

*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

# 55<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL *Convention*



## Proposed Resolutions for Presentation

National Social Action Commission  
November 19-22, 2021  
Georgia World Congress Center



## Resolutions for Presentation

The Resolutions Committee (a subcommittee of the Social Action Commission) reviewed all resolutions submitted by chapters, state and regional social action committees by the deadline date. In addition to the proposed resolutions from Chapters, input was received from National Officers, Committees and Task Forces, members of the Social Action Commission and national staff. The Committee deliberated, edited and drafted the proposed resolutions.

## Report for Resolutions

Proposed resolutions shall be reported to the convention by the Resolutions Committee on *Monday, November 22, 2021, during Plenary Session VIII*, at which time all voting on the resolutions will take place. Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed resolutions, recommend changes and, if necessary, proposed additional resolutions in critical issue areas.



## **Proposed Resolutions for the 55<sup>th</sup> National Convention (2021)**

<b>I. CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>5</b>
△ END RACE-BASED HAIR DISCRIMINATION / CROWN ACT	
△ CALL FOR FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION	
△ SUPPORT REPARATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS	
△ RETENTION OF POLICE MISCONDUCT RECORDS	
△ END PRISON GERRYMANDERING	
<b>II. CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b>	<b>10</b>
△ ESTABLISH OFFICE(S) OF INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITORING	
△ SUPPORT AUTOMATIC EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS	
△ ADJUST THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES	
<b>III. ECONOMICS</b>	<b>13</b>
△ ADDRESSING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN WEALTH GAP	
△ ENHANCING PROTECTION AGAINST ONLINE PAYDAY LOAN LENDERS	
△ CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND EXPAND ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET IN BLACK COMMUNITY	
△ ENHANCE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	
△ MITIGATE THE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT LOAN DEBT CRISIS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY	
△ ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AND RACIAL DISPARITIES	
△ ADDRESSING DEED LARCENY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY	
△ RAISE AWARENESS OF HOMELESSNESS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	
<b>IV. EDUCATION</b>	<b>22</b>
△ AFFIRM CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND COMBAT LEGISLATIVE ATTACKS AGAINST ITS MERIT	
△ CLOSE THE EDUCATIONAL GAP DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR BLACK STUDENTS	
<b>V. ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<b>23</b>
△ COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM AND CLIMATE INJUSTICE	



**Proposed Resolutions for the 55<sup>th</sup> National Convention (2021) Continued**

**VI. HEALTH**

**24**

- ▲ ELIMINATE SALES TAX ON FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**
- ▲ INCREASE RESEARCH FUNDING TO END ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**
- ▲ RAISE AWARENESS TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY IN MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES WHILE RESPONDING TO RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**
- ▲ CALL FOR MANDATORY IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**
- ▲ CREATE ACCESS TO FOOD SECURITY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**
- ▲ RAISE AWARENESS AND TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS IN BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**VII. INTERNATIONAL**

**30**

- ▲ JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT FROM JANUARY 1, 2015, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024**
- ▲ ADVANCE THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND PUBLIC LIFE**
- ▲ SUPPORT AND AFFIRM THE INTERNATIONAL ACT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**
- ▲ ERADICATE INTERNATIONAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, PALESTINE, TIGRAY**
- ▲ CALL TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**
- ▲ SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWS AND STANDARDS AS THE MANDATORY GUIDE TO ESTABLISH USE OF FORCE STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES**

**VII. VOTING RIGHTS/ELECTIONS**

**36**

- ▲ AMEND THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN CITIZENS UNITED AND TO CALL FOR THE PASSAGE FOR HR1 AND SR 1 TO RESTORE ETHICAL CAMPAIGN FINANCING LAWS**

**VIII. COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

**37**

- ▲ COMMEMORATION OF SOROR NOMZAMO WINIFRED ZANYIWE MADIKIZELA MANDELA**
- ▲ COMMENDING THE HONORABLE MARCIA L. FUDGE ON HER APPOINTMENT TO SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

**4**



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **END RACE-BASED HAIR DISCRIMINATION / CROWN ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Black women are 3.4x more likely to have their hair viewed as unprofessional and as such, receive disparate treatment in the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women are 1.5x more likely to be sent home from work because of their hair; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women are 83% more likely to be judged on her looks than other women; and

