

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

## **1999**

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

# 1999 Convention Resolutions

## I. Civil Rights

### 1. Victims of the Port Chicago Trials [President/CEO]

#### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, on July 17, 1944 at Port Chicago Naval Ammunition Base in Northern California, the worst home-front disaster of World War II occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, over three hundred (300) American sailors were killed instantly in ammunitions explosions which destroyed two cargo ships at the loading pier, wrecked the base and damaged the small town of Port Chicago which was located one mile from the blast; and

**WHEREAS**, two hundred and two (202) of those killed were African-American ammunition loaders; and

**WHEREAS**, every serviceman handling ammunition at Port Chicago was African-American because of the segregated practices of the United States Navy at that time; and

**WHEREAS**, these servicemen were loyal Americans, who served their country, and who did not refuse to do their duty; but rather, took action to challenge the Navy's discriminatory and demoralizing treatment which forced them to work under the most dangerous circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, many survivors of the Port Chicago explosion were traumatized by the awful explosion in which many of their friends were instantaneously killed; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Francisco Branch President Joseph James investigated the matter and was so profoundly concerned about the appropriateness and fairness of the mutiny charges brought against young African American sailors who survived the Port Chicago explosion that he sought and obtained the good offices of NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall to monitor the legal proceedings against the accused sailors; and

**WHEREAS**, NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall concluded that the African American servicemen had not received a fair trial for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, the racially discriminatory Naval policy of limiting and segregating African Americans to laborer positions; the unsafe manner in which the Navy handled ammunitions at Port Chicago prior to the explosion and its failure to provide training or instruction on the safe handling of the explosives; the unfair manner in which fifty (50) accused servicemen were singled out for prosecution; the fact that no direct order to load ammunition was given to the accused; there was no mutiny; and that it appears that the African American sailors were made scapegoats in the aftermath of the explosion; and

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**WHEREAS**, the NAACP, always believing that the accused of Port Chicago did not receive a fair trial, pursued the legal appeal on their behalf and has always been of the view that the findings and convictions against them should be reversed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP National Convention request that the President of the United States pardon the Port Chicago trial survivors, restore their benefits and make the survivors' benefits available to the widows of those convicted in the unfair trial of African American sailors in the aftermath of the Port.

2. **Support of the Development of an Excessive Force Communication Protocol by the U.S. Department of Justice**  
[Washington, DC Branch]

## **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division is empowered to prosecute complaints of excessive force by members of the police against citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Rights Division does not have a policy or protocol for communicating information regarding their decision-making process or a policy for communicating their ultimate decision to NAACP Branches or local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this lack of a policy or protocol leads to misunderstandings, racial tension and lack of faith in the Civil Rights Division.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights to establish an Excessive Force Communication Policy and Procedure requiring that this policy and procedure be disseminated to local communities and to NAACP Branches. This process should include citizen participation; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that after the conclusion of any investigation that pertinent information regarding the investigation and a rationale for the result be disseminated to the local community, NAACP Branches and the general public.

3. **Racial Profiling/Driving While Black**  
[New Jersey State Conference]

## **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes that the practice/policy of racial profiling violates the important public policy and civil rights issue for African-Americans and people of color across the nation; and

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**WHEREAS**, said laws should mandate (1) a prohibition of racial profiling by local, county and state law enforcement officials; (2) the establishment of a statewide system to monitor all traffic stops; (3) that local, county and state law enforcement agencies have in place a civilian complaint process that is well-publicized and accessible to all; and (4) that the appropriate state authorities be granted the power to withhold funding from any law enforcement agency found to be engaging in racial profiling; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP together with its many Units nationwide have engaged in elevating this issue in the nation's conscience; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has adopted a national strategy to combat racially - targeted traffic stops.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all NAACP Units in collaboration with governmental units at all levels vigorously promote public educational efforts toward enactment of appropriate laws to eradicate racial profiling; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Convention re-affirm the previous policy of the NAACP adopted in 1998 on "'Driving While Black' - Racial Profiling of African American Motorists."

3(a). **Reaffirming 'Driving While Black' - Racial Profiling of African American Motorists**  
[1998 Resolution]

### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, scores of African-Americans from all socio-economic backgrounds have experienced the humiliation of being stopped on the nation's roads for no other reason than the alleged traffic offense referred to as "Driving While Black"; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent incident on the New Jersey Turnpike in late April of 1998 where state troopers stopped a van with four young African-American men who were driving within the speed limit and otherwise obeying all traffic laws other than "Driving While Black"; and

**WHEREAS**, the state troopers drew their guns and shot into the van, injuring two of the occupants and paralyzing another; and

**WHEREAS**, the Justice Department is currently investigating an April 1997 incident in New Haven, Connecticut where an unarmed African American motorist named Malik Jones was shot to death by police after he was allegedly the target of a racially motivated traffic stop; and

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**WHEREAS**, this practice of "profiling" African-American motorists is a clear violation of the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution, as well as many state and federal laws; and

**WHEREAS**, compelling evidence of racial profiling of African-American motorists has been documented in New Jersey, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, many African-Americans are unaware of their rights and responsibilities with respect to their interaction with law enforcement officials; and

**WHEREAS**, national legislation (HR 118), which would begin to address this unjust practice was unanimously passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently stalled in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP adopt a national strategy to combat racially targeted traffic stops, including but not limited to:

- local and state letter writing, lobbying and petitioning campaigns in an effort to persuade U.S. Senators to support HR 118 and ensure its passage;
- efforts by all NAACP units to provide training and education on the legal rights and responsibilities of African-American motorist as well as advocacy for the establishment of state and local civilian review boards; and
- development of a nationwide database to track incidents of racially targeted traffic stops.

#### **4. United States Postal Service Black Heritage Stamps** [Maryland State Conference]

### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, Americans are living in a period in which there is much emphasis placed on diversity in educational systems, the workplace, good government, neighborhoods and communities and even in the practice of religion; and

**WHEREAS**, various studies have been conducted, resulting in findings that indicate children's self-esteem is conditioned by environmental factors such as visual intake from society, television, books, newspapers, magazines, advertising and other printed media, including postal stamps; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Postal Service (USPS) encouraged by its Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) (who sets the basic criteria for determining eligibility of subjects for commemoration), has in good faith issued the Black Heritage Series which, to name a few, include commemorative stamps for stately personalities such as General Benjamin O. Davis, Madame C. J. Walker and this year, Malcolm X; and

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**WHEREAS**, commemorative stamps remain in stock with the USPS for approximately one to two (1 to 2) years from the date of issue, after which (if they have not been sold) the existing stock is destroyed and their attainment is available only through a stamp dealer; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not cost-effective for the USPS to continue the production of stamps which do not sell, nor good marketing for the USPS to market products which must be trashed.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that it is incumbent upon the African-American community, and other people of color in particular, to make certain that the Black Heritage Stamp Program is a viable and successful one by the purchase and use of the commemorative stamps issued; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP encourages every person of color, young and old, to go on a personal campaign to continually request Black Heritage Stamps at the post office and other points of sale to ensure their availability at various retail outlets and to ensure their continued production and to ensure that not one meets destruction; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Post Office and Congress be informed that more Black Heritage Stamps should be made available to the general public, especially in areas where people of color are predominant; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all NAACP units (Branches, Youth Councils, College Chapters, State Conferences and the National Board) take steps to foster the above merchandising, by informing its membership about the issuance and availability of the Black Heritage Series, as well as the 1999 program for stamps and the criteria for stamp subject selection ([www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov) and/or [www.stampsonline.com](http://www.stampsonline.com)), and encourage public participation in the process for submitting ideas for subject matters to be printed on future issues of commemorative stamps.

