

2003 RESOLUTIONS

I. CIVIL RIGHTS

1. Endorsement of the Inclusion of Fort Huachuca, Arizona Building 66050, AKA "Colored Officers' Club" or the "Mountain View Officers' Club" in the National Record of Historic Places (NRHP)

WHEREAS, the innumerable contributions made by Black service members are vital to the growth, peace, security and prosperity of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Fort Huachuca, Arizona is the home of the Buffalo Soldier; and

WHEREAS, Fort Huachuca, Arizona is home to the historic 92nd and 93rd Divisions; and

WHEREAS, Fort Huachuca Building 66050 is the first and only building constructed specifically for the morale and welfare of Black Army officers because they were not allowed to use the White Officers' Club; and

WHEREAS, Building 66050 was staffed by Joe Louis; was a performance venue for Lena Horne and served as a place of relaxation for Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Building 66050 is a legacy to all Black service members who served, fought and died in defense of this great nation; and

WHEREAS, in May 1998, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District awarded Contract Number DACW09-98-D-0004, Delivery Order 4, to perform a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for Building 66050 to be included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, which requires federal entities to identify and evaluate cultural resources under their jurisdiction, particularly in areas to be affected by federal undertakings and to preserve what is viewed as an important historic resource; and

WHEREAS, the conclusion of the DOE was that Building 66050 should be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the conclusion, Building 66050 was not recommended for inclusion in the NRHP but is designated to be destroyed.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People vigorously oppose the destruction of Building 66050 and endorses its inclusion in the NRHP as a National Historic Site; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People use its considerable influence to recommend to the United States Congress that Building 66050 be included in the NRHP and further recommends that it be restored and preserved as a National Historic Site.

2. **Condemning the Reinforcement of Negative Stereotypes**

WHEREAS, for 94 years the NAACP has been fighting for civil rights and a civil society; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic groups in this country suffer from insulting and inflammatory name-calling based upon negative stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, this insulting and inflammatory name-calling and racial profiling accentuates the differences among Americans and divides us along racial and/or ethnic lines leading to social conflict and unrest; and

WHEREAS, some politicians, government officials and news media have participated in highly publicized incidents of insulting and inflammatory name-calling and racial profiling of African Americans, Arab Americans, Asian Americans and others while discussing war and other pre-emptive attacks on sovereign nations; and

WHEREAS, this insulting and inflammatory name-calling cannot be dismissed as merely “war time talk” or patriotic statements when it actually reinforces negative stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, the residual psychological and emotional damage inflicted is more difficult to repair than a bombed bridge or an airport runway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge all its units to stress positive positions and programs for a more civil society for all, regardless of racial or ethnic background; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge politicians, government officials and the news media to stop promoting social conflict and unrest by racial profiling through the use of insulting and inflammatory name-calling which reinforces negative stereotypes of racial and ethnic groups.

3. **NAACP Opposes the Screening Process which has Restricted Access to African American Literature in Correctional Institutions**

WHEREAS, for NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization standing on the principles of equal justice, freedom and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, correctional institutions like the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater, Michigan have faced cultural bias when they have attempted to access African American literature, to purchase and read; and

WHEREAS, correctional institutions' house disproportionate numbers of African Americans who are incarcerated while the reading material and publications do not reflect the demographics of the correctional institution's population; and

WHEREAS, books authored by Caucasians like Jackie Collins, Fabio and many others are widely available throughout correctional institutions promoting subject matter like infidelity, deception, murder, rape and robbery, among other socially deviant issues; and

WHEREAS, correctional institutions librarians and the library resources often do not reflect the cultural values which are significant for the correctional institution's population; and

WHEREAS, public and private correctional institutions and all governmental agencies have the duty to address cultural fairness in policy-making, purchases and literary resources in a non-discriminatory manner to promote the rich cultural heritage of African Americans who are overly represented in the correctional institutions; and

WHEREAS, the current screening process of correctional institutions at the Lakeland Correctional Facility and others nationwide pose restrictions to African American literature and has resulted in a cultural bias that has blocked access to African American literature, publications and newspapers.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP units oppose the lack of African American literature and cultural resources in correctional institutions nationally, and that the NAACP units will increase its efforts to render assistance to those housed in correctional institutions to promote fair, equitable, non-discriminatory policies with respect to African American literature, African American librarians, African American publications and African American cultural resources in a manner consistent with the demographics reflected in the correctional facilities.

4. **The Unconstitutional Removal of African American Children from their Homes Under the Child Welfare System**

WHEREAS, African American children are disproportionately removed from their homes and schools and placed in protective services under the child welfare system; statistics reflect that blacks comprise approximately 12% of the national population and approximately 39% of the foster care population as compared to approximately 34% for whites; and

WHEREAS, according to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, youth in foster care scored approximately 15-20 percentile points below non-foster youth in statewide achievement tests, and only 59% of foster youth who are enrolled in 11th grade complete high school by the end of the 12th grade, compared to 86% of non-foster youth, and about 70% of New York's prison population are former foster children; and

WHEREAS, the law states that children should only be removed from the protection of their families in cases of "imminent danger," but the interpretation of "imminent danger" has been broadened to a point of adverse impact to the sacredness of the family unit, particularly in low income families; and

WHEREAS, children are increasingly routinely removed from their homes based on hearsay, without a court hearing or order, and parents are denied the right to face their accusers; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the majority (57.2% nationally) of children are removed from their homes for alleged "neglect" (90% removal in urban areas) and parents declared "unfit."

2003 RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP stands opposed to the disproportionate removal of African-American children from their homes and schools by the child welfare system and will investigate the negative and adverse effect of this human rights violation against children and their families; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP and all of its units through the local, state and federal legislative processes will seek to reform and ultimately abolish these practices.

5. **NAACP Calls for All Public Officials to Resign from their Position when Making Racially Insensitive or Offensive Statements**

WHEREAS, the NAACP called for U.S. Senator Trent Lott to resign from the majority leader-elect post following his statement: “When Strom Thurmond ran for President, we voted for him. We’re proud of it. And, if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn’t have had these problems over all of these years, either;” and

WHEREAS, Senator Trent Lott made these bigoted remarks at Senator Strom Thurmond’s 100th birthday party, which honored the outgoing Senator of South Carolina who ran for President in 1948 on a staunch segregationist platform; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and all Americans should hold our elected officials to high standards of ethical conduct as they should provide leadership tempered with intelligence, integrity and respect for the rights of all; and

WHEREAS, the ugly face of racism cannot be masked by claims of “compassionate conservatism;” and

WHEREAS, Turkey Creek and North Gulfport are historic African American communities in the City of Gulfport, Mississippi, whose Mayor, Ken Combs, referred to African American residents as “dumb bastards” on April 10, 2003, because they opposed a Ward Development Project; and

WHEREAS, those despicable words spoken by elected officials like Senator Trent Lott and Mayor Ken Combs are abhorrent and reprehensible; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, such profane, racist utterances demonstrate an unfitness to serve the public and an unwillingness to represent the interests of all citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NAACP officials publicly oppose racially insensitive, derogatory, inflammatory, comments and actions displayed by public office holders; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP censure, denounce, and take additional steps as needed to ensure that the highest standards of ethical, respectful, non-discriminatory conduct will be displayed by those sworn to uphold the public trust with integrity and fairness.

6. Over Representation of African American Children in the Child Welfare and Foster Care Systems

WHEREAS, child protective services agencies in every state are funded by the state and federal governments and have the responsibility for protecting children from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, both state and federal laws outline the policies, procedures and practices of these agencies while the agencies may also develop internal operational procedures; and

WHEREAS, these agencies have the following options for responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect, family preservation services (in-home services), kinship care (relative placement), foster care (including residential care) and adoption; and

WHEREAS, there are presently about 600,000 children in out-of-home placements; and

WHEREAS, 48% of these children are in foster homes, 26% in relative homes, 17% in group homes and the balance in other types of homes; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 Census, 64% of the children in this country are white, 15% are African-American, 16% are Hispanic and 5% are Native American and other; and

WHEREAS, 42% of the children in the child welfare and foster care systems are African American, 36% are white, 15% are Hispanic and 7% are Native American and other; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, research shows that given the same socio-economic conditions as white families, African-American children are at greater risk of entering the child welfare system; African-American families are reported to the child welfare system at a higher percentage; and more likely to have children removed from the home and placed in child welfare and foster care systems once they have been reported; and these children are more likely to stay in the foster care longer than white children and less likely to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, African American children represent 42% of the children in foster care system while only 5% of the child welfare administrators in key making positions are African Americans; and

WHEREAS, more than nine billion dollars in federal funding is spent in out-of-home care while approximately 992 million dollars is spent on prevention and intervention to maintain children in their homes or home of a relative; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that children in the foster care system are more likely to have poor school performance, more often drop out to school, have untreated mental health issues, experience multiple school and home placements, are more likely to become incarcerated as juveniles and as adults and more likely to become domestic and child abuse offenders; and

WHEREAS, the over-representation of African American children in the foster care and child welfare systems may contribute to the break down of African American families; and

WHEREAS, there are child advocacy organizations in this country, most of which are non-profit, that works with families who have been accused of child abuse and neglect in an attempt to provide services to end the cycle of child maltreatment and organizations that advocate for the best interest of the child in the judicial system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP expresses its concern about the over-representation of African-Americans in the child welfare and foster care systems and calls upon the Congressional Black Caucus and the Legislative Black Caucus in every state to review the over-representation issue and express similar concerns; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington Bureau of the NAACP and the Political Action Committee of the State Conferences review, monitor and offer amendments or raise objections to any federal and state legislation that may cause a disproportionate number of African American children to enter the foster care system and remain in the system for extended periods of time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Conferences of the NAACP request that the state office of all child protective service agencies provide them with copies of any proposed changes in state agency policies which impact children in the child protective services system and give State Conferences an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legal Department of the NAACP partner with various organizations as black administrators in child welfare to research, review and study policies, practices and procedures of Child Protective Services Agencies to determine if these policies, practices and procedures have a discriminatory impact on African-American children and take whatever legal action may be deemed appropriate based on the investigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legal Department of the NAACP include as a training topic, the child welfare system and the over-representation of African American children in that system, on the 2004 Continuing Legal Education seminar agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that State Conferences of the NAACP review, monitor and express concerns to the state children protective services agencies about the lack of African-American child welfare administrators; and

BE IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge all of its units to partner with local child advocacy organizations to recruit board members, staff and volunteers of color to work with families who have been accused of child maltreatment and advocate for and represent children of color in the child welfare and foster care systems.

