



Blacks In Government®

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June 15, 2006

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chapter Presidents
Regional Council Presidents

77
FROM: *Darlene H. Young*
Darlene H. Young
National President

SUBJECT: **2006 National Delegates Assembly Resolutions**

1. As you know this year's National Delegates Assembly will take place at the **New York Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway, New York City, NY on Sunday, August 20, 2006 and Monday, August 21, 2006.**
2. The enclosed nine (9) resolutions were received in the BIG National Office. We are distributing resolutions to each Chapter and Region no later than 60 days prior to the Assembly. Copies of the resolutions have also been posted on the BIG website at <http://www.bignet.org>. The resolutions will also be posted on an electronic billboard screen at the National Delegates Assembly.
3. As a reminder, all regional council presidents were asked to select one National Resolutions Committee member and provide his/her name, telephone number and email address to the Chair of the National Resolutions Committee **no later than Friday, June 9, 2006.** A meeting with the National Resolutions Committee Chair will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel. Please mail or e-mail the name of your National Resolutions Committee member to:

Ms. Ethel Crisp
Chair, National Resolutions Committee
1447 East 83rd Street
Chicago, IL 60619-4629
E-mail: crisp.ethel@epa.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Crisp at 312/353-1442 (o). We look forward to a successful Delegates Assembly.

cc: National Board of Directors
National Executive Committee
Mr. Thomas Walton, Chair
National Delegates Assembly
Ms. Ethel Crisp, Chair
National Resolutions Committee

Resolution - 1

Support for Ms. Bunnatine Hayes Greenhouse

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976 to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues, and

WHEREAS, BIG is the Nation's oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated upon people, and its goals are to promote equity in all aspects of America life, excellence in public service, and opportunity for all Americans, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bunnatine Hayes Greenhouse, a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), was the top procurement official for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for many years.

WHEREAS, Ms. Greenhouse was degraded and humiliated in front of staff officers.

WHEREAS, For three years, she rated near or at the highest level possible in job reviews.

WHEREAS, Ms. Greenhouse job review comments from those years read, "Effective, enthusiastic, energetic, tenacious, selfless...ensured the epitome of fairness in Corps contracting...has ensured professionalism in the acquisition workforce second to none...made the tough decisions that reflect the highest degree of entrepreneurial and critical thought."

WHEREAS, Ms. Greenhouse, who in her duties, followed the regulations to the letter of the law, was classified as a "Whistleblower". In an act of retaliation, which in itself is against the laws, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers demoted her, cut her pay and stripped her of her authority.

BE IT RESOLVED. During the 2006 National Delegates Assembly, we agree to show our support for Ms. Greenhouse, as a public servant.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED. That the ill treatment of "one of our finest" sisters be condemned and the agency encouraged to take immediate corrective action.

FURTHER BE IT ALSO RESOLVED. That within 90 days after this resolution is passed, the National President of Blacks In Government send a letter to the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of the Army, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers requesting enforcement of the Whistleblower's Act on behalf of Ms. Bunnatine Hayes Greenhouse, so that she may continue the outstanding job of overseeing the correct spending of taxpayers dollars.

Submitted by:

Yolanda M. Brown-Harris, Secretary, Region V
Columbus Area Chapter

Resolution - 2

OPM "Final" Regulations Governing Implementation of NOFEAR Act

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975, and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976, now the largest public service employee advocacy organization, dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism while promoting equity and excellence in public service for all Americans.

WHEREAS, the Preamble of this great organization states, in part, "We further believe that Blacks should unite in order to obtain and secure the rights and privileges of full citizenship participation. It is necessary to develop a mechanism for inclusion, growth and power for all present and future Black employees in Federal, State and local governments."

WHEREAS, in 2001, BIG members aggressively carried out this mandate by galvanizing bi-partisan support on Capital Hill, asking Congressional members to support passage of the Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act, and establishing the first Civil Rights Legislation of the 21st Century.

WHEREAS, BIG members were present in May 2002, when President George W. Bush signed into law the NOFEAR Act, which holds Federal agencies accountable through individual budgetary deductions for judgment awards in discrimination matters, and further mandates agencies to report detailed accounts of discrimination information to Congress each year.

WHEREAS, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued its proposed "final" regulations on January 25, 2006, stating it was "considering expanding the range of disciplinary actions reported to include unwritten actions such as oral admonishments" and further invited comments from the public to include organizations such as BIG.

