NAACP member, unit, and friend is urged to contact his or her Senators and express their strong opposition to the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh and urge that final vote on the confirmation of the next Supreme Court Justice not be held before January, 2019, when the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress has been sworn in and seated.

### **3. NAACP Opposes Policy Rescissions Aimed at Racial and Ethnic Minority Rights**

**WHEREAS**, “guidance” documents, fact sheets, and the like which are issued by federal agencies are official papers written by government representatives which are used by businesses, lawyers, and the public at large to interpret and understand laws and regulations. They usually offer explanations in plain English on how to comport oneself and stay within the bounds of a law; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 3, 2018, U.S. Attorney General Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III announced that the Department of Justice was rescinding, or doing away with, 24 “guidance” documents and other similar tools, most of which had been developed over the past eight years, but at least one which had been written by the administration of George W. Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, by rescinding the guidances, Attorney General Sessions changed the law by altering how the laws are interpreted and enforced; and

**WHEREAS**, the subjects of the 24 guidances which Attorney General Sessions rescinded were all intended to protect all Americans, and most disproportionately guarded and explained the rights of racial and ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS, Rescissions #s1-7**, revoke guidances regarding the way children are treated when they are suspected or accused of breaking the law; revoking the guidances made dramatic changes in the manner in which youth can be and are treated. The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, (JJDP A), contains four “core” requirements with which states must comply to be eligible for JJDP A funds (the four core requirements are “removal,” which requires that juveniles are not to be housed with adult inmates (with limited exceptions); “separation,” which is when children are housed with adults under one of those limited exceptions, they must be separated from the sights and sounds of adult incarceration; “deinstitutionalization,” which provides alternatives to jail for youths who commit acts which, due to their age, are crimes (things adults would not be arrested for, such as drinking, truancy, running away, and smoking); and “disproportionate minority contact, by which states must assess and address the disproportionate number of youth of color who come into contact with law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS, Rescission #8** involves a guidance which provides states and local governments with advice on how to best comply with a federal program which reimburses them for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens who have committed serious crimes; and

**WHEREAS, rescission #9** revokes a guidance in which the U.S. Department of Justice, together with the U. S. Department of Education, conducted research into whether schools disproportionately punish students on the basis of race, national origin, native language, gender, or disability. It also deals with research into the role of school resource officers; and

**WHEREAS, rescissions #10 and #11** do away with advice sheets for home buyers and home owners. Specifically, rescission #10 involves people seeking a mortgage. Rescission #11 involves warnings against so-called “predatory” home equity loans. It warns people, especially those with poor credit and the elderly, to carefully review the terms of home improvement loans; and

**WHEREAS, rescission #12** revokes a document prepared to alert all Americans about the unconstitutional nature of being discriminated against on the basis of their national origin. To be clear: it is still illegal to discriminate against any American over issues arising from their national origin (or a family member’s national origin); and

**WHEREAS, rescissions #13 and #14** deal with workers’ rights for various classes of immigrants to the U.S. Specifically, rescission #13 revokes a document prepared to assist immigrants who encounter employment discrimination, while rescission #14 revokes a guidance entitled “Refugees and Asylees Have the Right to Work;” and

**WHEREAS, rescissions #s15-17** discard tools, developed in 2012 “in response to requests for technical assistance from courts and others involved in planning and implementing measures to improve language assistance services in courts for limited English proficient (LEP) individuals;” and

**WHEREAS, rescissions #18-24** are intended to explain an individual’s rights and guarantees under Federal affirmative action policies. Specifically, rescissions #18 - #19 and #21-#24 revoke tools developed to explain the continued use of race by institutes of higher education; rescission #20 discards a tool entitled, “the Voluntary Use of Race to Achieve Diversity and Avoid Racial Isolation in Elementary and Secondary Schools.” Rescission #24 revokes a Q&A sheet prepared to explain Supreme Court precedent on affirmative action. That sheet noted, “[This document] reiterates the continued support of the Departments of Education and Justice for the voluntary use of race and ethnicity to achieve diversity in education;” and

**WHEREAS,** in one press release, President Trump’s Attorney General Jeff Sessions eliminated two dozen tools which had been developed to help fully realize all Americans rights and protections under law.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP decries the rescission of these documents, many of which took years to develop, and calls on the Attorney General to reverse his decision and reinstate these guidances and interpretations; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls on all its units and Members to be educated about the rights and protections guaranteed to all Americans under the law, and to share their knowledge with others in their community.