7. **NAACP Support for Native American Indians and the Connecticut Golden Hill Paugussetts**

WHEREAS, Native American Indians with African Ancestry have faced great difficulty in receiving federal recognition; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe is a state recognized tribe of predominately black Native Americans who settled in Connecticut in the early 1600's; and

WHEREAS, as with other Native American tribal nations in the United States, the history has been one of persecution, prosecution, oppression, relegation to Indian reservations and illegal taking of their lands; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is established to advocate for people of color, including Native American Indians, and in 1993, the National NAACP voted to support the Golden Hill Paugussetts in their quest for federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Hill Paugussetts are currently facing preliminary rejection of their twenty-two year quest for federal recognition, that would give them access to health care, economic development opportunities, educational and housing assistance, as well as the ability to sustain their members and preserve their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that a black Indian tribe will receive support from the Connecticut legislature or governor, to pursue their interest in becoming self-sustaining and economically viable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to support federal recognition for Native American tribes in general, and the Golden Hill Paugussetts' federal recognition in particular, and will vigorously oppose, through legislation, public rallies and court action, any and all attempts to discriminate against Native Americans in the federal recognition process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP National Convention reaffirm its support of the federal recognition process for the Native Americans given at the 1993 Convention; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all NAACP branches and state conferences work with Native American tribes as they seek federal recognition through administrative and legal processes.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

8. Reparations for Unpaid Labor Rendered by Enslaved Persons of African Descent

WHEREAS, the enslavement of Africans and the Transatlantic Slave Trade were appalling tragedies in the history of our country, not only because of their abhorrent barbarism, but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and their complete negation of the humanity of the enslaved person; and

WHEREAS, the enslavement of Africans constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of a person's life, liberty and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the enslavement of Africans resulted in the extinguisments of millions of Africans eviscerating whole cultures, languages, religions, morals, and customs, psychologically destroying its victims; and

WHEREAS, the enslavement of Africans wrenched its victims of their history, memories and families on a scale never previously witnessed; and

WHEREAS, the enslavement of Africans fueled the prosperity of our young nation, allowing its economy to reap the benefits of unpaid labor or untold value.

WHEREAS, President George Bush has declared that slavery was a crime against humanity for which there was no statue of limitations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the United Nations World Conference on Racism's position that the enslavement of Africans and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade are crimes against humanity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support efforts to establish responsibility and recover compensation in trust from private companies and agencies that benefited from the enslavement of persons of African descent.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirm its previous position on reparations, established in 1991, as embodied in H.R. 40 that demands that the United States Government take immediate action to commence hearings and to establish a congressional commission to examine the issue of reparations for descendents of enslaved persons of African descent.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

8(a). United States Government to Consider Reparations to African Americans Re-affirmation of the 1991 Policy

WHEREAS, in the United States, a nation forged in a revolutionary struggle for inalienable human rights, natives of Africa were torn by force until the year 1808 from their homeland and subjected to the barbarities of institutionalized slavery; and

WHEREAS, in the post-revolutionary United States, slavery was maintained by governmental fiat, with violence, depriving African-Americans of freedom of association, privacy, life, liberty, property and due process of law in complete abdication of the spirit and letter of the Bill of Rights from its inception and ratification to the enactment and ratification of the Anti-slavery Amendment of 1865; and

WHEREAS, the dehumanization of the African American began by constitutionally relegating his or her stature to three-fifths (3/5) of a white man; and

WHEREAS, this continued even after the passage of the 14th Amendment in 1868, in the form of local Jim Crow laws and public policies across America well into the 20th century imposing lasting political, economic and cultural harm on generations of African-Americans, persisting to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government and various state therein have seen fit to take reparative steps for the wounds that they have caused by their bigoted actions, i.e., toward Native Americans and the American of Japanese heritage; and

WHEREAS, these reparative steps can be cited as a payment to the Ottawa and Chippawa Indians of Michigan in the amount of thirty-two million dollars, which represents money plus interest on the money promised them by the United States Government by a treaty signed in 1836, and to the Klamath Indians of Oregon, who were awarded eighty-one million dollars and the Chippawa of Wisconsin, who were awarded thirty million dollars, and the Sioux Indians of South Dakota, who were awarded one hundred five million dollars plus; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has acknowledged the cruelty, the prejudice and arrogance, if not the racial hatred, of their acts to confine

2003 RESOLUTIONS

Japanese Americans to concentration camps during World War II. Said acknowledgment resulted in an agreement to compensate each survivor to the sum of twenty thousand dollars each; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans suffered, as did Native Americans and Japanese-Americans, from broken promises, broken contracts, abandonment of moral justice, were deprived of land, of life, of freedom, of property. Further, African Americans labored in the chains of slavery on the farmlands, highways and byways of this nation, and, thus, contributed fruitfully toward the growth and development of this nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People bring to the attention of the United States Government the obligation on the part of this nation to acknowledge its debt to the African-American slaves, and the descendants of slaves; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the bill by Congressman John Conyers of the State of Michigan to create a Congressional Commission to make reparation proposals to direct descendants of African slaves.

9. E-Commerce Resolution

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has work to eradicate the selling and promotion of images that are racially insensitive to African Americans; and

WHEREAS, *ebay*, which is considered to be the leader of the electronic commerce industry has been identified as a company who sells items that are racially insensitive to African Americans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on *ebay* and other E-Commerce sites so identified to cease selling of these racially insensitive items from their website.

10. Establishment of African American Think Tanks

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in 1909, and in 1910 established The *Crisis* Magazine as the voice of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, The *Crisis* magazine provided in depth research and resources that guided human thought throughout the Civil Rights

2003 RESOLUTIONS

Movement by framing the issues, provoking dialogue and prompting action; and

WHEREAS, since the 1960's, the right wing movement has created over 360 conservative Think Tanks; and

WHEREAS, these conservative Think Tanks have defined policy issues and approaches for public attention, skillfully using mainstream and alternative media outlets to create a powerful echo effect in and beyond the nation's capitol; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation and continued heavy funding of policy institutions such as the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Heritage Foundation threatens to tilt the debate even further to the right on key policy issues and options; and

WHEREAS, these groups flood the media with hundreds of opinion editorials, their top staff appear as political pundits and policy experts on dozens of television and radio shows across the country and their lobbyists work the legislative arenas, distributing policy proposals, briefing papers, and position statements; and

WHEREAS, fifty three (53%) percent of major media's Think Tank citations, according to Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting [FAIR] of their third annual survey of major newspaper and broadcast media, were provided by think tanks of the right, while citations from the progressive or left leaning think tanks amounted to merely 16% of total citations; and

WHEREAS, these Think Tanks promote highly ideological views through multi-policy fronts which argue against many of the tenets, goals and objectives of the NAACP, such as the fight to destroy affirmative action, arguments to establish a school voucher program, curtailing long standing civil rights laws and initiatives; conservative policy ideas and rhetoric have come to dominate the nation's political conversation; and

WHEREAS, these groups continue to promote a highly ideological view through multi-policy fronts to counteract the Civil Rights message by misappropriating the slogans and statements, namely forwarding a claim that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy is in line with their conservative positions and ideas; and

WHEREAS, despite recently reported gains in the incomes of poor Americans last year, the nation remains an economically and racially

2003 RESOLUTIONS

divided one, with more than 40 million Americans lacking health insurance, an appalling twenty (20%) percent child poverty rate, a rising prison population, the disappearance of jobs in inner city neighborhoods, and sharp and continuing inequities in education and educational opportunity; although such economic inequities and social divisions might be expected to raise serious questions about the nation's political ethic, the current institutional forces during federal and state policy debates almost guarantee that these will not even be asked.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to establish a core of African American Think Tanks to counteract the anti-civil rights message of the conservative movement by the year 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these Think Tanks shall stress research and monitor, record, and analyze racial progress and retrogression in the African American community; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the establishment of these Think Tanks must serve to educate American society on African American values and issues.

II. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. Clemency for Lionel Tate

WHEREAS, Lionel Tate was a twelve year old African American child, when he accidentally killed a six (6) year old African American child while playing, several years ago in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Tate was adjudicated as an adult, on the charge of murder; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Tate was found guilty in an adult court and sentenced to life in prison, without the chance for parole; and

WHEREAS, many feel the punishment was too harsh, including the mother of the child who lost her life and the district attorney who tried the case; and

WHEREAS, many advocates including Dr. Thomas Masters, Pastor of New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Rivera Beach, Florida has

2003 RESOLUTIONS

championed the cause by taking this matter to the Pope, in order to secure clemency for Lionel Tate; and

WHEREAS, members of the Jacksonville, Florida Branch of the NAACP feel that Lionel Tate should have been tried as a juvenile and given clemency.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP go on record, asking Governor Jeb Bush of Florida to grant clemency to Lionel Tate.