5. **In Opposition to Native American Mascots**  
[Champaign, Illinois Branch]

**CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the National NAACP is committed to caring for and affirming the gifts of all people with special regard to those oppressed or disenfranchised on the basis of race, national origin, and cultural origin; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of Native American people, images, symbols, and cultural and religious traditions as sports names, logos and mascots perpetuates racist stereotypes and undermines the self-determination and dignity of Native American people; and

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**WHEREAS**, the National NAACP, as a nationally and internationally recognized protector of civil and human rights, is in the unique position to impact public and corporate policies and practices.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National NAACP call upon all members and friends to refrain from purchasing items with Native American sports team logos and cross out such logos on merchandise already in their possession; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National NAACP call upon member Branches and State Conferences to inform themselves of and support local efforts to eliminate the use of Native American people, images, symbols, and cultural and religious traditions as sports names, logos and mascots; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National NAACP call upon all professional sports teams and public and private schools and universities currently using such names and images to reject the use of Native Americans and all historically oppressed people and their cultural traditions, as sports mascots and symbols and affirm their commitment to respect racial and cultural inclusion in all aspects of their institutions; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Convention re-affirm the previous policy of the NAACP adopted in 1992 on "Indian Sports Team Mascots and Names."

**5(a). Reaffirming "Indian Sports Team Mascots and Names"**  
[1992 Resolution]

### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, many professional, college, and high school sports teams are identified by Native American imagery, mascots, and team names; and

**WHEREAS**, these images and names mock the physical characteristics, religious and spiritual symbols of the Native American people; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People has been at the forefront of the struggle for dignity, equality, and civil rights for over eighty years.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP actively support the American Indian movement in its effort to force sports teams to discontinue the use of "Indian" team names, mascots, and other imagery that stereotype and caricature the sacred rituals and culture of Native Americans; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the NAACP use its influence and resources to bring to the attention of the nation, and black athletes in particular, the tremendous negative impact that such demeaning symbolism can have on other peoples of color.

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## II. Criminal Justice

1. Establishment of an FBI E-Mail Address for Reporting Hate Crimes  
[Washington, DC Branch]

### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigates hate crimes, including unwanted electronic mail (e-mail) that is hateful or threatening in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the collection and subsequent investigation of hate e-mail would be better facilitated if the FBI established a standard place for the submission of hate e-mail.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call on the FBI to establish an official FBI e-mail address to better facilitate its receipt of requests for investigation of hate e-mail.

## III. Education

1. Reaffirming 1990 Resolution on Education Curriculum Inclusion  
[1990 Resolution]

### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, approximately 30% of K-12 students are minorities with the numbers increasing rapidly; and

**WHEREAS**, most classroom texts and curricular materials continue to omit and distort the contributions of the racial and ethnic minorities in our country; and

**WHEREAS**, many exclusionary college curricula continue to exclude the works and perspectives of non-Western cultures and African-Americans as well as the experiences and contributions of other large segments of American Society; and

**WHEREAS**, negative characteristics or the absence of positive references have a deleterious effect on the psyche of African-Americans as well as other ethnic and racial minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the unique diversity of cultural heritages and backgrounds of this nation should be recognized as a valuable asset for the nation, one to be cherished and shared.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its position taken on Negro History and Negro History and Teacher Training in 1966 and 1968 respectively, and its 1984 resolutions on "Cultural Diversity in Curriculum Materials"; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP direct this edict to all state legislative bodies, state education departments, state university systems and local school district superintendents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP strongly urge state and local superintendents of education to take necessary steps to restructure the entire curriculum to make it reflective of the cultural plurality that characterizes the United States and the world; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NAACP members get involved with any committee or task force involved in the development, dissemination, and evaluation of curriculum materials.

## **IV. Health**

### **1. HIV-AIDS - Crisis in Africa** [President/CEO]

#### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, has consistently throughout its ninety (90) years of existence sought to support the hopes and aspirations of the people of Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, the continent of Africa is now being ravaged by the overwhelming impact and burden of HIV-AIDS, the region where seventy percent (70%) of the new cases worldwide in 1998 occurred; where eighty-three percent (83%) of all AIDS deaths have occurred; where among children under fifteen (15) years of age Africa's share of new 1998 infections was nine out of ten; where ninety-five percent (95%) of all AIDS orphans worldwide now reside; where in some countries, thirty percent (30%) of all working adults now have AIDS or carry the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, American support for Africa generally and support for combating the growing menace of HIV-AIDS on the continent has been paltry and non-responsive; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP deems the HIV-AIDS crisis in Africa so disturbing as to declare an emergency.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will utilize its network of more than 500,000 members in 2,200 Units across the United States, Japan and Germany to work with organizations providing direct assistance in Africa to support efforts to provide comprehensive services to prevent the spread of HIV and the care and treatment for those persons already infected with the AIDS virus and their children. Also, the NAACP will provide support for the general health infrastructure on the African continent; and

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**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the NAACP's Health Committee will establish a working committee to advise the NAACP on the HIV-AIDS crisis in Africa and will include members of the Constituency for Africa, Healthcare International, and the Center for Disease Control; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will use its vast network to advocate for the expansion of American technical and monetary support for strategies to combat HIV-AIDS in Africa and will place this problem at the top of the U.S. agenda with Africa; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NAACP will work to educate its membership and the American public about Africa and about the HIV-AIDS crisis on the continent by collaborating with organizations such as the Constituency for Africa, the Center for Disease Control and professionals in all fields to hold seminars, workshops, town hall meetings and other educational activities.

## **V. Internal Affairs**

- 1. Amending Article VII, Sections 2 and 4 – Dues, Fees and Assessments, Constitution and By-Laws for Branches of the NAACP (White Book)**  
[Don Ana County, New Mexico Branch]

### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the National Board of Directors in regular session at its October meeting, by majority vote created additional categories of memberships and fees; and

**WHEREAS**, these new memberships and fees are inconsistent with the memberships and fees stipulated in the Constitution and By-Laws for Branches, Article VII (DUES, FEES and ASSESSMENTS), Section 2 (Division of Membership Dues).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution and By-Laws for Branches be replaced with the following:

The Branch shall remit to the treasury of the National Office, the National Office's share of all membership fees within fifteen (15) days of receipt in the following proportions and may retain the balance in its treasury for local purposes:

(a) **REGULAR ADULT MEMBERSHIP** - For persons twenty-one (21) years of age and over - thirty dollars (\$30.00): to NAACP National Office eighteen dollars and ten cents \$18.10 (includes State Conference tax); and to local treasury - eleven dollars and ninety cents (\$11.90).

