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**DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN
NAACP HOUSTON BRANCH
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Participants: Willie Allen, Sharon Brown, Anthony Cavender, Ralph Cooper, Rodney Cooper, Paul R. Davidson, Arthur Fuller, Greg Fulton, Aretha Grubbs, Darryl Harper, Clarence Holliday, John B. Jackson, Valerie James, Ruth Jefferson, Carolyn Johnson, LaShondra Jones, W. Clyde Lemon, Adolph Peugh, Denice Pringle, Monique Rodriguez, Nancy Sauer, Brian Seymour, Detra Sneed, Mea Williams, Rich Young

Charge 1

Seek to establish a working relationship with those agencies in government (national, state, and local) having responsibility in the affairs of the members of the various Armed Services and to see that the programs to which they are responsible are administered fairly and justly to members of the minority community.

It is duly noted that the Houston Metropolitan area has in excess of approximately 600,000 veterans. Therefore upon approval of the Strategic Plan by the Houston Branch NAACP the committee shall take steps to create a master list of agencies that have been successful at serving all veterans, more especially minority veterans. The committee shall make an effort to verify services rendered. Also, the committee shall establish a list of staff members of local; state, and federal officials who are responsible for military and veteran affairs. The list shall be updated annually by way of a survey provided to the elected official.

Charge 2

Study conditions pertaining to veterans and members of the military service and their dependents and/or survivors in the community.

The committee shall create a study plan for veterans, active military, dependents and survivors in the community. The committee shall seek to enlist the assistance of current NAACP members, university faculty and students with an interest in military affairs and veterans. The study shall consider population size and demographics, key partners, and outreach.

At a minimum the study shall evaluate the following areas: housing, incarceration, counseling, employment, family issues, medical health care, VA service connection, training in employment skills, felony convictions, Resource and Referral Team, resource guides, education eligibility and requirements, legal system (to include veteran treatment courts), and NAACP complaint process.

Charge 3

Serve as a center of information on matters affecting the members of the active military, reserves, and state National Guard and veterans.

The committee shall identify veteran agencies and resources in and around the Houston Metropolitan area that delivers services to the military, veterans and their families. The committee with the approval

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of the NAACP Houston Branch shall create access to one central website or link to download collaborated resources with contact information. The committee will provide information to resource centers, media outlets, including social media, etc. on projects that impact veterans and their families. Along with the above the committee shall undertake and/or recommend marketing opportunities.

Charge 4

Maintain a repository of materials, information, and forms to be used in assisting veterans and/or dependents of veterans and military personnel with their problems

The committee shall ensure access that is electronic or paper is available at the NAACP Houston Branch to the following: Veterans Benefits Manual, Houston Bar Association reference material related to veterans, American Bar Association Service Member's Civil Relief Act; Federal Tort Claims Act, and various military justice school material.

Charge 5

Receive and act on all complaints relative to acts of discrimination on accounts of race, color, creed or denial of benefits to which they are entitled because of discrimination.

This committee will create a process for receiving and follow up on all complaints relative to acts of discrimination or denial of benefits based up perceived discrimination. In addition, this committee when needed will seek to help resolve the complaint and follow up on on all inquiries and will serve as a hub for information (available upon request) for community resources. This task includes veteran status.

Charge 6

Prepare a quarterly report on the committee activities to be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Branch and the National Director of Armed Services and Veterans Affairs.

At its core, this committee will provide the Executive Committee and National Director with comprehensive information gleaned from Team Members leading Charges 1 – 5. For the initial report, the information will be primarily descriptive, with subsequent reports further detailing the implementation and outcomes of the goals set by each of the Charges.

A. First objective will be to describe and report on the evolution of the committee.

B. Establish parameters based on communications from Charges 1 – 5. This information will include, but is not limited to:

1. Capture/categorize complaints of service members.
2. Methods/techniques for redress of complaints.
3. Discrimination: categorization of, persons most likely impacted, etc.
4. Identification of selected areas affecting/contributing to marginalization
5. Means of redress/solution/implementation

C. The committee will be provided with information from the committees identifying those areas specific to their Charge for report and, possibly, address questions proposed by this committee or others to be addressed.

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