#### **4. *NAACP Strongly Supports an End to the Zero Tolerance Immigration Policy Which Separates Families***

**WHEREAS**, from its earliest days, America has been a nation of immigrants, starting with inhabitants, who crossed the land bridge connecting Asia and North America tens of thousands of years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has always been epitomized as a nation of immigrants due to the fact that, with the exception of the indigenous inhabitants who were already here when Europeans began arriving in the 16th century, everyone today living in the United States is either an immigrant or descended from immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, America's venerable spirit of welcoming immigrants is symbolized in the New York City Harbor by the colossal and iconic Statute of Liberty, a gift from France dedicated in 1886, with a world renown inscription which reads in part, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free"; and

**WHEREAS**, in defiance of the nation's personification of being a refuge for immigrants, the administration of Donald J. Trump has engaged policies of unpardonable atrocities by wantonly and carelessly separating families desperately seeking asylum in the United States by crossing the border without documentation; and

**WHEREAS**, dozens of parents are being split from their children each day — the children labeled "unaccompanied minors", then placed in government custody or foster care, while the parents are labeled criminals and sent to jail; and

**WHEREAS**, between October 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018, an estimated 2,700 children have been split from their parents, with some 1,995 of them having been detained between April 18 to May 31 — reflecting an average of 45 children currently taken from their parents each day; and

**WHEREAS**, since the zero-tolerance policy began in April 2018, under cloak of secrecy, the world has witnessed images of children caged inside chain link fences, often sleeping on floors and crying themselves to sleep because they don't know where their parents are; while parents



suffer in so much despair that one Honduran man killed himself in a detention cell after his child was taken from him; and

**WHEREAS**, there are reports that hundreds of records listing families and linking children to their parents have either disappeared or have been destroyed by Customs and Border Protection agents in violation of the Federal Records Act, leaving the authorities struggling to identify connections between family members; and

**WHEREAS**, there are serious concerns that the White House Executive Order, issued on June 20, 2018, will lead to more secrecy, indefinite detention and confusion over the handling of children at the border, dropping them over the border or handing them off to non-relatives without notice; nor does the Executive Order address how the separated children in custody will be immediately united with their parents who have been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement or who have already been deported, nor detailed the time frame of any reunification process; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 26th, U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw issued an injunction in a class action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) requiring that children younger than five must be returned to their parents within two weeks, while children older than that must be reunited with their families within 30 days; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Sabraw also ordered immigration officials to stop separating families and allow children to call their parents within 10 days, and in his order, Judge Sabraw called the family separation “a chaotic circumstance of the Government’s own making” and concluded that the practice had denied immigrants their right to due process.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), joins other organizations committed to government openness and accountability, civil liberties, human rights, and civil rights, in urging the United States Congress to immediately investigate the records management practices of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relating to the administration’s “zero-tolerance” immigration enforcement policy and family reunification efforts, which has caused a serious humanitarian crisis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the NAACP advocates for complete openness and transparency so that the public, family members, lawyers, and Congress will be amply informed, so that urgent action can be taken to prevent more children from being temporarily and/or permanently lost to their families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the NAACP calls on members of the United States Congress to support reunification measures including, but not limited to family mental health counseling to address separation trauma, provide maximum disclosure in accordance with the law, and end the secrecy surrounding the zero tolerance policy; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the NAACP implores the United States Congress to introduce and pass a bipartisan immigration reform package which embodies the nation’s “melting pot” principles of embracing diverse heritages and allocate adequate funding and resources to support the needs of border towns in providing the social services needed for immigrants to have a survival bridge; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP commends the ruling of U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw and his steadfast stance that the court-imposed deadlines for the government to reunite families separated at the border will remain intact, and recommends imposing staunch penalties and sanctions against the Trump Administration and the Department of Homeland Security for each and every day of delay in adhering to the court ruling; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP remains ardently opposed to the separation of families.

**5. *NAACP Strongly Supports Puerto Rico Recovery Efforts and Accurate Death Count from Hurricane Maria***

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Maria, the tenth-most intense tropical cyclone worldwide, the thirteenth named storm, fourth major hurricane, second Category 5 hurricane and the deadliest storm of the hyperactive 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, is considered the worst natural disaster on record to affect the United States Territory of Puerto Rico; and

**WHEREAS**, Maria’s catastrophic damage caused a communication blackout, severely impaired infrastructure, unsafe drinking water system, uprooted trees, widespread flooding, destruction of electrical grid, and a major humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico compounded by lack of resources and a failed relief process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), released a report on July 12, 2018, acknowledging that it was underprepared for the devastation of Hurricane Maria since the agency was already managing extreme disasters in Florida and Texas; and that the FEMA’s warehouse in Puerto Rico had been depleted when its contents were rushed to aid the U.S. Virgin Islands, which had been annihilated by Hurricane Irma, two weeks prior to Maria’s September 20, 2017 landfall; and

**WHEREAS**, the FEMA Report further reveals that it failed to take into account the logistical problems, the lack of local government’s cash flow problems, the insufficiently maintained

infrastructure, and that it underestimated the thousands more trained and qualified workers it needed; and

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico, already struggling with increasing debt and budget cuts of almost \$9 billion before the storms, which had forced the country to file for bankruptcy, now faces another monumental total loss estimated upwards of \$91 billion, ranking it the third costliest hurricane on record; and

**WHEREAS**, the intensity of the storm and the culminating insufficiencies undoubtedly contributed to greatest atrocity of Hurricane Maria, which was the loss of lives; and

