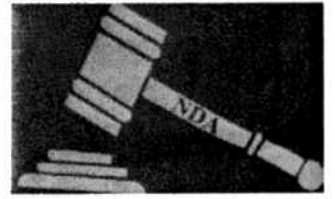




Blacks In Government®
2011 National Delegates Assembly
Boston, Massachusetts



RESOLUTION

BIG Joins National Law Officers Asking U.S. Leaders To Revamp Drug Prohibition Laws That Are Associated With Violence And Racial Injustice

WHEREAS, The National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976 as a non-profit organization to advocate and educate and, today, BIG seeks to represent 3.4 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address racial disparate treatment in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, the United States government, utilizing both public and private industry launched a “War On Drugs” forty years ago this year which has resulted in the United States having the highest incarceration rate in the world and an extraordinarily disparate impact on racial minorities, evidenced by Blacks receiving prison sentences for drug offenses at 10.1 times the rate as white offenders¹, despite consistent evidence that they are no more likely to use or sell currently illicit drugs than whites; and

WHEREAS, Former BIG National First Vice President, Matthew Fogg, was an intricate part of the war on drugs from 1989 to 1992, providing supervisory leadership for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Washington Metropolitan Area (joint law enforcement drug and gun interdiction) Task Force; and he personally observed racially biased enforcement procedures that targeted “inner city urban areas” i.e. Black offenders and met internal resistance when he requested equal enforcement of upscale “white areas” and offenders; and

WHEREAS, the incarceration of women, especially women of color, convicted of low-level drug-related offenses, has negatively impacted families, created drug war orphans, and dramatically increased the burden on social services; and

WHEREAS, most drug arrests can be interpreted as a virtual race war to profile, incarcerate and disenfranchise African-Americans; invalidated by its disproportionate and biased enforcement operations and prosecutions; thus treating similarly-situated White Americans much differently; and

¹ Source: Gorvin, Ian. Targeting Blacks: Drug Law Enforcement and Race in the United States. New York: Human Rights Watch, 2008. Print.

WHEREAS, Professor Michelle Alexander, a research expert and author of a profound novel, “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” statistically reveal that “More African Americans are under correctional control today... than were enslaved in 1850” (before the Emancipation Proclamation), due in major part to drug related charges; and

WHEREAS, a global commission consisting of former presidents of several countries, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and other world leaders released a report in early June 2011 encouraging nations to enact “models of legal regulation of drugs to undermine the power of organized crime and safeguard the health and security of their citizens”; and

WHEREAS, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators passed a resolution that both condemned the war on drugs and committed lawmakers to developing alternatives in 2004; and, the National Black Police Association and the California NAACP endorsed the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of California in 2010; and, notable black leaders including Professor Michelle Alexander, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Congressman John Conyers, and Congressman Bobby Scott have criticized our current drug policies; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, which is committed to building the capacity of Black communities in the United States to work for the social, political, economic and cultural uplifting, and enhanced quality of life for all marginalized people, held a press conference on June 17, 2011, to declare a war on the “war on drugs” and to create just and humane alternatives to a failed strategy stating, “Black communities have been a primary target for selective police practices that have resulted in the mass incarceration of millions of Black people. It is time to declare war on the war on drugs and vigorously explore just and humane alternatives to a failed strategy;” and

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, which was founded in 2002 by current and former police officers opposing the war on drugs and today represents 40,000 cops, judges, prosecutors, federal agents, and civilian supporters, and includes African-American criminal justice experts Major Neill Franklin (ret.), Executive Director, and Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg (ret.), Speaker, cites that African-Americans constitute 53.5 percent of all persons who entered prison because of a drug conviction²; that in South Africa under apartheid, internationally condemned as one of the most racist societies in history, 851 black men were imprisoned per 100,000³ but in the United States under prohibition, 4,919 black men are imprisoned per 100,000⁴; and supports a model of

² Id.

³Source: Mauer, Marc. Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration. The Sentencing Project. September 1994.

⁴Source: Harrison, Paige M. & Allen J. Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2004 (Washington, DC: US Dept of Justice, April 2005), p. 2 and p. 11, Table 14.

regulated and controlled distribution of drugs which would lead to fewer incidences of death, disease, crime, and addiction; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- (1) That Blacks in Government calls for a Federal investigation for solutions to eliminate the pretense and continued arrest and incarceration of African-Americans at extraordinarily disparate rates for drug related charges;
- (2) That Blacks in Government will deliver a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States of America Barack Obama and United States Attorney General Eric Holder and request an immediate end to racial bias drug enforcement operations, provide retroactive reduction in sentences for victims and suggest alternatives to incarceration that may in part, include a model to regulate and control the distribution of some drugs.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg

BIG Region XI
Heritage Chapter President
Former BIG National 1st Vice President
June 10, 2011