2. **“For Profit” Companies Working with Prisons**

WHEREAS, African Americans are number one in every eight in population yet comprise one out of every two prison inmates while percentage wise committing fewer crimes; and

WHEREAS, African Americans receive stiffer penalties and serve longer periods of time in jail; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are tried and sentenced by a majority other than their peers; and

WHEREAS, a new kind of slavery has been introduced with “for profit” firms that have been engaged in profiting on many innocent victims and others due to lobbying and support of judicial candidates and many elected officials. There appears to be an agreement that guarantee specific numbers of inmates at all times; and

WHEREAS, the profit motive in the prison system in this country promotes a new kind of slavery with many “for profit” companies benefiting from a high number of inmates of all times with the support and lobbying efforts of certain government officials; and

WHEREAS, many African Americans are disfranchised disproportionately after having served their time while not having voting rights restored upon completion of their sentences; and

WHEREAS, a guaranteed number of prisoners provide an avenue and incentive to use this class of citizens as political prisoners due to continued racial discrimination; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, their incarceration, at a disproportionate rate, has a genocidal on African Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP units investigate the for-profit motive and its inherent employment practices of companies working with prisons.

3. **Establishment of a Rapid Investigative Police Brutality and Investigative Team (RIPBT)**

WHEREAS, the use of excessive and deadly force is disproportionately applied by police officers in the arrest of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, verbal abuse and harassment consisting of racial slurs and other discourteous language are often found in cases where police brutality is involved; and

WHEREAS, some NAACP units have gathered evidence of a historical pattern and practice of police misconduct committed by sworn officers; and

WHEREAS, there is a nationwide need for an immediate and swift response to the continuing problem of police brutality based upon race, as evidenced by cases in California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Oklahoma, Ohio, New York, etc.; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the preservation of evidence, to ensure a proper, adequate and full investigation by local and federal authorities if necessary, to ensure that victims secure immediate independent investigative assistance and to further ensure that media accounts fairly portray the interests of the victim; and

WHEREAS, the speed with which an independent and objective fact-finding investigation can commence in cases of alleged police brutality, is paramount to an amelioration of the matter; an investigative "Rapid Investigative Police Brutality Team" (RIPBT) is one mechanism that might be effectively utilized; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP investigate the retaliatory used against Black police associations that speak out against those who commit the acts of brutality.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all NAACP units are urged to contact their congresspersons and senators to endorse and support the Law Enforcement Trust & Integrity Act of 2003; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP National Board of Directors appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to establish "Rapid Investigative Police Brutality Teams" (RIPBT) consisting of experienced professionals such as criminal defense attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, forensic investigators, former police detectives and other volunteers to work speedily with local NAACP units throughout the nation whenever there are allegations of serious police misconduct.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Diversity in Awarding Business Contracts

WHEREAS, the NAACP is this Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization standing on the principals of equal justice, freedom and equality for any and all human beings; and

WHEREAS African American businesses and other minority business owners are not represented in proportion to the ethnic minority prison population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP collect data, communicate its findings and make recommendations to improve the reallocation of vendor contracts within the federal and state correctional systems regarding African Americans and other ethnic minority businesses; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon its state and local units to advocate for legislation that will seek a fair distribution of vendor contracts within the federal and state correctional systems.

2. Advocacy for Minority Business Development

WHEREAS, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) was created in 1969 through Executive Order as a component of the U.S. Department of Commerce. MBDA is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of African-American-owned businesses in America for disadvantaged groups who own or wish to start, expand their own businesses; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, MBDA's mission and advocacy is to identify issues of importance to the African American business community and to organize and lead the discussion of these issues among government and the African American business community at-large; and

WHEREAS, the Minority Business Development Agency funds business development centers around the country to assist with the start-up, expansion and development of African-American-owned firms; and

WHEREAS, the MBDA's Business Development Centers provide expert one-on-one assistance in multi-faceted areas of business, including administration, business planning, marketing, accounting, bidding and financing for a nominal business consultant fee to take business to the next level; and

WHEREAS, the MBDA provides on-line tools to access information on the website at www.mbda.gov to do business-to-business on the Internet, business-to-government and consumer sales to electronically identify, match and deliver financial and contracting opportunities to African American owned firms with an on-line free service to register your company with the nationwide contract opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP recommend and encourage all units to utilize the business development centers in their region to assist in the unit's economic empowerment advocacy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP expand their advocacy in their communities to share the resource of the Minority Business Development Center; a tool created by a Congressional Executive Order of the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1969 to further resolve disadvantaged groups who own or wish to start or expand their own business through advocacy for African American business development.

IV. EDUCATION

1. Calling Upon the President of the United States to Leave Head Start in the Department of Health and Human Services

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2003, President Bush released his plan for Head Start reauthorization. His plan calls for moving the Head Start

2003 RESOLUTIONS

Program to the Department of Education allowing states to run Head Start programs; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's Plan would negatively impact the Head Start Programs. The President's radical proposal would essentially dismantle the Head Start program's performance standards and turn it into more of a reading laboratory than the comprehensive program it is today; and

WHEREAS, studies show that the Head Start program works. The most recent government study found that Head Start children are "ready to learn" when they enter kindergarten and that they demonstrated significant gains in vocabulary and letter recognition skills. This is just another piece of mounting evidence proving that Head Start works and is an investment in our future; and

WHEREAS, moving the Head Start Program to the Department of Education and to the states means that important comprehensive services could be watered down or eliminated. Unlike the Head Start Program that provides every child and family with a variety of comprehensive services mandated by the Program Performance Standards, state pre-school programs do not provide nearly as many services nor is the quality at the same level. Of the over 30 states with state pre-school programs, only six (6) require on-site case workers to be available, and half did not provide regular vision, health and mental health screenings; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program is a family program. Parental involvement in Head Start would be lost if Head Start were moved to the Department of Education. In Head Start, parents play an integral role. Head Start personnel understand that the parent is the child's primary educator. The Head Start Bureau reported last year that more than 800,000 parents volunteered in programs around the country. They spent significant amounts of time reading to their children and assisting teachers in the classrooms. Parents have also shared governance through their policy councils and are actively involved in the development of their children. Research has found that not only do children benefit from having this active involvement from their parents, but so do the parents themselves. For instance, parental involvement contributes to positive growth and upward mobility, less depression and sickness, and higher levels of educational achievement; and

WHEREAS, federal to local structure ensures that the most needy children and families will be served. A recent Government Accounting Agency

2003 RESOLUTIONS

(GAO) report found that federal funds are eight times more likely than state funds to target disadvantaged children. Moreover, another GAO report found that 41% of federal funding for elementary and secondary schools was retained for use at the state level, leaving only 59% for the local level (violating the notion that dollars should be directed to the classroom); and

WHEREAS, tough quality initiatives could be waived. The 1994 and 1998 bi-partisan re-authorization put into place rigorous national performance measures and credential requirements. For example, the 1998 Act requires 50% of all Head Start teachers nationwide to have at least an Associate's Degree or higher by September 2003; a goal Head Start has successfully reached. In stark contrast, 30 states currently allow teachers in childcare centers to begin working with children without receiving any training in early childhood development. In addition, in contrast to Head Start standards which require a comprehensive on-site monitoring visit once every three years, 21 states with pre-kindergarten initiatives either do not require any monitoring or only require written reports without on site visits. Block granting and/or allowing states looking to cut costs the ability to waive these requirements would be a step backwards for Head Start Programs, Head Start teachers and most importantly, Head Start children and families; and

WHEREAS, while we agree with President Bush that Head Start programs should continue to move forward in literacy and language development in increasing accountability and making sure that every child in America is ready for school, we believe that these needs can be better achieved by leaving Head Start in the Department of Health and Human Services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon the President of the United States and Congress in their 2003 proposed re-authorization process to continue with the Secretary of DHHS as the official responsible for managing and administering the Head Start program; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages all its units to contact their members of Congress and tell them "Not to move Head Start to the Department of Education" and not to make Head Start a part of the block grant process.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

2. Repeal of “High Stakes Testing”

WHEREAS, the NAACP has called upon its state and local units to implement its educational initiative entitled “NAACP Call for Action” to ensure equal access to educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, many school districts and states throughout the United States are now attempting to institute “High Stakes Testing” by various methods, and by their design result in the retention or failure of children to be promoted or graduated; and

WHEREAS, “High Stakes Testing” jeopardizes the guaranteed rights of students to equal protection under the United States Constitution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges the government to provide funding to support educational enrichment, tutorial programs for students that are not reading, writing, or solving math programs on grade level; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose “High Stakes Testing” for students; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate for states to place a moratorium on all High Stakes Testing Legislation until adequate resources are provided to remove the statistical significant racial disparities in the results.

3. Tenure Process of Public Universities

WHEREAS, the NAACP has issued an “NAACP Call for Action” in education that includes identifying and addressing issues in higher education; and

WHEREAS, the tenure in higher education is not only a great accomplishment but connotes a sign of excellence bestowing security and permanence; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of professors of color in the higher education system across the country; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the tenure process, is heavily impacted by subjective criteria that may be discriminatory in application thereby eliminating highly qualified persons of color.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP launches a national investigation and issue a report card on public universities' tenure practices and level of compliance with the NAACP Call to Action, including tenure practices.