WHEREAS on March 22, 2006, the BIG National Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity (AE/EEO) Chairwoman suggested via email to the BIG National President and National Executive Committee (NEC) that BIG should not make any comments on the OPM proposed regulations by stating the following, "I (surveyed) the National AE/EEO Committee regarding the above regulations. It appears everyone is in agreement with the Federal Register, and believes that there are accountability measures and tracking measures for those managers who are discriminatory to employees. While this is a beginning module, it is believed BIG should not go on record to make (known) that we are in agreement with the No Fear Federal Regulations, but we should be watchful to see how it is implemented throughout the government sector."

WHEREAS, as some NEC members agreed and others vehemently disagreed, on March 27, 2006, the BIG National President emailed members of the NEC, stating the following, “The majority of the NEC has agreed with the AE/EEO Committee and Chair to recommend that BIG not make comments, but that we be watchful to see how it is implemented throughout the government sector.”

WHEREAS, the members of this great organization have a right to know how committed their National Elected officers are to it’s mission and goals and therefore, it is inconceivable that any NEC member would vote to refrain from comments of discontent with regulations opposing the letter and spirit of a law that BIG was instrumental in promulgating thereby, acquiescing to OPM’s plan to allow for “oral admonishments” of federal managers in violation of our civil rights.

WHEREAS, this significant leadership lapse caused a BIG NEC member to seek support from Congressional Black Caucus members, the honorable Shelia Jackson–Lee, Representative from Texas, and Maxine Waters, Representative from California, to request that OPM extend the comment deadline for 30 days, allowing BIG NEC officers time to reconsider fulfilling their mandated purpose.

WHEREAS, after a week of deliberations, OPM granted an extension for public comment and, after receiving concerns from many BIG officers and members regarding not commenting, the BIG National President reversed her original decision, and subsequently made appropriate comments in opposition to the OPM proposal to expand the disciplinary actions to include oral reprimands.

WHEREAS, these facts are evidenced by the email chain and voting that was made a part of the official BIG NEC record (March 06 minutes).

BE IT RESOLVED, henceforth BIG will automatically comment upon OPM requests for comments on implementing Federal regulation’s that directly impacts BIG’s mission and mandate to eradicate discrimination in government and, will notify the entire BIG membership when such comments are made.

BE IT RESOLVED, BIG National Elected officers will never again refrain from taking a proactive stance as part of early intervention on civil rights legislation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, BIG’s National Board of Directors will direct the NEC to develop a strategic plan of advocacy and work closely with BIG members in the NOFEAR Coalition thereby, making certain all BIG members are constantly updated on the NOFEAR Act implementation and training procedures in all Federal agencies and, its impact on BIG members.

Submitted by:

Earl L. Bryers, President, Region IX, Regional Council,

Greater San Diego Chapter

San Diego, California

Resolution - 3

Governance of BIG Resolution's Adopted at Delegate's Assembly

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976 to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues, and

WHEREAS, BIG is the Nation's oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated upon people, and its goals are to promote equity in all aspects of America life, excellence in public service, and opportunity for all Americans, and

WHEREAS, on Monday August 1, 2005 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando Florida, the BIG Delegates at the Delegates Assembly adopted 10 Resolutions hereto titled,

- 1) Privatization of Social Security
- 2) Global War on Terrorism
- 3) Abolishment of the Death Penalty
- 4) Support Human Rights in the Sudan
- 5) Racial Profiling
- 6) Appeal of the U.S.A. Patriot Act
- 7) Suspend Police Abuse in the Use of TASERS
- 8) Commemorative Coin Honoring the Little Rock Nine
- 9) Honoring Seaman Doris Miller for the Congressional Medal of Honor
- 10) Taxation Without Representation

WHEREAS, these Resolutions were voted on in good faith by the governing members this great organization with a full understanding its leadership as established by the BIG National Constitution which states under Article VII Section 2 (C), (3) "Delegates shall vote on all business matters to be decided at the assembly including the election of National officers and the National Nominating and Election Committees".

WHEREAS, the National President who directs other elected officers and appointed committee chairs to carry out this assembly's directives as voted upon, was responsible to fully adhere to the "Be It Resolved" clause in each resolution in a timely and expeditious manner.

WHEREAS, as recently as May 2006, 10 months later this region and others discovered that most if not all of the Resolutions were not addressed as called for in the Resolutions to be addressed and sent to the President of the United

States, the US Congressional members or the Federal Government Cabinet level officials as called for in the be it resolved clauses in the majority of the Resolutions.