(b) **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP WITH CRISIS** - For persons twenty (20) years of age and under - fifteen dollars (\$15.00): to National Office ten dollars and twenty cents (\$10.20)

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(includes State Conference tax); and to local treasury four dollars and eighty cents (\$4.80).

(c) **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT CRISIS** - For persons seventeen (17) years of age and under - ten dollars (\$10.00); to National Office seven dollars (\$7.00) (includes State Conference tax); and to local treasury three dollars (\$3.00); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Article VII, Section 4 (Life Membership) be replaced with the following:

(a). *SILVER LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) or more shall be divided as follows: three-fifths ( $3/5$ ) or four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00) to the National Office, two-fifths ( $2/5$ ) or three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to the Branch, provided the life membership is solicited through the Branch or other unit.

(b). *JUNIOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for children thirteen (13) years of age and under shall be divided as follows: three-fifths ( $3/5$ ) or sixty dollars (\$60.00) to the National Office, two-fifths ( $2/5$ ) or forty dollars (\$40.00) to the Branch, provided the Junior Life Membership is solicited through the Branch or other unit.

(c). *BRONZE LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - four hundred dollars (\$400.00) for youth fourteen (14) to twenty (20) years of age shall be divided as follows: three-fifths ( $3/5$ ) or two hundred and forty dollars (\$240.00) to the National Office, two-fifths ( $2/5$ ) or one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00) to the Branch, provided the Bronze Life Membership is solicited through the Branch or other unit.

(d). *GOLD LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - one thousand-five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) or more shall be divided as follows: three fifths ( $3/5$ ) or nine hundred dollars (\$900.00) to the National Office, two-fifths ( $2/5$ ) or six hundred dollars (\$600.00) to the Branch, provided the Gold Life Membership is solicited through the Branch or other unit.

(e). *DIAMOND LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - two thousand-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) or more shall be divided as follows: three-fifths ( $3/5$ ) or one thousand and five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to the National Office, two-fifths ( $2/5$ ) or one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the Branch, provided the Diamond Life Membership is solicited through the Branch or other unit.

(f). *ANNUAL CORPORATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or more shall be divided as follows: three-fifths ( $3/5$ ) or three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to the National Office, two-fifths ( $2/5$ ) or two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) to the Branch, provided the Annual Corporate Life Membership is solicited through the Branch or other unit.

(g). *SUBSCRIBING LIFE MEMBERSHIP* - shall be divided by the same formula as stated above.

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(h) The Branch may use its share of the life membership for local purposes wherever and whenever needed.

2. **Amending Constitution of Youth Councils and College Chapters - Article VIII, Section 6**  
[Connecticut State Conference]

## **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitutions for both Youth Councils and College Chapters were amended to include an additional article in line with the branch bookkeeping system that is already in place; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VII, Section 7 of the Constitution & Bylaws for Branches (White Book) was amended concerning the Division of other Funds; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest that all NAACP Units operate consistently within the financial structure of the Association and that Youth Councils and College Chapters are classified as Units.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the second sentence of the Constitution for both Youth Councils and College Chapters, Article VIII, Section 6, Other Funds, be replaced with the following:

The net proceeds of each entertainment or fundraising effort by a Youth Council Unit (College Chapter), excluding ACT-SO and Back-To-School/Stay-in-School, shall be divided as follows: Twenty-five percent (25%) to the National Office, seventy-five percent (75%) to the Youth Council Unit (College Chapter) unless, in any case, written permission is obtained from the National Office for some different division, provided that the entire net proceeds of any fundraising effort for exclusively national purposes shall be transmitted to the National Office.

3. **Health as a Standing Committee in the Constitution for Youth Councils**  
[President/CEO]

## **CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article V, Section 4, so that “Health” is added after “Community Coordination” in the listing of the Standing Committees.

**AMEND** Article V, Section 5, to add paragraph (k), after the description for Community Coordination, that reads as follows:

(k) **HEALTH**. The Health Committee shall: (1) work to promote, protect and maintain the health for African Americans; (2) assess the health needs of the community; (3) advocate for equal access to health education, care, treatment and

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research for all Americans; (4) sponsor health-related activities such as health forums, fairs and workshops highlighting issues of importance to people of color; and (5) support health initiatives of the Association.

**4. Health as a Standing Committee in the Constitution for College Chapters**  
[President/CEO]

**CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 4 so that "Health" is added after "Veterans Affairs" in the listing of the Standing Committees; and

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 4 to add the paragraph (j) after the description for "Veterans Affairs" that reads as follows:

(j) HEALTH. The Health Committee shall: (1) work to promote, protect and maintain the health of African Americans; (2) assess the health needs of the community; (3) advocate for equal access to health education, care, treatment, and research for all Americans; (4) sponsor health-related activities such as health forums, fairs, and workshops highlighting issues of importance to people of color; and (5) support health initiatives of the Association.

**5. Health as a Standing Committee in the Constitution and By-Laws for Branches**  
[President/CEO]

**CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 4 (a) so that "Health" is inserted after "Freedom Fund" and before "Housing" in the listing of the Standing Committees.

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 5 so that it reads as follows:

(g) HEALTH. The Health Committee shall: (1) work to promote, protect and maintain the health for African Americans; (2) assess the health needs of the community; (3) advocate for equal access to health education, care, treatment and research for all Americans; (4) sponsor health-related activities such as health forums, fairs, and workshops highlighting issues of importance to people of color; and (5) support health initiatives of the Association.

**AMEND** Article IV so that the description for "Freedom Fund" be inserted before the description for "Health" and subsequent letters denoting committee descriptions should be sequentially changed so that Housing is (h), Labor and Industry is (i), etc.

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6. **Amending Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution and By-Laws for Branches (White Book)**  
[Salt Lake City, Utah Branch]

### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the Article II, Section 3 should be changed to read:

In the event the National Office receives a membership fee from an individual who has indicated a desire to affiliate with a named Branch, the National Office will notify the Branch by mail that the membership fee has been received and at the same time, transmit the Branch's share of the membership fee to the Branch. Upon receipt of notification and the branch's share of the membership fee from the National Office to the Branch, the member is considered a member of the Branch.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that a change is made to the existing rule that within thirty (30) days of receipt of notification by the branch, a member is considered to be a member of the Branch.

7. **Amending Article III, Section 1 of the White Book - Create Position of Assistant Secretary**  
[President/CEO]

### **CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article III, Section 1 of the White Book to insert the office of Assistant Secretary, following the office of Secretary and prior to the office of Treasurer; and

**AMEND** Article III, Section 5 to rename Section 5 Assistant Secretary. Insert the following as Section 5: "The duties of the Assistant Secretary shall be to perform the duties of the Secretary in his/her absence, unavailability or disability. The Assistant Secretary may perform specific duties of the Secretary under the supervision of the Secretary"; and

**AMEND** Article III, Section 6 to become the duties of the Treasurer; and

**AMEND** Article III, to add a Section 7 to become duties of the Executive Director; and

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 1 to insert Assistant Secretary after Secretary.