4. **Resolution for NAACP Units to Call for Legislation Establishing Commission to Integrate African-American History into State Curricula**

WHEREAS, the current study of African American history across the United States lacks concepts critical to a basic understanding of the history of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a chronological, sequential and historical accounting of the significant roles of African Americans in the development of this country; and

WHEREAS, African American history happened concurrently with American history thus African American history should be recorded, aligned and integrated accurately throughout curricula as it happens; and

WHEREAS, African American youth lack a basic understanding of their culture or history which would greatly enhance their personal worth; and

WHEREAS, there has been legislation introduced and passed by the legislature of the State of New Jersey to establish an Amistad Commission as a result of a resolution submitted by the Willingboro Branch; and

WHEREAS, this Commission is presently developing curricula and programs that will be implemented in all New Jersey's public and private schools with the state mandate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP use its resources to advocate for legislation in all states to establish state commissions to develop curricula and programs that integrates the historical accomplishments and challenges of African Americans across the various academic discipline.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

5. Opposition to all Voucher System Re-affirmation

WHEREAS, the seizure and re-distribution of these public funds will ensure that equal educational opportunity for all children will not be achieved; and

WHEREAS, failure to achieve equal educational opportunity is contrary to and inconsistent with the guarantees contained in the United States Constitution and affirmed in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP re-affirm its previous resolutions opposing school vouchers that have an adverse impact on the funding of public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP direct all its units to be vigilant in their opposition to such school vouchers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP continues to monitor and to oppose nationally all efforts to institute school voucher programs, regardless of the guise under which these programs emerge.

6. A Call for Monitoring Requests for Student Transfers

WHEREAS, quality education is a major civil right which has been historically advocated by the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, schools across the country have been identified and classified as "In Need of Improvement," with fewer than half the students performing satisfactorily; and

WHEREAS, such data for students has been recently published in many school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Federal or United States Government also recently issued a policy insisting on an option for transfers from these failing districts to a better one, regardless of whether the district has space; and

WHEREAS, under the new federal education law, parents have a right to demand that their children be transferred to another school.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP issue a “Call for Monitoring” procedure for all NAACP units, whereby the status of Requests for Student Transfers, as provided by the Federal “No Child Left Behind Act,” will be periodically received, logged, monitored and reported to the State Conference Education Committee for review, assessment and approved advocacy action. In turn, the state conference will report to the Regional Office and NAACP Education Department a summary of the data. The NAACP Education Department shall develop an appropriate instrument for collecting, recording and reporting this information; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that local, state and national publicity shall be prepared and circulated by appropriate NAACP units, regarding this initiative to school boards, departments of education and parent affiliations.

7. Correctional Institution Higher Education Reform Initiative

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world that stands for the principles of equal justice, freedom and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, the prison branch of the Lakeland Correctional Facility has documented the need for a national plan of action for prison reform to promote access and funding for higher education; and

WHEREAS, research reveals that incarcerated persons who do not hold high school diplomas stand a 60% greater chance of returning to prison, while those who earn an associates degree have only a 13.7% chance of re-incarceration and those who earn at least a bachelor’s degree stand only a 5.6% risk of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive higher education reform program supported by the NAACP will lower the rate of re-entry and re-offenders while heightening the quality of life of the total community; and

WHEREAS, the public must be made aware of the critical role that higher education can play in the rehabilitative and transformation process of those who are currently incarcerated or who were previously incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, all government agencies have the duty and responsibility to address and allocate resources needed to address the needs of incarcerated persons, the communities from which they emerge and the communities where they will return; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, African Americans and other people of color suffer disproportionately from a lack of higher education and public support in the rehabilitative and trans-formative process of incarcerated persons.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP establishes or restores higher education programs for persons incarcerated in correctional institutions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP units support adequate funding for educational resources & tax incentives that promote volunteers and community participation in correctional facilities.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. NAACP Opposes “Jobs versus Environment” Myth

WHEREAS, the “jobs versus environment” myth has been used as a corporate strategy to cause alarm in low-income communities of color by claiming that unemployment or economic hardship will result if residents oppose weak environmental controls or new polluting facilities in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes recent studies disproving the “jobs versus environment” myth, including: the Congressional Black Caucus’ recent study concluding that industries over-estimate the number of jobs polluting facilities provide to poor communities and the number of jobs provided to communities diminished over time; the Institute for Southern Studies’ recent study proving that states with the best environmental records also offer the best job opportunities and long-term economic development; and the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ data documenting that only seven (7) of the 6,000 annual mass layoffs are environmentally related.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose any corporate strategy that promises jobs to communities of color to coerce residents to accept a polluting industry in their neighborhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose any corporate strategy that fabricates a threat of unemployment on workers of color as a weapon to resist environmental regulation; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon all units to immediately demand that environmentally regulated industries stop using the “jobs versus environment” myth in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon all units to demand that environmentally regulated industries fulfill their outstanding promise of job opportunities to communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon all units to continue to advocate through direct action, legislation, litigation and pre-approved coalitions against environmental racism.

VI. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. HIV/AIDS in Africa

WHEREAS, President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, called for spending \$15 billion over the next five years to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, President Bush’s proposal included \$10 billion in funding along with five billion dollars scattered in a variety of current programs; and

WHEREAS, White House budget requests for the current fiscal year, as well as budget proposals for fiscal year 2004, fall short of the two billion dollars a year the president’s proposal suggests is needed; and

WHEREAS, both old and new HIV/AIDS money totals just \$1.9 billion for 2003, less that \$500 million of which is new; and

WHEREAS, the pledge made by the President of the United States of America is a noble and just cause; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP believes the pledge needs to be honored by Congress.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge President Bush to follow through on his pledge and submit the budget request to Congress that includes his original \$15 billion plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge Congress to fund the \$15 billion request to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

2. Status of W.E.B. DuBois Home

WHEREAS, W.E.B. DuBois was one of the founders of the NAACP and a driving force in the organization during its early years; and

WHEREAS, W.E.B. DuBois was one of the world's greatest intellectuals and activists in the areas of literature, history, sociology and political science; and

WHEREAS, this is the 100th anniversary of his outstanding book "Souls of Black Folks;" and

WHEREAS, his final home and resting place in Accra, Ghana is a public museum; and

WHEREAS, the building to adequately house his possessions has slowed in construction which has resulted in items, such as his personal library, potentially deteriorating.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP give direct leadership to solicit and raise funds from businesses, companies, foundations and corporations to preserve the WEB Dubois' home and papers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP communicate its concern for the museum to the Government of Ghana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP communicate the need for US aid from appropriate foundations, the importance of funding being provided to preserve these treasures; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP publicize the existence of the museum to all NAACP units and its members encouraging them to visit when they are in West Africa.

3. Supporting the Efforts of the Constituency for Africa and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes that Africans and African Americans are linked by mutual struggles for self-determination, equality and justice; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the NAACP has a rich history of support for Africa and remains a staunch supporter of Africa as Africa faces numerous challenges, including debt relief, education, famine relief and conflict resolution, HIV/AIDS and trade and investment; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) as a innovative development plan, created by Africans, well-deserving of the full attention and support from African Americans and Africans throughout the Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has a pre-existing, positive working relationship with the Constituency for Africa (CFA), an African American led education and advocacy group based in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP and CFA agree that ongoing future collaboration is essential to the continued mobilization of support among African-Americans for Africa and NEPAD; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP and CFA agree that the future for Africans and African Americans can be improved provided constructive political, commercial, social and cultural linkages are forged.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP commends and urges support for the objectives and goals of NEPAD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP commends and supports the efforts of CFA to educate African Americans and Americans about Africa and to build a foundation of support for Africa in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will cooperate with CFA, through the CFA's Town Hall Meeting Series on Africa and other appropriate vehicles to help African Americans become better informed on issues facing Africa and how African Americans might play a constructive role; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage its members to become more involved in Africa and to support organizations, such as CFA, that seek to unite Africans and African Americans.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

4. NAACP Supports African Americans Involvement in the Global Economy

WHEREAS, the average economic growth rate in emerging markets is higher than in the developed world. Emerging markets typically grow at several percentage points a year faster than developed countries; and

WHEREAS, developing countries can play technological leapfrog. They can jump straight to the more advanced technologies created in the developed world, skipping the intermediate stages. A typical example is mobile phones, which are being adopted at enormous speed in Asia and Latin America, avoiding the need to build costly fixed line services; and

WHEREAS, the populations of emerging market countries are usually younger than in the developed world. More than half the population of Latin America, for instance, is under thirty (30). Younger populations are more energetic and productive, consuming and contributing strongly to continued high economic growth; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are in a unique position where their talents have been under utilized in the American economy; and

WHEREAS, many emerging markets, particularly African countries, are suffering from human resource shortages. South Africa, for example, had a huge exodus of skilled labor following the end of apartheid.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support efforts to increase African American participation in the Global Economy by educating African Americans on employment, business, and investment opportunities in emerging markets.

5. Kenyan and Other African Nations' Debt Relief and Debt Cancellation

WHEREAS, in the world's most impoverished nations, the majority of the populations do not have access to clean water, adequate housing or basic health care; and

WHEREAS, the world's most impoverished nations are paying debt service to wealthy nations and institutions at the expense of providing basic services to their citizens; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the international debt takes the natural resources out of a country, forcing countries to become more dependant upon international creditors for more aid and new loans; and

WHEREAS, the lives of 19,000 children around the world could be saved every day if the debt of the most impoverished nations was cancelled and the savings was put to good use; and

WHEREAS, in an African country such as Kenya, where the national debt is roughly \$257.00 for each man, woman, and child and stood at eight billion dollars in December of 2002, of which \$56 million is owed to United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Finland has written off \$1.5 million, Japan has written off \$10 million in debt, and the European Parliament has made a commitment to table in the house a motion asking for complete debt cancellation for Kenya, all in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Kenyan government has initiated a campaign for Cancel-Debts-For-The-Child Campaign (CADEC) where countries are being asked to forgive the debt payment with the funds being used to meet children needs in education, medical and social services; and

WHEREAS, debt cancellation allows countries to access their own resources for poverty reduction; savings from debt service can now be allocated for health care, education, fighting HIV and AIDS and more; and

WHEREAS, debt cancellation makes our foreign aid dollars work better and stronger, currently our foreign aid frees up money for countries to pay back their debts to wealthy nations and international banks. Debt cancellation would help ensure that funds can be used effectively for poverty reduction, ultimately lessening a countries dependence upon foreign aid; and

WHEREAS, spread over 20 years, the cost of canceling the debts of the 52 most indebted nations is only one penny a day for each person in the industrialized world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge the United States Government to take the lead in debt relief and debt cancellation; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support legislation on behalf of Kenyan children asking the United States Government to forgive Kenya for \$56 million and participate in the Cancel-Debts-For-The-Child campaign; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP support diplomatic efforts in the United Nations, as well as legislative efforts in the United States Congress, including H.R. 1376 which was introduced by Congressmen Chris Smith of New Jersey and Barney Frank of Massachusetts to practically double the debt relief currently being offered to qualified, impoverished countries by providing an additional one billion dollars annually in debt relief for countries that qualify for debt relief while at the same time requiring that debt relief not be conditioned on some of the most harmful conditions by the International Monetary Fund, such as charging fees for school and health care and threatening labor rights.