WHEREAS, this lack of timely action has clearly devalued the intent and credibility of these Resolutions and has further diminished the power and integrity of this great body to direct it's National leader to carry out the desires of the members of this great assembly who voted in good faith on the business of this great organization.

BE IT RESOLVED, henceforth each and every Resolution passed by this great assembly each year hereafter shall be carried out by the presiding National President accordingly to each noted "***Be It Resolved Clause***" no later than 30 days from the date this great assembly adopts any Resolution.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, if a Resolution cannot be addressed according to the *Be It Resolved Clause* within the 30 day time period, the National President will send a letter to the Board of Directors via the Board Chair explaining said reason and the Board chair will then determine the best course of action making certain the good faith desires of the members of this great body is adhered too in a timely fashion.

Submitted by:

Earl L. Bryers, President, Region IX, Regional Council,

Greater San Diego Chapter

San Diego, California

RESOLUTION - 4

Support Reparations from Aetna Insurance for African Americans

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975, and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976, and now is the Nation's oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization, dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated upon people; and

WHEREAS, BIG believes that Blacks should unite in order to obtain and secure the rights and privileges of full citizenship participation, and to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues; and

WHEREAS, research has determined that several insurers were involved in providing slave insurance policies to slave owners; and

WHEREAS, Aetna was one of the companies involved in underwriting policies in the 1850s; and

WHEREAS, an investor, unsure about purchasing costly human chattel, would gain security from predecessor companies to Aetna Inc., New York Life Insurance Company, and American International Group, which enabled slave owners to work enslaved Africans in ultra hazardous capacities; and

WHEREAS, insured enslaved Africans frequently died horrendous deaths including drownings, and fatal burnings in coal mines; and

WHEREAS, California's Slaveholder Insurance Policies Bill (SB 2199) made it possible to acquire slave insurance policies from Aetna and Aetna predecessor(s) and other insurers doing business in the state of California; and

WHEREAS, Aetna issued a public apology for their role in slavery – but, to date, has not created a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans as they said they would; and

WHEREAS, research and efforts by Deadria Farmer-Paellman with Aetna and ongoing grassroots organizing of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and other reparations activists and supporters served as catalysts for a host of slavery era disclosure bills requiring corporations doing business with local and state municipalities to disclose any ties they or their predecessor(s) have to the institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Blacks in Government (BIG) adopted a resolution in 2004 supporting Congressman Conyers' H.R. 40 Bill to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and to establish a commission to examine the present day impact of slavery and Jim Crow on living African-Americans and to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3.4 Million African Americans, which constitute 17 % of the federal government's workforce, having the economic clout to influence Aetna's behavior to create a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(1) that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters members currently enrolled under an Aetna Healthcare Policy should consider other insurance providers during the 2006-2007 Federal Government Open-Season since Aetna has failed to create a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans as stated; and

(2) that a written copy of this resolution be delivered to Aetna Insurance Headquarters, and that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters petition Aetna Healthcare to follow through with the creation of a restitution Trust Fund to benefit the descendants of enslaved Africans as stated; and

(3) that a Press Release be issued for widespread dissemination announcing the adoption of this Resolution and the recommendation that Aetna Healthcare establish a Trust Fund to assist African American Healthcare Institutions actively working to alleviate the health disparities plaguing African American families and communities;

(4) that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), P.O. Box 90604, Washington, D. C. 20090-0604, for negotiating with Aetna for a resolution to this issue.

Submitted by:

Pat Swailes, Life Member
NOAA Chapter
Silver Spring, Maryland

Resolution - 5

Support the Reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act

WHEREAS, The National Organization of Blacks In Government, was incorporated in 1976 as a non-profit employee advocacy and professional development organization, now seeking to represent 2.5 million current and retired government workers throughout all levels of government to include public and private industry, collaborating on issues of mutual concern and by utilizing collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues; and