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8. **Amending Article III, Section 2(b) - Change Chairmen to Chairpersons (White Book)**  
[President/CEO]

## **CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article III, Section 2 (b) to change the title chairmen to chairpersons. The title chairman shall be changed to chairperson and the title chairmen shall be changed to chairpersons in each and every place where these titles appear in the Constitution and By-Laws for Branches of the NAACP (White Book).

9. **Amending Article IV, Section 4 - Economic Development as a Standing Committee (White Book)**  
[President/CEO]

## **CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 4 of the White Book to insert Economic Development after Community Coordination and insert Health after Freedom Fund; and

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 5, paragraph (d) to include the Economic Development Committee as a Standing Committee with the following description:

The Committee on Economic Development shall implement local efforts and support national programs to preserve and expand economic empowerment among African-Americans and other communities of color by (1) researching and establishing relationships with private and public entities; (2) supporting the work of the National Office in monitoring the progress and activity of private and public entities designated by national programs; and (3) implementing local efforts to promote the growth of business ownership; (4) increasing employment and job creation; and (5) encouraging business development and homeownership opportunities.

10. **Article IV, Section 2(c) - Confirmation of Presidential Nominations (White Book)**  
[President/CEO]

## **CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 2 (c) to read as follows: "At its first meeting following the election and at any time during the term of office, the Executive Committee shall act on the nominations for the chairpersons of the various standing committees as presented by the President."

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**11. Article IV, Section 6(b) Removal Procedures (White Book)**  
[President/CEO]

**CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article IV, Section 6(b) to read as follows: "any member of the Executive Committee, except officers, or of any standing or special committee who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive meetings or who shall be absent from any six (6) meetings in a twelve month period, shall be removed by the Executive Committee and replaced in accordance with Article IV, Section 2(e). A member of any standing or special committee may be directly removed by the chairperson for dereliction of duty"; and

**AMEND** Article IV, to add a Section 6(c) to read as follows: "For any officers who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without notice or explanation to the Secretary or President, or who shall not perform the required duties for three (3) consecutive months, or who shall be absent from any six (6) meetings in a twelve month period, the National Office is to be notified by any member of the Executive Committee by way of a petition signed by any three members of the Executive Committee. If the President or Secretary is in violation, then any three members of the Executive Committee shall sign the petition. The National Office shall recommend that the National Board of Directors remove said officer at its next meeting following receipt of the petition.

**12. Article V, Section 13 Clarify Life Membership Affiliation (White Book)**  
[President/CEO]

**CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article V, Section 13 of the White Book to be renamed "Life Members, Life Subscribing Members and Members-at-Large" and read as follows: "In order to run for branch office or vote in branch or state conference elections, unaffiliated life members, subscribing life members and members-at-large must be actively affiliated with the branch at least 180 days prior to any meeting at which they are nominated for office. They must be actively affiliated with the branch at least thirty (30) days prior to any meeting at which they seek to vote. *The term "actively affiliated" means that the individual must have requested, in writing, that his or her membership be transferred to the branch. The request must be made directly to the National Office. The National Office must notify the Branch in writing within thirty (30) days of receiving notification.*

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13. **Technical Resolution to Clarify Article VII, Section 6 - Branch Assessments (White Book)**  
[President/CEO]

## **CONCURRED**

**AMEND** Article VII, Section 6 to clarify state and regional conference assessments by deleting paragraph (a) and renaming paragraph (c) to paragraph (a) and amending paragraph (a) to read: "Whenever the branch comes within the jurisdiction of a state or regional conference, the branch assessment for support of the state or regional conference shall be paid into the treasury of the state or regional conference. The amount of such assessments shall be determined by the state or regional conference with the approval of the National Board of Directors."

14. **Community Alternatives Pilot**  
[Milwaukee, Wisconsin Branch]

## **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, eighty-five percent (85%) of the Milwaukee County Jail's population is black, and blacks constitute only thirty percent (30 %) of the County's population; and

**WHEREAS**, this disproportionate figure is partially reflective of discriminatorily applied prosecutorial and police discretion and inadequate legal representation, both retained and court appointed; and

**WHEREAS**, the figure is also reflective that sixty-percent (60%) are non-violent drug-related offenses with a sizeable percent for first-time drug possession; and

**WHEREAS**, many are being charged for felony possession for minuscule amounts of marijuana and crack (cocaine) and subjected to mandatory sentencing; and

**WHEREAS**, the current law allows for a seventeen (17) year old to be charged as an adult felon, limiting their civic participation for the pursuit of a quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Milwaukee Branch NAACP has engaged in a joint pilot study of these issues, and in working in a collaborative effort, has established a program to mentor and intervene with first-time drug offenses to eliminate these occurrences and re-integrate the offender into the community.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Office should review this project to determine if it should become national in scope and work to amend local statutes that criminalize African Americans.

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## VI. Labor

### 1. Agricultural Migrant Workers' Overtime Pay

[Maryland State Conference]

#### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, agricultural migrant workers employed on farms in the State of Maryland are entitled to overtime pay only after working sixty (60) hours during a work week; and

**WHEREAS**, agricultural migrant workers perform a necessary function and contribute to the economy of the State of Maryland and other states; and

**WHEREAS**, agricultural migrant workers are disproportionately people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, agricultural migrant workers are morally entitled to earn a decent wage and to be treated equally in the labor force; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation supported by the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP Branches was proposed in the 1999 session of the Maryland General Assembly to rectify the discrepancy and overtime pay discrimination against agricultural migrant workers; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation was reported unfavorably by the Maryland House of Delegates' Economic Matters Committee causing the existing overtime provision to remain in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to 1981 the amount of time agricultural migrant workers had to work to earn overtime was no different than other workers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the plight of agricultural migrant workers be brought to the attention of the Nation and that action be taken to eliminate the unfair and discriminatory treatment that they are subjected to in the State of Maryland; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that action be taken to ascertain the manner in which agricultural migrant workers are treated in every State with respect to overtime pay and working conditions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all NAACP Units (Branches, Youth Councils, College Chapters, State Conferences and the National Board) take steps to repeal any laws that allow agricultural migrant workers in their service areas to be treated differently from other workers with respect to overtime pay and other working conditions; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP pursue efforts to change the Federal Wage and Hour Law that would legally require seasonal agricultural migrant workers to

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be eligible for overtime pay after working forty (40) hours per work week in lieu of the current sixty (60) hours.