6. **NAACP Urges the Immediate Release of Foreign Aid to Haiti**

WHEREAS, an estimated three-quarters of the eight million people of Haiti live in abject poverty and twenty-five percent of the children suffer from malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, \$146 million in approved Inter-American Development Bank loans are being withheld from the impoverished island nation; and

WHEREAS, without the aid the people of Haiti are ensured a short life; and

WHEREAS, Haiti has the lowest level of school enrollment in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, almost half the population has no health care; and

WHEREAS, the maternal mortality rate ranges from 500-to-1000 per 100,000 women. By comparison, the rate in the United States is 11 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate is an astounding 114 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Development Programmed, Haiti has the highest percentage of adults living with HIV/AIDS in the

2003 RESOLUTIONS

Western Hemisphere---6.1 percent. An alarming 12,000 Haitian children living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2002, the United States joined other delegations to the Organization of American States (OAS) in unanimously endorsing Resolution 822 which, among other things, resolves to “support normalization of economic cooperation between the Government of Haiti and the international financial obstacles that preclude such normalization.” Subsequent to the passage of OAS Resolution 822, the Inter-American Development Bank approved four loans totaling \$146 million to address health, education, water and sanitation, and transportation issues. Yet the United States Executive Director at the Inter-American Development Bank, acting on direction from the Administration, has held up the delivery of these loans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP provide information to the public about the problems in Haiti and urge the Inter-American Development Bank to release the approved loans; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP support initiatives such as the resolution introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (H. Con. Res. 78), which would re-engage Congress in the debate over international aid to Haiti and which would urge the Bush Administration to withdraw its objections to the release of international aid to Haiti.

7. Supporting Aid to Haiti

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest civil rights organization; and

WHEREAS, Haiti is the first independent nation of color in this hemisphere (1804); and

WHEREAS, Haiti is a democracy in its infancy; and

WHEREAS, Haiti has 1.2 doctors for every 10,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, only 40% of the population of Haiti have access to portable water; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate is 74 for every 1,000 births and the United Nations has designated Haiti the third hungriest country in the world; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, every human being has a natural and rational expectation for health, human rights, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government continues to obfuscate agreed upon measures to process the release of much needed humanitarian and infra-structural aid to Haiti in a duplicitous manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that our elected representatives of Congress correct and restore aid to Haiti by reaffirming its support for the mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) to Haiti; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon the United States Agency for International Development to convene a meeting of all donors and potential donors to Haiti, with the objective of launching a new and sustainable humanitarian initiative, including a lending program that will help bolster the economic infrastructure bases of Haiti; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly urge the President of the United States to direct the Secretary of State to conduct an immediate review of United States policy toward Haiti, including adequate and appropriate consultations with the relevant committees of Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call specifically upon the International Monetary Fund to re-evaluate the current staff monitoring program conditions outlined for Haiti and work toward a poverty reduction agreement for Haiti; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly urge the President of the United States to instruct the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the Inter-American Development Bank to release the four (4) social sector and development loans totaling \$146 million, for health, education, water and sanitation and transportation, that have been approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank and ratified by the Parliament of Haiti.

8. NAACP Supports the African Union

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2002, 53 African heads of state formed the African Union (AU); and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the African Union replaces the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and is designed to accelerate the integration of the African continent; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP acknowledges the achievements of the OAU in its role to liberate the continent from colonial and segregated rule in southern Africa; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutive Act of the African Union states that the new body is committed to focusing on growth and development, democracy and peace.

WHEREAS, the NAACP applauds the formation of the African Union as it embarks on its long journey to integrate Africa economically and politically.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP supports and urges the African Union to address: HIV/AIDS, debt cancellation, democratization, sustainable development, and economic integration.

VII. HEALTH

1. Testing for Individuals Released from Prison

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in place, standing on the principals of equal justice, freedom, equality for any and all human beings; and

WHEREAS, in America the AIDS/HIV/Hepatitis-C epidemic has reached record proportions among the African American community and has changed the social conditions for all Americans. Many individuals who are incarcerated will leave prison without realizing they may have already contracted one or more of these ailments; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, and other minorities, suffer, disproportionately where large prison populations are found from a lack of testing for AIDS/HIV/Hepatitis-C and other social diseases before leaving prison; and

WHEREAS, this trend causes devastating effects on minority communities, to include spread of said ailments, loss of life and continuous negative impacts affecting the United States Health Care and Treatment budget; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, testing is presently free while incarcerated. The reality is that many prisoners do not take advantage of free testing offered within the Correctional system; and

WHEREAS, all government agencies (state & federal) have the duty and responsibility to address such concerns and allocate a fair distribution of funds to promote testing for persons leaving prisons in all state and federal penal institutions within the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP call for development and implementation of education programs to make the public and prison population aware of the necessity of AIDS/HIV/Hepatitis-C testing of all persons being released from prison; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these programs shall receive funding to significantly reduce and/or eliminate incidences of AIDS/HIV/Hepatitis-C among the prison population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all state and federal penal institutions within the United States establish inmate advisory committees whose mission is to internally educate and support the aforementioned education and testing programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that prisoner's right to privacy regarding test results should be protected and test results not disclosed.

2. Support for Organ and Tissue Donation

WHEREAS, as of April 2003 there are over 80,000 people waiting for organ transplants on the national waiting list and someone die every sixteen minutes while waiting for a transplant; and

WHEREAS, tissue donation allows for life enhancing surgeries to repair patient's bodies who have suffered due to trauma, diseases, burns and sporting injuries; and

WHEREAS, almost half of the national transplants waiting list is minorities and African Americans comprising 35% of the national transplant waiting list for kidneys and the list is rapidly expanding; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, African Americans are 12% of the United States population with a donation rate of 13%; however, African Americans represent 18% of all organ transplant recipients; and

WHEREAS, African Americans suffer more from high blood pressure, than any other racial or ethnic group, and if high blood pressure is not controlled, can destroy the kidneys; and

WHEREAS, once the kidneys are destroyed, the only options are renal dialysis or an organ transplant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP recommend educational efforts for its members to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation as well as wellness and disease prevention to increase the quality of life, lengthen the life span, decrease the rapidly expanding organ waiting list; and opposes any racial, social, or economic discrimination in the process; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge all of its units to endorse wellness and preventive health and encourage organ and tissue donation through educational interventions with their local organ procurement organization to maximize the number of organ and tissue donors in this country and to promote wellness.

3. Advance Directive for Mental Health Treatment

WHEREAS, an “Advance Directive for Mental Health Treatment” or “Advance Directive” means a written document, or a document in a form consistent with the provisions of the Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA), that would protect the mental health consumer’s choice when the mental health consumer is in a crisis mode and cannot articulate clearly or cogently; and

WHEREAS, the Advance Directive can speak clearly for consumers wishes concerning psychotropic medication, electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) and preferences for emergency intervention such as seclusion, physical restraints, restraint by injection of medication, or a combination of seclusion and restraints; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the “Advance Directive” is to empower the consumer to indicate directives and preferences for treatment, balanced

2003 RESOLUTIONS

with the duty and desire of the provider to render ethical, effective treatment which is consistent with community standards; and

WHEREAS, the advance directive would allow mental health consumers to communicate to providers past experiences, current needs, emergency intervention (seclusion/restrain) and the knowledge to decrease symptoms as quickly as possible while preventing humiliation, embarrassment and preserving one's dignity; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky State Legislature passed into law HB99 on "Advanced Directives" for mental health directives in March 2003 into law to become one of at least twenty-one (21) states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming) with statutes creating an Advance Mental Health Directive.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP endorse and call upon all units to work with their state legislators to proclaim and preserve the freedom for those with mental health disabilities to communicate their rights with an Advance Mental Health Directive.

4. **Expressing Concern for the Disparate Health Care Treatment Afforded to African Americans**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress authorized the study of disparities in the health care treatment system; and

WHEREAS, a study was undertaken by the National Institute of Medicines that found that minorities were receiving substandard health care in comparison the comparable white citizens; and

WHEREAS, these disparities existed regardless of income or insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming evidence suggested by the study demonstrated that African-Americans received substandard health care; and

WHEREAS, this substandard health care has led to higher death rates for African Americans in the categories of HIV/AIDS, cancer and heart disease; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the study concluded that bias and stereotyping contributed to racial and ethnic disparities in the health care system; and

WHEREAS, minorities are more likely to receive less desirable surgical procedures, such as amputations at a rate up to 3.6 times greater than their white Medicare peers; and

WHEREAS, patient education and more racial and ethnic minority health care professionals will serve to ameliorate systematic disparities in the health care industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all local NAACP units collaborate with local medical care centers and treatment facilities to develop patient education programs and to promote enhanced recruitment and retention of African American health care providers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP re-affirms its 2002 resolution “Equity in Health Care & Safety” at its 2003 Convention in Miami, Florida.