WHEREAS, BIG is a member of the National Black Leadership Forum; and on June 1, 2006, the National Black Leadership Forum (BLF) hosted its Speaker Symposium Series, titled "The Importance of the (1965) Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act (VRA)", conducted at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and covered by C-SPAN live; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans heard an esteemed panel of black leaders from the NAACP, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a George Washington University Law Professor, National Black Caucus State Legislators, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and the BIG National 1st Vice President; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed panel introduced its campaign in support of the 1965 VRA, discussing such topics as the expiring provisions, legal impediments, language barriers, the renewing of Section 203, legislative perspectives on current Senate and House Judiciary Committee Hearings, passage of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King VRA Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, the impact on state legislators and local elected officials, voter registration, voting rights, ID requirements, "Stealing Democracy", voter suppression, and civic participation; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees all Americans the right to vote, but the 1965 VRA legislation was created only to addresses specific legislative actions or government practices, that if promulgated can create barriers, and prevent certain individuals from voting for various reasons, thereby, having a premeditated bias or negative effect on the outcome of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, according to the Constitution of Blacks In Government, the Delegates shall vote on all business matters at the Delegates Assembly; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that BIG will mount a national emergency action through its National Executive Committee, and link all VRA information from the NAACP 'Action Alert' through its national web-page to further educate the BIG membership on how to support the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act as soon as possible; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, A written copy of this resolution is to be delivered to the NAACP and the Black Leadership Forum.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National 1st Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter

Resolution - 6

Support Amnesty International 'USA' Initiatives to Explore U.S. Human Rights Violations in Katrina Aftermath

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, Amnesty International (AI) 'USA' (AIUSA) is the American section of AI world wide, with over 1.8 million registered members with a mission to expose and eradicate all forms of human rights violations around the world as enshrined in the United Nations (UN), 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948; and

WHEREAS, in August 2005, during its Delegate's Assembly in Orlando, FL, BIG developed a congruent mission with AIUSA by adopting several resolutions making a connection between civil and human rights violations against people of color in the United States, and both organizational leaders were quoted in several Amnesty world wide publications, supporting the 2005 BIG resolutions; and

WHEREAS, BIG has one known member who died from injuries sustained as a result of Hurricane Katrina and, many other members displaced and effected by the Katrina aftermath; and

WHEREAS, in September 2005, BIG National 1st Vice President, Matthew Fogg, a member of the AIUSA Board of Directors, presented a motion to the AIUSA Directors that Amnesty develop a strategy to implement the Amnesty International Secretary's call for a UN independent commission to investigate the US government response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath; this Board motion passed by a majority vote; and

WHEREAS, On May 19th & 20th 2006, respectively, in New Orleans & in Biloxi, Mississippi, in compliance with the Board motion, AIUSA hosted meetings, involving many grassroots organizations currently supporting victims in the Katrina disaster areas, by offering expert training and framework on human rights advocacy based on the UN Guiding Principle's for Internal Displaced Persons' (IDP); thus, if Internal Displaced victims are not granted certain rights, it may constitute a violation of international human rights; and

WHEREAS, in response to the request by the Amnesty International Secretary in London, England, the director of Amnesty country Sections worldwide, the UN Secretary General assigned a Special Rappateur for Internally Displaced Persons to study the US government response to hurricane Katrina and identify if UN Human Rights violations occurred; the UN Special Rappateur's findings are expected to be reported to the UN Secretary General in June, 2006; and

WHEREAS, AIUSA plans to host a 'Katrina Town Hall meeting' announcing the United Nations (UN) findings and allow collaborative dialogue from victims and organizational experts involved in Katrina disaster which including a request for BIG participation; and

WHEREAS, BIG also plans to host a 'Katrina Town Hall' meeting discussion at its upcoming 28th Annual National Training Conference in New York City; and therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED,

(1) That Blacks In Government will participate in the Amnesty hosted 'Katrina Town Hall' meeting, when scheduled, and offer its leadership, expertise, and human rights advocacy; and

(2), that Blacks In Government will invite members from Amnesty International to participate in the NYC 28th Annual NTC, Katrina Town Hall Meeting; thereby, allowing AIUSA to present its current initiatives to explore Katrina HR violations, and to explain the UN Findings; and

(3) BIG will deliver a copy of this resolution to the Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, the AIUSA Board Chair, the AI International Secretary, and the United Nations IDP Special Rappateur; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that Blacks In Government will fully inform all BIG members and affinity groups of these BIG/AIUSA joint efforts by posting via the National Web-page and in press releases the updated United Nations and Amnesty International Katrina Response reports.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg

BIG National 1st Vice President

Region XI - Ronald H. Brown Chapter

Resolution - 7

The US Led 'War on Drugs' & African-American Human Rights

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' (WOD) with its Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, having an extraordinarily disparate impact on racial minorities evidenced by the disproportionate number of Blacks incarcerated for drug charges and housing of one fourth of the world's entire prison population according to a recent prison report; and