2. **United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD)**  
**Loan Program Acceleration (Foreclosure)**  
[Maryland State Conference]

**CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, USDA-FmHA, now USDA-RD, is the federal agency that makes loans to farmers and owners of low income rental multiple housing and labor housing projects in rural America; and

**WHEREAS**, USDA-RD systematically discriminates against black program participants, including farmers, homeowners and multi-family housing projects owned by African-Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, USDA-RD's acknowledged discriminatory practices is against African Americans and other minorities in its loan and other program areas evidenced by the February, 1997 Report entitled Civil Rights at the USDA; and

**WHEREAS**, discriminatory practices by USDA-RD against African Americans have been subjective and include unjustified loan practices such as loan acceleration, and extreme oversight and control; and

**WHEREAS**, USDA-RD Regulations FmHA(RD) 1955-A. 1955.15 (d)(3)(i)(B) provides for the serving officials to demand full payment of the unpaid loan balances after giving notice to the borrower(s) that the loan is being accelerated and that no payment will be accepted unless state law prevents such action. On January 15, 1999, the MD-DE state director made acceleration notice to the Somerset County Civic Association, Inc., African American owners of Greenwood Gardens Apartments thirty (30) units in Princess Anne, Maryland and did not disallow monthly payments; however, four days later, USDA-RD informed the Management Agent whom was never approved as agent by USDA-RD that monthly payments would not be accepted; and

**WHEREAS**, a Multiple Housing Management Handbook is given to the owner(s) of Rural Family Rental and Labor Housing projects, FmHA(RD) instruction 1955-A. 1955.15(d)(3)(i)(B) is not in the handbook, thus making this authority-secret; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maryland State Conference NAACP finds specific State law language requirements regarding loan acceleration unfair, unconquerably, subjectively administered and disproportionately affects African American participants; and

**WHEREAS**, the MD NAACP finds that elimination of such regulations as RD Instruction 1955-A and 1955.15(d)(3)(i)(b) will provide for a fairer and objective administration of USDA-RD programs.

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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MD NAACP State Conference of Branches strongly encourages the National NAACP Board of Directors to use the National Office influence to eliminate United States Department of Agriculture FmHA(RD) Instruction 1955-A. 1955.15(d)(3)(i)(B); and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP continue to work in opposition to United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) discriminatory actions and practices against people of color.

## **VII. Legislative**

### **1. Support of Reparations Research, Policy Development, Programs and Litigation** [Washington, DC Branch]

#### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, reparations to people injured by governmental action have been recognized as a sound principle of Human Rights and International Law; and

**WHEREAS**, people of African descent in the United States have been injured by the active and passive involvement of the United States Government and its colonial predecessors; and

**WHEREAS**, this injury began as early as 1619, if not before, with the initiation of the brutal inhuman kidnap and enslavement of African people; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 40 [Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act] has been introduced by Congressman John Conyers; and

**WHEREAS**, the inhumane treatment of African descended people with the active and passive involvement and support of the United States and state governments continues to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States admitted during his tour of Africa the injury done to Africa by the slave trade and has admitted the egregious harm done to African descended people in the United States, at least in part, when he issued his apology for the Tuskegee Study; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has paid reparations to other U.S. citizen groups and as part of our national policy encourages the payment of reparations to other peoples who have been injured by governmental action.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirm its support of H.R. 40 and urge Congress to enact the bill into legislation; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP support the expansion of H.R. 40 to include the actual payment of reparations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP support the research and development of reparations litigation in the event that H.R. 40 is not passed or fails to provide reparations to African Americans.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Convention re-affirm the previous policy of the NAACP adopted in 1997 on Reparations H.R. 40 for African Americans.

**1(a). Reaffirming Reparations H.R. 40**  
[1997 Resolutions]

## **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, our NAACP National Convention passed a standing resolution in 1993 supporting "the Conyers Bill" and reparations proposals for African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, our NAACP was formed in 1909 by white and African American citizens committed to helping right social injustices, most notably the continuing social, political, and economic brutalities and discrimination against African Americans (and others); and

**WHEREAS**, "the Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act" (currently H.R. 40) has languished in the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee's Sub-Committee on the Constitution" since 1989, without a fair and just hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of "the Commission is to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act" is to "acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact on these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes."

**BE IT THEREFORE, RESOLVED**, that our 1988 National Convention re-endorse and reaffirm "the Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act", H.R. 40 in the 105<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress and, that correspondence stating such endorsement be issued to the National media, Congressman Conyers, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Speaker of the House by the National Offices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that our NAACP National Office contact the chair of the U.S. House "Judiciary Committee", Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois, requesting timely hearings on the H.R. 40 Bill; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that our NAACP branches be encouraged to contact their local Congresspersons to elicit support, endorsements and hearings on H.R. 40; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that our NAACP officers and members be encouraged to work with and join groups dedicated to realizing reparations for African Americans such as the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) which is based in Washington, DC, with chapters throughout North America, the Caribbean and West Africa (including participating in activities such as circulating petitions in support of H.R. 40; participating in lobbying days on Capitol Hill; in appeals to the United Nations; and in fundraising efforts, etc.), and shall be granted all voting rights in branch matters except those as prescribed in branch elections, Article V.

2. **Support of Full Home Rule to the Citizens of the District of Columbia**  
[Washington, DC Branch]

**CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote and to elect local and national officials and representatives is constitutionally guaranteed to all citizens of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the District of Columbia recently granted partial control over the administration of local government by the congressionally established Control Board, are still denied full electoral and administrative privileges and responsibilities of citizenship due to congressional actions taken in 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the District of Columbia have fulfilled all of the requirements for citizenship, they fought and died in this country's wars, pay more taxes per capita than over forty (40) states and contribute to the general welfare and the growth of democracy both at home and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia electorate voted in 1980 to become a state with all of the privileges and responsibilities thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congress has not exercised so stringent and punitive a denial of citizenship to any group of American citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the District of Columbia pay both local and federal taxes and taxation without representation is contrary to the basic premises of our democracy.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP endorses the provision of full voting rights, local governmental control, elected representation with voting authority at the national level and any other constitutionally guaranteed rights of American citizens to the residents of the District of Columbia; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP affirms its earlier resolutions which state the NAACP's policy position and urges local branches to contact their

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Congresspersons to discourage Congressional interference in District of Columbia local affairs, laws and finances.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Convention re-affirm the previous policy of the NAACP adopted in 1978 on House Joint Resolution 554.

**2(a). Reaffirming House Joint Resolution 554**  
[1978 Resolutions]

## **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia is one of only two Federal districts in the world where the residents have no right to select a representative with the right to vote in the legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, over seven hundred thousand (700,000) American citizens continue to be denied the right to vote for those who attempt to represent them in the national government, the United States Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, no people can be properly represented in a democracy unless they themselves elect those representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, these seven hundred thousand (700,000) citizens of the District of Columbia bear all the burdens of citizenship, pay full Federal taxes, and fight in our nation's wars; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe the District of Columbia citizens are unjustly treated because a majority of them are black Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that House Joint Resolution 554, already approved by the House of Representatives, is the best means of correcting this gross injustice done to our fellow Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP considers H. J. Res. 554 to be THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT of 1978, passage of this constitutional amendment will close the incredible gap still left in civil rights.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP pledge to work vigorously for approval of H. J. Res. 554 by the United States Senate and, thereafter, by the states; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP ask its members to urge their Senators to insure that H. J. Res. 554 be considered by the full Senate, before the end of the 95th Congress and, then, to vote in favor of H. J. Res. 554.