4(a). Equity in Health Care & Safety Re-affirming 2002 Policy

WHEREAS, the study made public by the Institute of Medicine on March 21, 2002 is the first comprehensive look at racial disparities in healthcare among people who have insurance; and

WHEREAS, the study found that racial and ethnic minorities receive lower quality healthcare than non-minorities, even when access factors such as patient’s insurance status and income are controlled; and

WHEREAS, the study found that the source of the disparities are rooted in historic and contemporary inequities and involve many participants at several levels, including health systems, their administrative and bureaucratic processes, utilization managers, healthcare professionals, and patients; and

WHEREAS, the study found that minorities are less likely to be given appropriate medications for heart disease or to undergo bypass surgery, are less likely to receive kidney dialysis or transplants than whites and are

2003 RESOLUTIONS

also less likely to receive the most sophisticated treatments for HIV infection, which could delay the onset of AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the study found that in major medical centers in New York State, African-Americans were 37% less likely to undergo angioplasty and other heart procedures, including bypass surgery, than whites and in ninety (90%) percent of the cases in which patients did not get the surgery, the doctor had not recommended it; and

WHEREAS, minorities are more likely to receive certain less desirable procedures; for example, African-Americans are 3.6 times as likely as whites to have lower limbs amputated as a result of diabetes; and

WHEREAS, in interviews with doctors, researcher found “classic negative racial stereotypes,” such as assumptions that African-American patients would be less likely to participate in follow-up care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the Institute of Medicine’s recommendation to improve the quality of care for racial and ethnic minorities by promoting the increase of the proportion of under-represented U.S. racial and ethnic minorities among healthcare professionals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP promote culturally appropriate education programs to improve minority knowledge of how to access care and how to improve the ability to participate in clinical decision-making; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP promote cross-cultural curricula to be integrated into the training of future healthcare provider and practical, care-based, rigorously evaluated training to persist through practitioner continuing education programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge health plans, federal and state payers to collect, report and monitor patient care data as a means to assess progress in eliminating disparities, to evaluate intervention efforts, and to assess potential civil rights violations.

5. Quality Healthcare for All

WHEREAS, Strategic Plan objective 9.2 (a) states that the National Health Division should design a phased-in approach to universal coverage, calling

2003 RESOLUTIONS

first for full health coverage for children, families with children and eventually universal coverage. The strategy should also focus on the needs of seniors, including the importance of coverage for prescriptions and access to quality home healthcare; and

WHEREAS, reports show that a lack of access to quality health care is a contributing factor to health disparities in the minority community; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has determined that universal healthcare coverage would benefit all people and communities, especially those with the greatest need and should be provided to all Americans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that any health care coverage legislation supported by the NAACP should include the following components:

- a. choice of physicians;
- b. access to efficacious medicines;
- c. care available in patient's neighborhood (Laboratories, Emergency Rooms or Hospital);
- d. preventive care covered and encouraged to include: Colonoscopy, Mammography, eye exams, physical exams, Immunizations, smoking cessation, Obesity treatment and Substance Abuse Care;
- e. mental and dental healthcare coverage with mental health on parity with medical coverage; and
- f. coverage, to include a process for racial and ethnic data collection to better determine the effectiveness of healthcare coverage and progress on ending health disparities.

6. Prison Health Care

WHEREAS, for 94 years the NAACP has been fighting for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, state and federal correctional institutions in the United States have a constitutional obligation to adhere to the fundamental tenants of

2003 RESOLUTIONS

human rights with regards to the prison population by providing adequate health care and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, state and federal correctional institutions in the United States contract with health care providers to provide such said services; and

WHEREAS, the level of health care and health services provided are many times compromised by budget constraints irrespective of the needs of the prison population; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and other people of color, while incarcerated, suffer disproportionately from diseases, such as Hepatitis-C, Diabetes and kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, failure to adequately treat the aforementioned illnesses can result in severe development of these illnesses and potentially lead to death.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP investigate the health care treatment of African Americans and other people of color incarcerated within state and federal correctional institutions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate for sufficient and adequate health care services for all persons incarcerated within state and federal correctional institutions.

VIII. HOUSING

1. Re-affirmation of NAACP's National Commitment for Equity in Housing

WHEREAS, housing problems continue to impact minority communities severely, it is incumbent that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reaffirm its commitment to address and remedy housing discrimination and inequities and advocate equal opportunity and access to adequate affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, some of the major concerns continuing to exist for many years without satisfactorily resolution, are the lack of adequate and affordable housing and the inaction of all levels of government to address these concerns; the growing shortage of good public housing for the economically disadvantaged; the decreasing availability and sometimes

2003 RESOLUTIONS

questionable distribution of “Section 8” Housing Assistance Vouchers; the continuous growth of homeless persons and families in most cities and other communities the real and perceived discrimination (including racial profiling) in some programs already in effect and housing discrimination based solely on race, income, gender, the number of family members and housing subsidies; and

WHEREAS, housing programs continue to face drastic cuts in funding; and

WHEREAS, affirmative marketing is not adequately promoted; and

WHEREAS, economically disadvantage people continue to face drastic cuts in funding.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to address and remedy housing discrimination and inequities, and to advocate equal opportunity and access to adequate affordable housing.

2. **“Section 8” Rental Assistance Program**

WHEREAS, the Section 8 Federal Rental Assistance Program was started in 1976 to help low-income residents obtain affordable housing with the family paying 30% of its gross income and the government Housing and Urban Development [H.U.D] paying the rest, up to a certain regional limit; and

WHEREAS, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez recently told a Senate subcommittee: “Section 8 is sort of broke and in need of repair”; and

WHEREAS, the “repair” being suggested by the Administration is to give control of this federal voucher program (that helps nearly two million families pay the rent) to the various states to administer on the assumption that the states (most of which are strapped for funds and have been laying off personnel) could more efficiently manage the vast Section 8 rental program now administered by some 2,600 local housing authorities; and

WHEREAS, there is serious concern that the proposed shift would establish a variety of different standards governing who could qualify for the housing rental subsidies; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, in 2002 about 8% of the vouchers went “unused” [not clearly defined; “unused” being not asked for, or “unused” meaning families could not locate an acceptable housing unit]; yet, in many areas there is a waiting list of applicants [in some areas, the waiting list is so long, new applications are not even being accepted].

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, at the National Convention in Miami, July 2003, recommends Section 8 of the rental assistance program to contain the following:

- Be adequately funded by the federal government such so that sufficient vouchers can be made available to all who qualify; and
- Have uniform qualification standards from state-to-state, in accordance with all legal non-discriminatory standards set by federal and state laws; and
- Administer accurate reporting as to why Section 8 vouchers are unused (or relinquished) as reported, with an estimate of unfulfilled affordable housing needs be included.
- And that control of this important Federal voucher program not be transferred to the States, but remain as is, administered by the local housing authorities.

3. Need for Safe and Affordable Housing

WHEREAS, the lack of safe and affordable housing has an enormous impact on American families and communities, to the extent that families have problems obtaining affordable housing and putting food on the table; and

WHEREAS, children who live in substandard housing are more likely to suffer from debilitating conditions such as asthma and lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing has been cited in survey after survey of economically disadvantaged families as a major cause of concern for family friction and unrest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, at the National Convention assembled in Miami on July 2003, reaffirm its commitment to work for much needed affordable housing.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

4. Resolution Against Bush Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Budget for a Federal Housing Program

WHEREAS, we believe that the Bush Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Budget, released in early February, contains meager funding levels insufficient to sustain federal housing programs at current service levels; and

WHEREAS, we believe the Budget and related Administrative initiatives propose additional policies which threaten extremely low-income tenants or the continued viability of the federal housing programs; and

WHEREAS, in most federal low income housing programs historically rent has been set as a percentage of tenant income, usually no more than thirty (30%) percent. In 1998, Congress authorized minimum rents, established without regard to tenant income, which encroached upon this core protection, but gave public housing agencies discretion whether to impose them, while also requiring a mandatory hardship exemption. Currently for public housing and the voucher program, each public housing authority determines the amount of minimum rent, that can be set between zero (\$0) to fifty dollars; and

WHEREAS, now for the very lowest income families, the Administration proposes to completely erode the principal rent should be based upon income. The FY 2004 HUD Budget eliminates Public Housing Authorities discretion and proposes a minimum rent of at least \$50; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would apparently apply to all the major federal housing programs serving extremely low-income families public housing, the Voucher program and project-based Section 8 as well; and

WHEREAS, a local Public Housing Authority could set a minimum monthly rent of \$100, \$150 or more, without HUD approval with elderly and disabled families exempt and, others obtaining hardship exemptions from HUD Secretary; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the mandatory minimum rent is to promote work and increase equity in the treatment of families with similar needs. But the actual effect will be to eliminate local discretion to charge no minimum rent and to harm those residents (by definition the very lowest income) currently paying less than the new minimum rent levels. Hardship

2003 RESOLUTIONS

in purchasing other life necessities and eviction will result, all in pursuit of an insignificant amount money; and

WHEREAS, the poor will not be able to seek an exemption from local authorities as they now can when threatened with illness, job loss or eviction. Instead, in an outrageous case of federalization by an administration that preaches virtues of state control, the poor could seek a hardship exemption only by appealing to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 46% of extremely low-income families at or below 30% of median income reside in public housing nationwide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose any Bush Administration's FY 2004 inadequate budget funding levels for federal housing programs and any related administrative initiatives that threaten extremely low-income tenants or the continued viability of the federal housing programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP, at the National Convention assembled in Miami, July 2003, reaffirm its commitment to work for much needed affordable housing.

