NAACP EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
CALL TO ACTION - GULF OIL DISASTER
May 15, 2010

WHEREAS, the British Petroleum Horizon Oil Rig destruction has resulted in over 200,000 gallons of oil per day being released into the Gulf of Mexico since April 20, 2010 creating a massive oil slick; and

WHEREAS, little oil has reached land at this point but shifts in wind speed and direction could propel the oil slick toward populated areas along the gulf coast and east coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, several efforts to stop the oil leak including the placement of a giant oil containment box over the leak has not been successful; and

WHEREAS, this oil disaster will result in a negative impact on the environment, economics, health, and the climate; and

WHEREAS, whenever a disaster strikes like hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the NAACP is concerned with disparate treatment of African Americans and other minorities, in ensuring that benefits are provided equally and fairly through the process; and

WHEREAS, supplemental but related to the oil drilling disaster, climate change has been proven to be linked to an increase in severe weather events as we've seen in the recent surge in tornados and flooding and of course hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and thus NAACP must establish policies, systems and protocols to address civil and human rights issues that are always in peril during disasters in general; and

WHEREAS, the impacted areas consist of many African Americans and other minorities both individually and business owners;

WHEREAS, the impact of this disaster will be great and it is imperative that the NAACP stands at the forefront of response to disaster in the protection of civil rights of African Americans and other minorities; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Resolution on Climate Change of 2009 specifically references shifting away from our current energy policy, which relies heavily on fossil fuels such as oil, and calls for NAACP leadership in advancing a new energy economy which includes energy alternatives that are less harmful to our communities and our environment; and

WHEREAS, it is important that NAACP Units in the impacted areas are provided with staff support in order to build their capacities to provide leadership to the impacted communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the NAACP to continue documenting, monitoring and reporting on the activities of government and private industry in order to ensure that the rights of African Americans and minority citizens are not violated; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to continue coordinating all NAACP Units in the impacted area to ensure that the NAACP speaks with one voice; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP express great concerns regarding the Horizon Oil Spill Disaster taking place in the Gulf of Mexico; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP Board of Directors hereby request that the President & CEO takes any and all steps necessary to get NAACP staff involved n order to monitor the civil rights impact of the oil spill disaster on the people, climate/environment, health, economics and wild life of the impacted states and take whatever steps he deems necessary to ensure that the civil rights of African Americans and other minority citizens are not violated;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP national office provide support to local NAACP Units to help build capacity in order to address the advocacy needs resulting from this disaster including but not limited to filing of applications to qualify the NAACP as first responder with the United States Department of Homeland Security.