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## EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS (SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT/CEO)

### I. Civil Rights

#### 1. Economic Sanctions for South Carolina

#### CONCURRED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its 1999 Annual Convention reaffirms its

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condemnation of the Confederate Battle Flag being flown over the South Carolina State Capitol and displayed within the South Carolina House and Senate Chambers, and renews its call for the removal and relocation of the Confederate Battle Flag to a place of historical rather than sovereign context; and

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

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

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

### 2. Slavery in Sudan

#### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, there is a humanitarian crisis which exists in Sudan due to the National Islamic Front (NIF) government's genocidal war in southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and the Ingessena Hills; and

**WHEREAS**, the NIF government has deliberately inflicted upon people of the traditional "animist" or Christian south deplorable conditions of life with intent to bring about their physical destruction; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these deliberate acts, the NIF government has succeeded in that an estimated two million people have died as a result of the war and four million others have been forcibly displaced and removed from their homes and families; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the World Food Program, an estimated 2,600,000 southern Sudanese are at risk of starvation and an estimated four million people are in need of emergency assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the NIF government has specifically used the deliberate prohibition of food and international food aid as a weapon against the southern Sudanese to complete their mission of genocide in southern Sudan; and

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**WHEREAS**, the NIF government has perpetuated a prolonged campaign of human rights and discrimination throughout Sudan; and

**WHEREAS**, it has also been documented that the NIF government sponsored Popular Defense Force militia has been engaged over the past decade in the enslavement of innocent civilians, including children, women, and the elderly; and

**WHEREAS**, the now common slave raids being carried out by the NIF's militia are undertaken as part of the government's self-declared holy war against the southern Sudanese; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Anti-Slavery Group of Boston, there are tens of thousands of women and children now living as chattel slaves in Sudan; and

**WHEREAS**, these women and children are commonly captured in slave raids by the NIF militia and are then traded, sold, branded and/or bred for slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of State in its report on Human Rights Practices for 1997 affirmed that reports and information from a variety of sources have indicated that after February 1994 the number of cases of slavery, servitude, slave trade, and forced labor have increased alarmingly; and

**WHEREAS**, observers of the conditions in Sudan have estimated that the number of people enslaved by the government sponsored militia is in the tens of thousands; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP categorically and unconditionally deems the enslavement of any people a "crime against humanity"; and

**WHEREAS**, these deplorable acts and conditions have existed in Sudan for over 15 years and have gone virtually unnoticed by the international community.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP hereby condemns the NIF government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan and its state-sponsored slavery, its support for terrorism, and its continued human rights violations; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP strongly condemns any government that in any way supports or endorses the Government of Sudan in its genocidal war against the southern Sudanese or the NIF's state-sponsored enslavement of innocent people; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its support for economic sanctions on military assistance or arms transfers to the NIF government in Sudan or to any foreign country that is involved in any way in the establishment, conduct or perpetuation of slavery in Sudan; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls on the United Nations Security Council to:

- (i) to formally condemn the NIF government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, its support for terrorism, its state-sponsored enslavement of innocent civilians in southern Sudan and its gross human rights violations;
- (ii) to condemn the slave raids being perpetrated by the NIF militia, call on the NIF government to immediately end the practice of slavery in Sudan and bring to justice those responsible for these crimes against humanity;
- (iii) to immediately assert economic pressure on the NIF government to force the cessation of the government's imposition of abhorrent conditions and other atrocities on the southern Sudanese; and
- (iv) to internationally expose the rampant human rights violations which are occurring in Sudan.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls on the President of the United States to:

- (i) to intensify and expand United States diplomatic and economic pressure on the NIF government;
- (ii) to immediately engage in a substantive and aggressive effort to promote peace in Sudan; and
- (iii) to plan a strategy to abolish the practice of slavery in Sudan.

### 3. Don King

#### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, Don King was the first black to dominate the economics of a major sport; and

**WHEREAS**, Don King has always been outspoken on the critical issues which face black people; and

**WHEREAS**, Don King was the first person in the history of sports to pay black professional athletes what they were worth and has consistently paid black and Hispanic boxers the largest purses in the history of the sport; and

**WHEREAS**, his willingness and ability to pay black boxers purses commensurate with their talent and market value has led to the same phenomenon in other sports such that

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both black and white professional athletes are now uniformly paid their market value without exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, his marketing genius in globalizing and internationalizing the sport of boxing has caused him to be recognized as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, promoters of all time; and

**WHEREAS**, he has from the beginning of his career and without seeking credit for doing so, generously donated his wealth to worthy causes of all kinds across racial, ethnic, religious and cultural lines, including repeated and generous contributions to a wide array of black causes; and

**WHEREAS**, he was recognized and honored in 1997 by the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for his considerable good will; and

**WHEREAS**, his domination of boxing, his refusal to be intimidated and co-opted by hostile white forces and his outspokenness of this country's treatment of its black citizens has made him a perennial target of federal law enforcement and a subject of repeated negative media coverage by hostile white press; and

**WHEREAS**, all efforts by the federal government to prosecute him have resulted in humiliating defeats for the government in court; and

**WHEREAS**, Don King is now the subject of yet another federal criminal investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last 30 years, the federal government has paid scant, if any, attention to the prosecution of any other important figures in boxing who are white, including other promoters such as Bob Arum who have admittedly been involved in criminal conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has used offensive and racially motivated tactics to pursue its criminal investigation against Don King including a recently overtly racist encounter with the FBI by Carolyn Kelly, a respected veteran black community leader in Newark, whom the government is trying to recruit as a witness against Mr. King; and

**WHEREAS**, the investigation of Don King appears to be a part of a clear and unmistakable pattern by federal prosecutors to over-investigate and over-prosecute prominent black leaders including black elected officials and black political leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has no business using its police powers to further a hostile political agenda aimed at destroying black economic and political leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, when Don King was prosecuted in 1995 and 1998, the collective black leadership implored Attorney General Janet Reno to prevent the prosecution of Don King

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because he had been targeted for investigation and prosecution in violation of the internal guidelines of the Justice Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney General Reno unfairly rejected the legitimate attempt by black leadership to prevent these prosecutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the collective black leadership of this country once again wishes to register its strongest possible complaint against the federal government's targeting of Don King and other important black political and economic leaders.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP demands a meeting with Attorney General Janet Reno to present its legitimate position to:

- (i) to prevent yet another unfair prosecution against Don King, and
- (ii) to end a continuing pattern of unfair criminal investigations and prosecutions against black political and economic leaders.

## 4. "Chain Gangs"

### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, no other race of people has entered this country in bondage and suffered the public humiliation of chains (shackles); and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, prisons are disproportionately filled with Black and Latino men and women, based in part on the disparities in sentencing, and the prevailing police practice of focusing on men of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Massachusetts, city of New Bedford, and recently approximately nine additional states in the country have prisons that utilizes "Chain Gang" work forces; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no evidence that "Chain Gangs" deter crime or aid in the rehabilitation of inmates, and

**WHEREAS**, the iniquities that still exists in our Judicial System and a disproportionate number of African-Americans are in the jails and on "Chain Gangs". To humiliate publicly humiliate inmates as a practice is only a continued insult to our people and our country.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP stands opposed to the practice and continuance of "Chain Gang" workforces in the United States and will work through the legislative process to make sure that such processes will be abolished forever; and

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**THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work within its states to prohibit actively the use of "Chain Gang" workforces and support any and all legislation authored to abolish such practices in our penal institutions.