IX. INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Recognition of NAACP Volunteers

WHEREAS, the recruitment and retention of volunteers is critical to the viability of the organization; and

WHEREAS, volunteers serve as an indispensable bridge between our organization and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a volunteer base contributes to the success of this organization; and

WHEREAS, a "National Day of Recognition" for the volunteer efforts of these individuals will serve in the best interests of the organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP issue a formal declaration in recognition of the outstanding contributions of our organization's volunteers; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all units participate annually in recognizing the contributions of its staff and membership volunteers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all volunteers who contribute to the organization's mission be formally recognized for their efforts through a national day of recognition; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a NAACP "National Day of Recognition" for the contribution of our organization's volunteers take place on a date that coincides with National Volunteer Week, which takes place during the last week of April in each calendar year.

X. LEGISLATIVE

1. Fundamental Human Right to Quality Healthcare

WHEREAS, America is founded on the principles of justice, fairness, equal opportunity under the law, freedom and individual rights; and

WHEREAS, some of these rights are written into the Bill of Rights, such as the right to full citizenship to African-Americans who were enslaved, the right to vote, the right of children not to work, the right of children to receive a public school education, made possible through amendments to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, these rights were fought for piecemeal, sometimes town by town or region by region, sometimes state by state, through organized protest, media, public campaigns, lobbying, marching, rallying and by law suits, until legislation was finally passed so that these rights could be legally enforced; and

WHEREAS, there would have been no progress toward equal rights for the vulnerable, social and ethnic, minorities and women in the United States without a combination of legislation, mass organization and demonstration to demand its implementation, or force the laws to implement change; and

WHEREAS, still in America minorities, people of color, the poor, the uninsured, people with disabilities and many senior citizens are sitting in the back of the health care system bus, even when many of the front seats are empty; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, one-third of Hispanic Americans and nearly one in four African-Americans are among the over 43 million Americans with no health insurance and consequently receive inadequate medical care, sometimes in a life or death situation or none at all; and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) proclaims that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every human being. Except for the United States, all other advance nations are in compliance with the WHO's proclamation and have established a right to quality health care for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, racial separation in the United States has resulted in unequal access to quality health care and has demonstrated that racial bias in medicine can and does exist; and

WHEREAS, in a nation such as ours, founded on fairness and social justice, it is unacceptable that African-Americans with the same health insurance as whites are provided less medical care; and

WHEREAS, civil rights have never been handed to us. We have to demand them. As it was with segregation and with the evils of Jim Crow, we have to organize in protest against second rate and third-rate health care in an affluent nation such as America, because a decent standard of health care is necessary for our individual human dignity and well-being. As Americans we have the right to dignity, well-being and for an adequate standard of health; and

WHEREAS, it cost Americans more to sustain the current unfair and unequal healthcare system that leaves out many and provides unequal healthcare too many that are uninsured. Profits, not patients are the bottom line; and

WHEREAS, if all Americans had a standard basic coverage, most independent economic studies say it would save millions of health care dollars each year and the bloated insurance company profits would be channeled into direct patient care; and

WHEREAS, we refuse to sit in the back of the bus of the health care system bus any longer... we must demand a decent quality of health care regardless of our race, economic status, age or gender. The reverse of which is simply an abuse of our civil rights. We must take action now to

2003 RESOLUTIONS

demand a health care system that provides universal access to quality health care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP join with Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and NABP in support of H.R. 676, the US National Health Institute Act, introduced by Congressman John Conyers, Detroit Michigan.

2. **National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act**

WHEREAS, several Congress members of both parties have introduced the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act (H.R.1102*) to establish a federal housing trust fund to be used to meet a nation-wide goal of producing, rehabilitating and preserving at least 1.5 million units of affordable housing over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, 75% of the funding from this fund would be devoted to extremely low-income families, such as people working at or near the minimum wage or those living on social security or disability; and

WHEREAS 78% of Caucasian households own their own homes, but only 48% of African-American and 36% of Hispanic American families own their own residences; and

WHEREAS it has been observed and demonstrated that home ownership increases family self-esteem, commitment to neighborhood and citizen participation; and

WHEREAS this National Housing Trust Fund will be based on more than 270 state and local trust funds across the nation that have already produced thousands of units; and

WHEREAS these local housing trust funds have been used across the nation to leverage new resources to create jobs, increase the real estate tax base and to successfully house more people.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP endorse the principle of a federal Affordable Housing Trust Fund as a sound idea to address a very real and serious problem -- the lack of home ownership by racial and ethnic minorities.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

3. Congressional Legislation to Prevent Chapter 11 Corporate Bankruptcy Abuse

WHEREAS, bankruptcies grievously harm employees, creditors, suppliers and investors of companies, in some cases causing the financial ruin of those investors, and regular employees, which in most cases is disproportionately minorities, creditors and suppliers; and

WHEREAS, people who invested in, sought employment with, extended credit to, or sold materials and services to companies in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy made their decisions based on the best information available regarding the financial health and stability of those companies; and

WHEREAS, fraudulent bookkeeping is alleged, or in some cases, admitted to have played a significant role in the bankrupting of companies like Enron, WorldCom and Global Crossing; and

WHEREAS, current bankruptcy laws, in particular, Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code – allow bankrupt companies to shed debt and other financial responsibilities, reorganize and then return to the market place relatively unhampered by past obligations; and

WHEREAS, such re-emergent companies enjoy the competitive advantages of greatly reduced debt and therefore a greatly reduced cost structure, allowing them to employ artificially aggressive pricing in competition with those companies, careful stewards of their finances who have avoided bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, such unfair competition puts us at a competitive disadvantage to companies that should be rewarded for their prudence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP officially oppose any abuse of the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Code by companies found guilty of fraudulent bookkeeping which results in lost to investors, creditors and employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National NAACP shall immediately call upon the United States Congress and Senate to enact legislation amending the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to prohibit the filing of Chapter 11 Bankruptcies by companies found guilty of fraudulent bookkeeping; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all NAACP units be urged to contact their Congress people and Senators to support an amendment to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to prohibit the filing of Chapter 11 Bankruptcies by companies found guilty of fraudulent bookkeeping.

4. **NAACP Calls Upon State Legislatures to Support Judicial Independence**

WHEREAS, judicial independence is from special interests on the decline, especially in states that elect judges; and

WHEREAS, the chronic low voter turnout in many states has opened the door for special interest groups to influence the outcome of judicial elections in favor of like-minded judges; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes the importance of not overlooking the role of state courts due to the inordinate amount of cases seen in comparison to federal courts; and

WHEREAS, the fact that a judicial nominee is a minority, racial or ethnic does not mean that he or she necessarily represent the ideas of that particular community; and

WHEREAS, individuals believe that the addition of a racial or ethnic minority judge automatically diversifies the views of a court, when, in reality, it is the ideology of a judge that diversifies a court; and

WHEREAS, public financing for judicial campaigns has already passed through the North Carolina state legislature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the use of public financing for judicial campaigns; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP join with approved groups of similar interests to address the problems of the influence of money on the judiciary.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

5. Supporting HR 1019 - Freedom of Information in Vietnam Act of 2003

WHEREAS, the NAACP supports the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which affirms "respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms;" and

WHEREAS, the NAACP affirms that "[a]ll peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development"; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP seeks to eliminate the digital divide that limits access to information, economic, mobility and disenfranchises people who wish to be self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam has failed to meet its obligations as a signatory to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which ensures that citizens of Vietnam are free "to seek," receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Vietnam continues to restrict all forms of media, including jamming broadcasts by Radio Free Asia (an independent broadcast service funded by the U.S. in order to provide objective news and information to the people of countries in Asia whose governments deny the right to freedom of expression and of the press) and blocking its Internet site and other sites like the BBC World News; and

WHEREAS, the "Government of Vietnam is taking active measures to keep its citizens from freely accessing the Internet and obtaining international and domestic political, religious, and economic news and information;" and

WHEREAS, the NAACP affirms the right to access information and the freedoms of speech and press.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support HR 1019, the Freedom of Information in Vietnam Act of 2003 and lobby the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States to pass HR 1019.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

6. Supporting HR 1587 - The Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2003

WHEREAS, the NAACP supports the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP knows and understands "harassment, discrimination and intimidation, and sometimes imprisonment and other forms of detention, against those peacefully express dissent from government...policy;" and

WHEREAS, the "Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, the largest religious denomination in the country, has been declared illegal by the Government, and over the last twenty-five years its clergy have often been imprisoned and subjected to other forms of persecution;" and

WHEREAS, "Independent Protestants, most of whom are members of ethnic minority groups, are subjected to particularly harsh treatment by the Government of Vietnam. According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, such treatment includes 'police raids on homes and house churches, detention, imprisonment, and other forms of persecution"; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP affirms the rights of freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceable assembly and the rules of law; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP supports a democratic society without discrimination of race, gender or religion where the voice of its citizens are heard and their votes counted; and

WHEREAS, HR 2833, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2003, and will lobby the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States to pass HR 1587.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support HR 1587 – the Vietnam Human Rights Act 2003 and will lobby the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States to pass HR 1587.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

7. Patriot Act Resolution

WHEREAS, the NAACP has a long and distinguished tradition of protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of its residents; and

WHEREAS, fundamental constitutional rights are essential to the preservation of a just democratic society; and

WHEREAS, provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act and related federal actions threaten fundamental rights and liberties by:

- (a) authorizing the indefinite incarceration of non-citizens, based on mere suspicion, as well, as citizens designated by the President as “enemy combatants;”
- (b) giving the law enforcement and intelligence agencies access to any individual’s personal records, including medical, financial, library and education records;
- (c) permitting the FBI to spy on religious services, internet chat rooms, political demonstrations and other public meetings of any kind without having any evidence that a crime has been or may be committed;
- (d) expanding the authority of federal agents to conduct searches in which the subject of the search warrant is unaware that his property has been searched (so-called “sneak and peek” or “black bag” searches); and
- (e) limiting the ability of federal courts to curb law enforcement abuse of electronic surveillance in anti-terrorism and ordinary criminal investigations.