WHEREAS, according to the NAACP Prisoners' Rights Sub-Committee, in 1954, there were 98,000 African-Americans incarcerated, and today more than 900,000 are incarcerated; further stating since the enactment of enhanced drug sentencing guidelines, such as "three strikes, and you are out", 'crack versus powder cocaine' disparate sentencing, and other racial bias enforcement procedures – these are 'the new slavery laws'; and

WHEREAS, The BIG National 1st Vice President, Matthew Fogg, was an intricate part of the WOD in 1989 – 1992, providing supervisory leadership for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Washington Metropolitan Area (joint law enforcement drug & gun interdiction) Task Force; and he personally observed racial bias enforcement procedures that targeted inner city urban areas' black offenders in Baltimore, DC, and Virginia; meeting internal resistance when he requested to target upscale white areas' offenders; and

WHEREAS, Statistics from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reveal that the greatest number of documented crack users are white and were seventy-five percent of those reporting cocaine use in 1991; 15% were black, and 10% Hispanic;

WHEREAS, the incarceration of women, and 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;

WHEAREAS, a May 2006 report by the American Constitution Society for Law & Policy stated that national drug enforcement operations and prosecutions have resulted in the War On Drugs being targeted almost exclusively at inner-city communities of color and overwhelmingly African-Americans.

WHEARAS, All national reports and studies since 1986 to present have concluded that the War On Drugs can literally be interpreted as a virtual race war to incarcerate and disenfranchise-Americans; invalidated by its bias disproportionate and bias enforcement operations and prosecutions; thus treating similarly situated White Americans much differently; and

WHEREAS, Amnesty International, the world's largest Human Rights advocacy group's USA Section overwhelmingly passed a resolution titled, "The waging of a war on illegal drugs, known as the War on Drugs, and its effect on human rights and environmental integrity" at the April 2002 Annual General Meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED

(1) That Blacks In Government does not support US led War On Drugs campaign due to its bias and overwhelming disproportionate impact on African-American economic, social and culture rights;

(2) Will deliver a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States of America, the Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, the US Attorney General; and

(3) Will deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, The US Senate and, House Majority Chairs; President of the NAACP, Black Leadership Forum, National Urban League, and the National Drug Policy Institute

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that BIG will develop a "*Let My People Go*" campaign strategy to educate its membership and further support other organizations that have studied the War On Drugs and expressed a concern over racism and profound disparate impact the War on Drugs has on all African-Americans.

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National 1st Vice President
RXI - Ronald H. Brown Chapter

RESOLUTION - 8

Get Out-to-Vote Campaign to Ensure a Two-Party System in Government in November 2006

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975, and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976, and now is the Nation's oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization, dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated on people; and

WHEREAS, BIG believes that Blacks should unite in order to obtain and secure the rights and privileges of full citizenship participation, and to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues; and

WHEREAS, there is a desperate need in Washington for more oversight, transparency and accountability. The checks and balances of our Constitution do not work when the White House and the Congressional leadership work together to shield government corruption and abuse from scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, the past five years of one-party rule have produced one of the greatest concentrations of power in America's history. The Republican-controlled Congress has ceased to function as an independent branch of government. Genuine legislative debate has vanished. Congressional committees rarely exercise their oversight responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of a one-party rule have been disastrous. Congress never held hearings that challenged the White House's distortion of intelligence in its rush to war in Iraq. Congress never questioned the President's reckless fiscal policies. Congress never protested when Administration cronies were installed as heads of essential federal agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, the disappearance of oversight and accountability has been an invitation to corruption. A growing list of Washington Republicans, from lobbyists to members of Congress to the Vice President's chief of staff, are either under indictment or under investigation for shakedowns, bribery and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, fortunately, there is an agenda that will promote core American values and revive the nation's faith in government. Democrats on the House Committee on Government Reform have introduced legislation that would restore open government, block political cronies from being appointed to essential public health and safety positions, prohibit government spending on covert propaganda and stop the growing politicization of science; and

WHEREAS, the Democrats' Hurricane Katrina Accountability and Contracting Reform Act would ban "monopoly contracts" used to shield politically well-connected companies from price competition in government contracts, and it would stop the revolving door between government and industry that has created billions in wasteful spending; and