### 5. Personal Net Worth DBE Disqualification of U.S. Department of Transportation

#### CONCURRED

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation has a regulation that requires their minority vendors to reveal the personal net worth of its principals; and

**WHEREAS**, excluding the personal home of said minority vendor's principal and other limited potential exclusions, if the principal's personal net worth exceeds \$750,000, said principal's company or firm shall be denied the DBE designation and, therefore, shall be denied participation in any of the U.S. Department of Transportation's MBE or DBE programs; and

**WHEREAS**, cities, countries, authorities, states, and other entities not required or requested to ask non-minority vendors about their personal net worth regardless of how small or how large those non-minority vendors are; and

**WHEREAS**, the net worth of the vendor is not being reviewed, but the irrelevant personal net worth of the vendors' principal is mandated by the U.S. Department of Transportation regulation despite the absence of any rational connection between the bad regulation and the qualification of the minority vendors as a disadvantaged business enterprise; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation "personal net worth" regulation racially and economically discriminates against minority firms and companies and causes them serious, irreparable and unconstitutional harm.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges and demands that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation immediately suspend the subject regulation pending a complete review of said regulation in consultation with the NAACP, the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses and possibly other relevant groups; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP demand that there be a determination by the U.S. Department of Justice of any other similar federal regulation that discriminates against minority Americans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, if litigation on this issue becomes necessary, the NAACP will become a party to it and support it; and

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**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP take any and all other corrective actions necessary to advance the cause of this Resolution.

## **I. Hate Groups**

### **1. Investigation in the Role of The World Church of the Creator as a Hate Group**

#### **CONCURRED**

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, July 2, 1999 in the City of Chicago, Illinois in the community of Rogers Park, six people of the Jewish faith were wounded by gun fire as they left their place of worship; on the same day in the Village of Skokie, Illinois, while jogging in his neighborhood with his two young children, Ricky Allen Byrdson, an African-American, was fatally wounded by gun fire from the same person and, later on that Friday evening in the Town of Northfield, Illinois, four Asian-Americans were assaulted and injured by gun fire; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, July 3, 1999 five men of Asian descent were fired upon; one wounded in Urbana, Illinois near the campus of the University of Illinois; in Decatur, Illinois a minister of African descent was struck by a bullet and then, in Springfield, Illinois a thirty-one year black man was injured; two others were shot at but escaped injury; and

**WHEREAS**, at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 4, 1999, Won-Joon Yoon, a doctoral candidate of Korean descent, was murdered as he walked to his place of worship in Columbus, Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, the law enforcement authorities have identified the perpetrator of the crimes as the late Benjamin Nathan Smith, a member of the World Church of the Creator, who lived in Wilmette, Illinois, a predominantly white and upscale Chicago suburb and who graduated from New Trier Township High School in Winnetka, Illinois, one of the higher rated schools in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, two members of the World Church of the Creator led by Matthew Hale have been charged with burning synagogues and murdering two homosexual men in Sacramento, California; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded upon the principles of achieving equal treatment for all people regardless of color, religion or gender by peaceful and non-violent means.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its 90th Annual Convention in New York, New York commit to the following actions:

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1. Send a private message of condolence to the families of Ricky Allen Byrdsong and Won-Joon Yoon expressing appreciation for the exemplary life of religious dedication, strong work ethics and family values that they represented;
2. Send a message to Governor George Ryan and the General Assembly of Illinois indicating our support of any legal action taken or to be taken by the State of Illinois or any of its municipalities to restrict the sale, distribution and ownership of firearms;
3. Contact the Board of Education governing New Trier Township High School and request that they examine their curriculum and school policies in order to determine whether something could be included in their program and/or training of teachers to prevent the possible development of another Benjamin Nathan Smith;
4. Send a communication to the Illinois State Bar Association supporting their denial of a law license to Matthew Hale, an individual who is not of good moral character; and
5. Demand that the United States Department of Justice launch an investigation into whether the role and practice of the World Church of the Creator is a hate group and, if concluded that it is such, a recommendation be made to the Internal Revenue Service as to the validity of its status as a tax-exempt entity.

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RESOLUTIONS** **(SUBMITTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS)**

### **I. Civil Rights**

#### **1. Demanding a Complete and Accurate Count of the African-American Community by the United States Census Bureau**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Constitution has mandated that a population count of all the residents and homes in the United States and its Trust Territories be counted every ten years on the even number years; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1990 census missed 8.4 million people and double counted 4.4 million; and

**WHEREAS**, those most often missed were children, the poor, people of color, urban dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes. The 4.4 percent of the miss-counted directly impacted African-American communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the census population count determines representation in the United States House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, this data is also used to determine the measure of the levels for poverty, unemployment, improved housing, education, health care, senior citizen facilities, transportation and the like; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, billions of federal, state and local funds will be spent on thousands of projects across the nation, based upon population-based formulas created with information obtained from the *2000 Census*; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Census Bureau has not spent any monies with Black Entertainment Television, one of the major media outlets of the African-American community; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that the United States Census Bureau mount an aggressive advertising campaign making the African-American community a priority for the *2000 Census* count; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also important that the United States Census Bureau spend its approximate \$400 million budget in a manner that ensures all citizens of the country be properly counted with emphasis on those who have been historically missed; and

**WHEREAS**, a fair share of the United States Census Bureau budget must be earmarked for distribution in African-American and other minority communities via the African-American and other minority owned media, the NAACP and its partnership associations; and

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**WHEREAS**, the African-American and other minority owned and formatted media, including Black Entertainment Television maintain a strong and trusted sense of credibility with the minority community, and should be a major means for spreading information about the *2000 Census* to these communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, has pledged it's support and participation in a complete and accurate accounting of African-American in the *2000 Census*.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the United States Census Bureau to ensure that a fair share of the resources necessary to conduct the *2000 Census* is distributed to African-American and other minority media (including Black Entertainment Television) and other NAACP partnership organizations; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that organizations serving in community partnerships with the NAACP will publicize its endorsement of *2000 Census* by making public service announcements in/on their own publications and by urging its membership to undertake every possible step to promote and complete an accurate accounting of African-American and other minority communities.

## II. Criminal Justice

### 1. Preston King

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the President of the United States to immediately and unconditionally pardon Professor Preston King and that he be allowed to return to the United States with all of the rights of citizenship provided in the Constitution of the United States. We call for all outstanding warrants to be cancelled and ask that Professor Preston King's U.S. passport be returned.

## III.

### 1. Missing Alabamians

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, call upon the United States Department of Justice to initiate an immediate investigation of the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and subsequent deaths of six African-American young people in Coffee County, Alabama. The NAACP is disturbed by the lack of urgency on the part of state and local officials in the State of Alabama and believes that an outside investigation is required in order to secure the trust of the African-American community and to ensure that justice is secured in this case.