WHEREAS, these new powers threaten the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans and particularly affect those of Arab, Muslim, and South Asian backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has drafted a second Patriot Act, the “Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003”, which threatens civil liberties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP:

2003 RESOLUTIONS

1. Affirms its strong support for the fundamental constitutional rights and its opposition to the USA Patriots Act and related federal actions that infringe on important civil rights and civil liberties.
2. Affirms its opposition to the proposed “Patriot Act II”, the domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003.
3. Affirms its strong support for the constitutional rights of immigrant communities and oppose racial profiling and the scapegoat of immigrants.
4. Calls upon all private citizens and organizations, including residents, employers, educators, and business owners, to demonstrate similar respect for civil rights and civil liberties, especially but not limited to conditions of employment and cooperation with investigations.
5. Urge each public library to conduct a “privacy audit” to determine what paper and electronic records are kept that provide personally identifiable information concerning a patron’s use of the library facilities, including both Internet usage and usage of other materials in the library’s collection. The audit shall also determine the purpose for which such records are kept and the time period for which are kept. Upon completion of the audit, the library shall adopt a records retention policy that minimizes the amount of time that any such personally identifiable information is retained by the library.
6. Encourages Police/Sheriff’s Department to:
 - Refrain from cooperating in any U.S. Attorney Office or FBI requests to participate in the exercise of powers that violate either the state or federal constitution;
 - Refrain from conducting surveillance on individuals or groups based on their participation in protected First Amendment activities such as political advocacy or religious practice, without reasonable suspicion of criminal activity;

2003 RESOLUTIONS

- Refrain from collecting or maintaining information about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual, group, association, organization, corporation, business or partnership unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities, and there are reasonable grounds to suspect the subject of the information is or may be involved in criminal conduct;
 - Refrain from establishing a general surveillance network of video cameras, and refrain from deploying facial recognition technology or other unreliable biometric identification technology; and
 - Refrain from the practice of stopping drivers or pedestrians for the purpose of scrutinizing their identification documents without particularized suspicion of criminal activity.
7. Encourages public schools and institutions of higher learning to provide notice to individuals whose education records have been obtained by law enforcement agents pursuant to Section 507 of the USA PATRIOT Act;
8. Encourages all City Managers to determine how the new federal powers are being used locally by making the following information public"; and
- The Names of all detainees that have been held in their City/County as a result of terrorism investigations, where they have been held, circumstances of detention, any charges, whether the detainee has been transferred or deported, whether the detainee has legal representation, and the name of the attorney;
 - The number of times records have been requested from libraries and book stores under powers granted in the USA Patriot Act;
 - The number of searches conducted under the powers granted in the USA Patriot Act, in which the subject of the

2003 RESOLUTIONS

search warrant is unaware that his property has been searched (so-called “sneak and peek” or “black bag” searches);

- The number of individuals who have been questioned in connection with terrorism investigations, and the race, ethnicity, and immigration status of those individuals;
- The number of wiretaps utilized under the powers granted in the USA Patriot Act;
- The number of religious institutions, political rallies, and political meetings;
- The numbers of residents is being held in connection with civil immigration violations and the nationality of those being held;
- The number of requests made to their Police Department or other city agencies for assistance with the execution of powers that violate either the state or federal constitution;
- The number of search warrants executed without notice to the subject of the warrant pursuant to section 213 of the USA PATRIOT Act;
- The extent of electronic surveillance carried out in their City/County under powers granted in the USA PATIOT Act;
- The number of times education records have been obtained from public schools and institutions of higher learning in their jurisdiction under section 207 of the USA PATRIOT Act; and
- Encourages all of its branches to ask their respective local municipalities to pass this resolution and to send a letter and a copy of this resolution to their Senators and Congresspersons, urging them to work repeal all provisions of the USA Patriot Act that infringe on civil liberties and to oppose passage “Patriot Act II”, the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

8. Resolution to Re-affirm the 2001 Policy to Increase the Social Security Lump Sum Death Benefits

WHEREAS, there have been drastic increases in burial and funeral expenses since 1952 when the Social Security Lump Sum Death Benefit ("LSDB") was last increased; and

WHEREAS, the Lump Sum Death Benefit's value has been severely diminished by the rate of inflation over a 48 year period; and

WHEREAS, the LSDB was further diminished by a 1981 legislative amendment to the Social Security Act limiting payment of this benefit to a spouse living with the worker at the time of death or a spouse and her child receiving benefits under the worker's record; and

WHEREAS, the 1981 legislative amendment eliminated payment of the LSDB directly to a funeral home regardless of who the deceased worker lived with; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, under the current law, the LSDB is no longer paid; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes the dire financial constraints many families endure when a loved one dies; and

WHEREAS, there is no legitimate argument anyone can make to justify the current inadequate LSDB.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon the President of the United States, the Social Security Administration and the United States Congress to initiate a unified effort to immediately enact legislation increasing the LSDB to at least \$2,000, as well as amending the current law to include language authorizing benefit payment to a funeral director, any family member or individual who assists with burial expenses.

8(a). Increasing the Social Security Lump-Sum Death Benefits Re-affirmation of 2001 Policy

WHEREAS, there have not been drastic increases in burial and funeral expenses since 1952 when the Social Security Lump Sum Death Benefit ("LSDB") was last increased; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Lump Sum Death Benefit's value has been severely diminished by the rate of inflation over a 48 year period; and

WHEREAS, the LSDB was further diminished by a 1981 legislative amendment to the Social Security Act limiting payment of this benefit to a spouse living with the worker at the time of death or a spouse and child receiving benefits under the worker's record; and

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XI. SPECIAL TRIBUTE

1. Recognizing the Centenary of the Birth of Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche rose from humble beginnings as a young black man in America in a racially hostile social environment, to become one of the most important and influential world leaders of his time, leaving an important legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche as a youth was an outstanding scholar who graduated at the top of his class at Jefferson High School in Los Angeles, but was denied induction in the honors society because of his race; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche graduated valedictorian, *summa cum laude*, with a degree in Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1927; and

WHEREAS, in 1933 Ralph Bunche participated in the Second Amenia Conference, a gathering of young and potential leaders of African descent, that was critical in redefining the focus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche wrote a prize-winning doctoral dissertation on colonialism in Africa, and in 1934 became the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in Government and International Relations from Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche was one of the founders of the National Negro Congress in 1936; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche in the years 1936-1937 became the first African American to conduct extensive field research on the problems of race in East and, West Africa and Southern Africa, documenting his findings in his study, *A World View of Race*; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche established and chaired the Political Science Department at Howard University and was a key member of the intellectual elite of young black scholar-activists, concerned with the persistent second-class status of the American black population; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche became closely identified with the United Nations, attending the San Francisco Conference that drafted the United Nations Charter; serving as Director of the Trusteeship Department of the United Nations, Mediator of the Arab-Israeli War, and later becoming Under-Secretary-General of Special Political Affairs, closely identified with UN Peacekeeping efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Ralph Bunche was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace, the first person of color in the world to be attaining this feat, for his successful negotiation of the 1949 Rhodes Armistice between Israel and its Arab neighbors, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche was an indefatigable warrior for civil rights, joining picket lines in Washington, DC in 1937, participating in

2003 RESOLUTIONS

the 1963 March on Washington and despite his failing health participated in the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP, in recognition of Ralph Bunche's contribution to civil rights and race relations awarded him the Spingarn Medal in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bunche was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and served with distinction on the Board of Directors for twenty-two years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People call on all of its members to recognize and remember the contributions Ralph Bunche made to civil rights, human rights and race relations to incorporate his legacy into their daily lives and to use Ralph Bunche's legacy to reaffirm our commitment to the protection and enhancement of civil rights for African Americans and other minorities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urges its units to host appropriate events commemorating the legacy of this outstanding and extraordinary scholar, civil rights activist, international peacemaker, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Spingarn Medalist and champion of race relations.

XII. VOTING

1. Human Rights Voting

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world, standing on the principles of equal justice, freedom and the rights of all to exercise the right to vote, and

WHEREAS, the Lakeland Correctional Facility NAACP Branch joins many other freedom fighters to call for an aggressive plan of action for the restoration of voting rights for persons who have lost their right to vote because of a felony conviction and for incarceration; and

WHEREAS, all governmental agencies have the duty and responsibility to uphold the Constitution of the United States; and

2003 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, African Americans and other people of color are disproportionately impacted by the disenfranchisement of voting rights which impacts many who have been incarcerated, and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution prescribes that "...the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude; and the 15th Amendment cites: "The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation;" and

WHEREAS, the NAACP review the policies adopted by the Canadian Government in its Supreme Court, which grants Canadian prisoners the right to vote, citing: "The idea that certain classes of people are not morally fit or morally worthy to vote and to participate in the lawmaking process is ancient and obsolete. The legitimacy of the law and the obligation to obey the law flows directly from the right of every citizen to vote. As to a legitimate penal purpose, neither the record nor common sense support the claim that disenfranchisement deters crime or rehabilitates criminals..."Chief Justice Beverly McLauchlin, who wrote the opinion, also remarked that removing the right to vote in hopes of enhancing respect for the law is 'exactly backwards.'" (As reported in the Winter/December 2002 edition of Out of Bounds).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP strengthen its efforts to organize and encourage its units to advocate for the restoration of the voting rights of persons whose rights have been denied because of incarceration and reaffirm its vigorous support of felony re-enfranchisement legislation.