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***** STATEMENT****

San Francisco Human Rights Commission Commends NAACP on Passing of Resolution in Support of Same Sex Marriage as a Civil Right

San Francisco, CA- The San Francisco Human Rights Commission is praising the NAACP for what many are calling another significant milestone in the fight for marriage equality. This past weekend the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) passed a resolution supporting marriage equality. At a meeting of the 103-year old civil rights group’s board of directors, the organization voted to support marriage equality as a continuation of its historic commitment to equal protection under the law. The NAACP’s resolution comes on the heels of President Barack Obama’s recent endorsement of the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) stated, “The NAACP continues to play an essential and integral role in our country toward protecting and safeguarding the fundamental civil rights for all people. This action taken by the NAACP represents a unified front that supports Dr. King’s message that an injustice for one [in this case a community of people] is an injustice for all and such inequality has no place in our society as well defined by the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution. The HRC lauds this action by the NAACP and looks forward to this partnership which is so vital for any continued gains in this on-going civil rights struggle.”

The NAACP has addressed civil rights with regard to marriage since Loving v. Virginia declared anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional in 1967. In recent years the NAACP has taken public positions against state and federal efforts to ban the rights and privileges for LGBT citizens, including strong opposition to Proposition 8 in California, the Defense of Marriage Act, and most recently, North Carolina’s Amendment 1, which changed the state constitution’s to prohibit same sex marriage.

The Human Rights Commission works to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect and promote human rights for all people. The Human Rights Commission was established in 1964 by City Ordinance and became a Charter Commission in 1990.

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