**WHEREAS**, death counts are usually determined through exams by medical examiners, but Puerto Rico officials lacked proper resources to effectively conduct forensic examinations to project an accurate death count; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been several studies that have attempted to decipher the actual death toll in Puerto Rico resulting from Hurricane Maria- the most notable was Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine, a few days before the start of the June 1 hurricane season; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the varied and complex methodologies used to determine an estimated death toll, researchers concluded that the range of 793 to 8,498 deaths with a confidence interval of 95 percent, and a midpoint number of an estimated 4,645 deaths, far exceeds the original government's official count of 64 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, documented fatalities after a disaster are important, because they fuel recovery efforts and planning for the future, and the grossly underestimated death counts will certainly further hinder Puerto Rico's complete restoration and preparation efforts.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) appeals to the United States government for full accountability for its miserable failures in offering emergency aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and to make amends by providing the necessary long term recovery strategies which will ensure a complete and flourishing restoration of Puerto Rico; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the NAACP urges a reexamination of the death toll to provide more accurate documentation of fatalities, in an effort to more adequately factor the recovery, restoration and preparatory needs of Puerto Rican citizens; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that, the NAACP advocates for the United States government to provide the citizens of Puerto Rico with jobs training skills, jobs and contract opportunities available to aid in their own recovery and will bolster and sustain its economy for many years to come.

## NAACP NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: 2018

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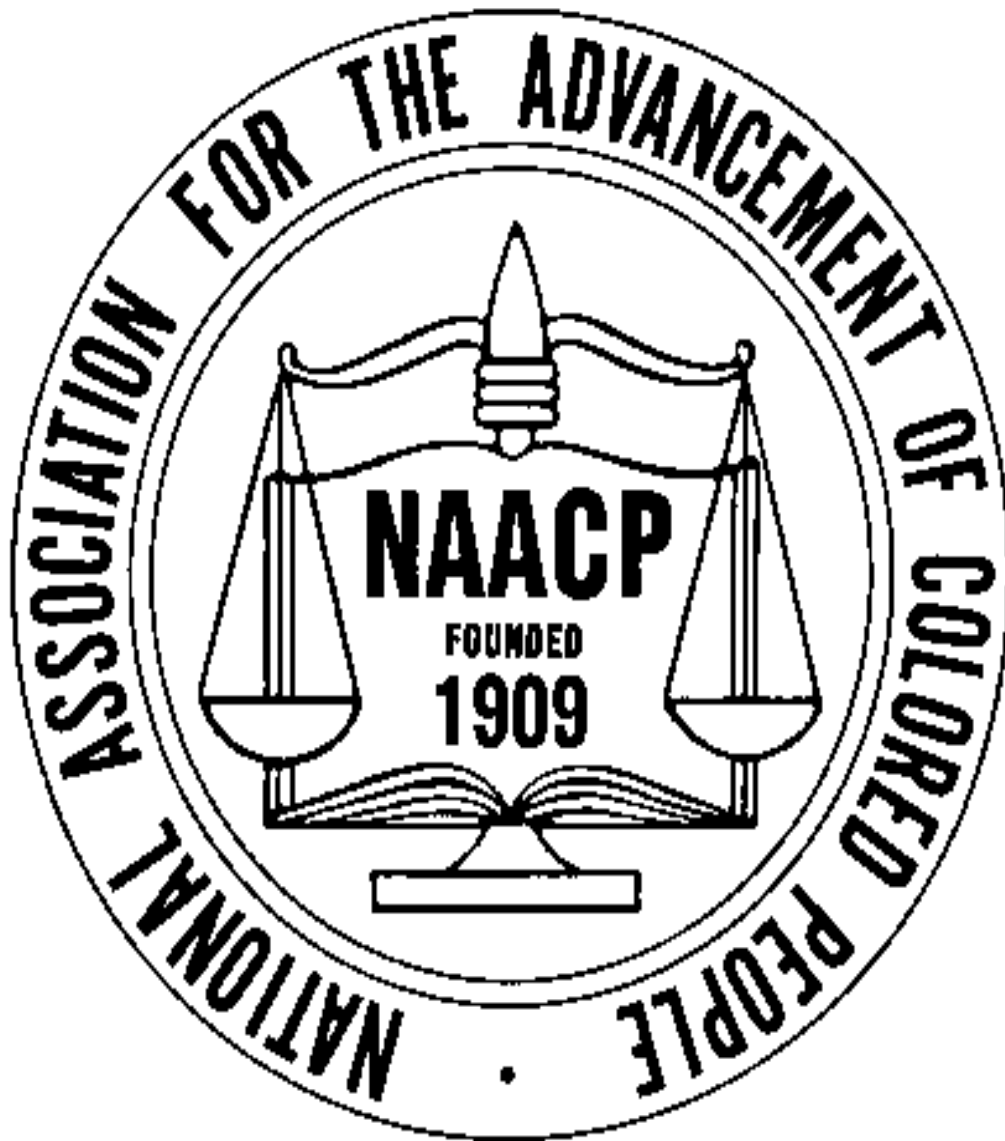
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