WHEREAS, the Democrats' Open Government bill would bring back the old-fashioned idea that government information belongs to the public; it would halt the proliferation of pseudo-classifications like "For Official Use Only" and "Sensitive but Unclassified" that the Bush Administration has used to hide embarrassing facts; and

WHEREAS, the public has heard virtually nothing about the aforementioned proposals as a result of the Republicans running Congress have kept them bottled up so effectively that not one single piece of the Democratic good-government agenda has been brought up for a vote in the House; and

WHEREAS, while each week brings to light new evidence of corruption, subterfuge and wasteful spending, there are many well-developed proposals for change waiting for a fair chance to be enacted. They will get that fair chance if Americans elect a two-party Government in 2006 and send a signal that they want honesty and accountability restored to government; and

WHEREAS, a Democratic Congress would put Democrats in key positions as the Majority Chair in key committees, such as Congressman John Conyers, as Majority Chair of the Judiciary Committee where he could bring H.R. 40 – "Feasibility Study for Reparations for African Americans" in front of the Committee to be voted on as well as issues concerning Racial Profiling and other issues concerning Americans, especially African Americans. A Democratic Congress would also put Congressman Charles B. Rangel in charge of the powerful Ways and Means Committee as Majority Chair.

Therefore, be it resolved:

(1) that Blacks In Government Members should actively participate in getting every known relative, friend, neighbor, and acquaintance to take advantage of their civic duty and vote because it will make a difference in their lives and the lives of their love ones;

(2) that Community grassroots campaigns be established in communities across the Nation by BIG Members to ensure all unregistered voters are registered and registered voters exercise their rights;

(3) that voting is a constitutional right and a civic obligation. Project BIG VOTE is Blacks In Government's effort to promote voting and voter education, mobilization and transportation;

(4) that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapter members decree BIG VOTE to spearhead the efforts stated above and report back to BIG a plan of implementation within two weeks of the NTC, to make sure the get out-to-vote campaign is pushed as never before for the Election in November 2006.

Submitted by:

Pat Swailes, Life Member
NOAA Chapter
Silver Spring, Maryland

Resolution - 9

Support for an Executive Order to be Decreed by President Bush for the “Study of Reparations for African Americans”

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975, and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976, and now is the Nation’s oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization, dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated upon people; and

WHEREAS, BIG believes that Blacks should unite in order to obtain and secure the rights and privileges of full citizenship participation, and to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues; and

WHEREAS, a formal study has never been performed by the Federal Government for African Americans, "acknowledging the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery in the United States from 1619 to the present day," for the purpose of submitting a report to Congress for further action and consideration with respect to slavery’s effects on African American lives, economics, and politics; and

WHEREAS, the very buildings including the U.S. Capitol, where laws are made, and the White House, where the Nation is governed, were built by enslaved Africans and their descendants without compensation; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the Civil War, the plan for the economic redistribution of land and resources on behalf of the former slaves of the Confederacy was never enacted; and

WHEREAS, the failure to distribute land prevented newly freed Blacks from achieving true autonomy and made their civil and political rights all but meaningless; and

WHEREAS, conditions comparable to "economic depression" continue even today for millions of African Americans in communities where unemployment often exceeds 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, these disparate conditions became transparent with the effects of Katrina on African Americans in New Orleans, Louisiana who experienced all types of atrocities due to the lack of resources needed to escape the devastation that followed the hurricane; and

WHEREAS, many African Americans in the Nation live under similar disparate conditions even though their plight has not been exposed by an act of nature; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs to address its own wrongs before it tries to police other countries allegedly guilty of the mistreatment of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, after 911 discussions about the evils of terrorism and the acts of terrorism being highlighted in the media around the world resembled the terrorist acts that African Americans suffered from other Americans, specifically the Ku Klux Klan, and other white supremacist individuals and organizations, after emancipation and even until present times; and

WHEREAS, in order to act in one accord as a nation, this flaw in the United States' history against its African American citizens needs to be addressed; and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Conyers, Jr. has introduced H.R. 40 since 1989, and every year since that time, defining the criteria for the study; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(1) that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters support an Executive Order for the study of reparations for African Americans;

(2) that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters petition the President to issue an Executive Order establishing a commission to study the affect of slavery on Africans and their descendants;

(3) that a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States.

Submitted by:

Pat Swailes, Life Member
NOAA Chapter
Silver Spring, Maryland