## IV. Education

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## 1. SAT and College Admissions

**WHEREAS**, the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) are utilized as a predictor of success in colleges and universities; and

**WHEREAS**, major emphasis is placed on SAT and ACT scores by colleges and universities in order to determine admission; and

**WHEREAS**, the SAT is often an unreliable indicator of college graduation rates and the assessment of course placement; and

**WHEREAS**, African-Americans, other minorities and women generally score lower on SAT tests; and

**WHEREAS**, the findings of several research studies demonstrate that SAT preparation courses can significantly increase test scores.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP work through its Education Department, Youth Councils, and College Chapters to insist that college and university Admissions Offices re-emphasize the SAT as one primary factor in the admissions process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the Testing Industry to develop an admissions test with direct correlation to high school curriculums; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the Testing Industry initiate a national study on the correlation between SAT scores, college matriculation and college graduation by convening a group of national education and civil rights organizations to initiate dialogue regarding around the results of the study; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that in the interim of structural changes, the NAACP partner with a SAT coaching and training infrastructure to provide free and reduced cost SAT preparation for students of color, similar to those programs currently subsidized by the State of California, to increase test scores and college admissions for as long as this poor indicator of success is administered.

## V. Legislature

### 1. In Support of HR1053 to Repeal the HEA Drug Provision

**WHEREAS**, a provision of the Higher Education Act of 1998 delays or denies federal financial aid eligibility to any individual convicted of a state or federal drug offense; and

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**WHEREAS**, African-American make up 12% of the population and 13% of drug offenders, but represent 55% of drug convictions and represent more than 70% of incarcerations; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision further imposes low-income class disparity, places obstacles on offenders seeking rehabilitation and invokes an extra-judicial penalty imposed in addition to existing criminal justice penalties.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP National Board of Directors support HR1053, a bill to repeal the HEA drug provision, in keeping with our commitment to education as a deterrent to possible repeat incarcerations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP remains vehemently opposed to the use and/or sale of illegal substances and supports drug treatment and education as viable weapons in the continued war against drugs.

2. **Call Upon the United States Senate to Confirm Ethnic Minorities and Women to Serve as Federal Judges and to Denounce the Unfair and Biased Treatment of Judge Ronnie White**

**WHEREAS**, according to numbers compiled by the bi-partisan Constitution Project during the last Congress, minority judicial candidates were more than twice as likely as their Caucasian counterparts not to be confirmed; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently sixty-four vacancies in the federal judiciary; and

**WHEREAS**, there are forty-five nominees pending before the United States Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, of the forty-five nominees pending, eight are African-American, four are Hispanic American, one is Asian American and fifteen are female; and

**WHEREAS**, the conduct of the United States Senate in the confirmation process of Judge Ronnie White was deplorable and the defeat of his nomination to serve as a federal district court judge was disgraceful; and

**WHEREAS**, the Senate's treatment of Judge White gives credence to the perception that ethnic minority and women nominees are treated unfairly and unequally; and

**WHEREAS**, Senators Bond and Ashcroft, who represent Judge White's home State of Missouri, were malicious and decidedly partisan in their misrepresentation of Judge White's record and position on several issues; and

**WHEREAS**, considering that Judge White's name lingered in the void of unconfirmed nominations for more than one thousand days, it added insult to injury when some U.S. Senators, after defeating his nomination, professed to be ignorant of Judge White's race; and

## 1999 Convention Resolutions

**WHEREAS**, in the true spirit of Justice being blind, it is the responsibility of the Administration to nominate, and the Senate to confirm a judiciary that adequately represents and reflects the population of this nation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the President to nominate and the Senate to confirm without delay, qualified ethnic minority and female individuals to serve as federal judges; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the Administration to re-nominate Judge Ronnie White to serve as federal district court judge for the Eighth Circuit and that the Senate confirm him and set the record straight as to his stellar record while serving as a Justice on the Missouri State Supreme Court.

**3. In Support of Legislation to Establish Police Accountability Review Boards and to Put Other Programs in Place to Address Police Misconduct**

**WHEREAS**, police misconduct and abuse continues to permeate our nation and is a plague upon all people of every color and ethnic origin; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1993 the NAACP released "Beyond the Rodney King Story," that both documented the abuse and made substantive recommendations on how to address this serious problem; and

**WHEREAS**, NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume, as well as Chairman of the Board Julian Bond and Washington Bureau Director Hilary Shelton have consistently given public statements and congressional testimony in meetings with representatives of the Administration that the problem of police misconduct must be addressed in a comprehensive manner that is responsive to all citizens if trust is going to be restored among members of the public, and

**WHEREAS**, any approaches to addressing the overall problem of police misconduct must be equally as comprehensive in scope; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has recommended solutions to the problem of police misconduct that includes police accountability review boards, enhancement of the U.S. Department of Justice's Patterns and Practices Department, the establishment of a quick response coordination team from the U.S. Department of Justice, increased training, strategies which focus on immigration and naturalization abuses, full funding for the collection of police misconduct incidents adopted into law in the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill and comprehensive data collection both in routine traffic stops and incidents of death during policing encounters; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP support and endorse legislation soon to be introduced in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress by Congressman John Conyers Jr., of Michigan to be titled "The Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act".

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**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to enact the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act with all due speed and President Clinton sign this legislation into law.

4. **In Support of Legislation Creating a Section Within the Federal Communication Commission to Monitor the Number of Ethnic Minorities on Prime Time Television**

**WHEREAS**, it is the long-standing policy of the NAACP that people of color are under-represented by all of the major networks during prime-time television; and

**WHEREAS**, when ethnic minorities are portrayed on network television during prime time, it is disproportionately in a negative light; and

**WHEREAS**, ethnic minorities are also severely under-represented in the development and production of prime time television shows; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a stated goal of the NAACP to increase the number of ethnic minorities on prime time television and the manner in which people of color are represented, as well as the number of ethnic minorities involved in the creation and making of prime time television shows; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced to establish a clearinghouse within the Federal Communications Commission to monitor ethnic and minority bias; and

**WHEREAS**, such a clearinghouse would be charged with responding to complaints, grievances relating to radio, television and cable television broadcast programming and its depiction of ethnic and minority groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed clearinghouse will be responsible for collecting, analyzing, and preparing information from public and private agencies relating to the portrayal of ethnic and minority groups by radio, television and cable television broadcast programming.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP supports and endorses legislation introduced in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress by Congressman Eliot Engel, of New York, H.R. 125, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an ethnic and minority affairs section.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass H.R. 125 and that President Clinton to sign this legislation into law.

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5. **In Support of Legislation to Eliminate all Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Drug Convictions and Concentrate Federal Resources Aimed at the Prosecution of Drug Offenses on Those Major Offenses**

**WHEREAS**, it is the stated policy of the NAACP to oppose all mandatory minimum sentences; and

**WHEREAS**, since the enactment of mandatory minimum sentencing for drug users, the Federal Bureau of Prisons budget increased by more than one thousand, three hundred and fifty percent over the last ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been shown that mandatory minimums have not reduced sentencing discrepancies but rather have transferred discretion from judges to prosecutors; and

**WHEREAS**, African-Americans comprise twelve percent of the United States population, fifteen percent drug users, seventeen percent of cocaine users; but, thirty-three percent of all federal drug convictions and fifty-seven percent of Federal cocaine convictions are African-American.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP supports and endorses legislation introduced in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, of California, H.R. 1681, a bill to concentrate federal resources aimed at the prosecution of drug offenses on those major offenses.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass H.R. 1681 and for President Clinton to sign this legislation into law.