**WHEREAS**, Black girls and boys are often singled out in schools to change or cut their hair in order to participate in various school and sports activities with no regard to the potential mental anxiety and or humiliation the children may suffer; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no existing federal law that prohibits hair discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the CROWN (Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) Act extends statutory protection to race-based discrimination practices involving hair texture and protective styles that include Bantu knots, braids, locks, and twists in not only the workplace but schools as well; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to The CROWN Coalition (Dove, National Urban League, Color of Change, and Western Center on Law & Poverty), the CROWN Act makes racial discrimination based on hair illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, the CROWN Act has currently passed in the State Legislatures of California, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Colorado, Washington, Maryland, Nevada, Connecticut, Nebraska, and New Mexico, and has been introduced in the both the 116th and 117th sessions of Congress respectively for passage.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate and support passage of The CROWN Act in order to extend federal statutory protection against race-based discriminatory practices involving hair texture and protective styles that include Bantu knots, braids, locks, and twists in all workplaces and schools throughout the entire country; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. through its chapters will continue to advocate and support passage of The Crown Act by the end of 2024 in any state in which it is not now current law.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **CALL FOR FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, the National Vigilance Committee (the Committee) was appointed by the 3rd National President Ethel Lamay Calimese to “be the mouthpiece of the body to do battle for racial justice” to make Delta's voice heard on a wide range of issues affecting the “Negro race”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee's primary objective was to persuade the federal government to enact anti-lynching legislation. Under the leadership of 7th National President Vivian Osbourne Marsh, Deltas lobbied in Washington DC in support of the anti-lynching bill; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee addressed lynching as the most brutal in the long list of inhumanities against the “American Negro”, and urged lynching be investigated & Federal Anti-Lynching laws be passed in Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, lynching is a form of racial terrorism used to maintain white supremacy, establish political, social, and economic dominance, suppress the African American vote, punish perceived violations of customs (later to become Jim Crow laws), and instill an overwhelming sense of fear and terror in the black community; and

**WHEREAS**, at least 4,084 African American people were reported lynched in the United States between 1877 and 1950, and ninety-nine percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State or local officials; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress during the first half of the 20th century, and three passed the House and on all three occasions, opponents argued States’ rights and used the filibuster to block the Senate from voting on the measures. Additionally, seven presidents between 1890 and 1952 petitioned Congress to pass a federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, the Senate passed a resolution apologizing for the Senate’s failure to enact anti-lynching legislation as a federal crime. In 2018, the Senate voted unanimously to pass the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018. This legislation was later reintroduced in the Senate as the Emmet Till Anti-Lynching Act but failed to pass by unanimous consent due to Senator Rand Paul’s opposition of the bill’s language.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will continue the work started by the National Vigilance Committee and advocate for and support the passage of the Emmet Till Anti-Lynching Act to finally make lynching a federal crime.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **SUPPORT REPARATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**WHEREAS**, the colonists, and thereafter the United States government, facilitated the kidnapping, shipment and brutal imposition of enslavement of 10 million Africans for centuries, subjecting the enslaved and their descendants to systematic torture, immiseration, plunder, exploitation and death without restitution, compensation or repair; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that cumulative hours of uncompensated labor under slavery followed by Jim Crow totals at least 410 billion hours; that land theft, lynching, massacres, segregation, discrimination, redlining and political subjugation has yielded persistent structural inequalities in wealth, rights and outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the atrocities of slavery were not isolated occurrences, but mass dehumanization codified in the Constitution. The government's role in supporting the institution of slavery and the pervasive discrimination against Black people that it perpetuated must be formally acknowledged and redressed; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of lost wages from slavery and discrimination is \$12-18 trillion dollars, resulting in a wealth deficit that generations and millions of black families have never been able to overcome. 12 million acres (98%) of black farmland and other real estate has been lost, and the black family currently being statistically on track to having almost 0% household wealth; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of reparations is about the process of repairing and restoring after centuries of enslavement and discrimination. Efforts to thrive without reparations have yielded black household incomes being half or less than half of white households; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 40 was first introduced in Congress in 1989. In 2019, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (Texas) reintroduced it as the "Commission to Study and Develop reparations Proposals for African Americans Act", noting that in the 30 years since it was first introduced, more than enough evidence had been brought, to warrant a commission. Today, the bill has gathered support from more than 200 co-sponsors and has its greatest chance of passing to date.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, urges each chapter to organize annual workshops, forums and/or public awareness campaigns in open support for reparations to African Americans for slavery and oppression; disseminating facts about the economic legacy of slavery and racial discrimination and the requirements for repair; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, supports H.R. 40 The Commission to Study and Develop reparation Proposals for African Americans Act and will make an annual public statement about its support and why, until H.R. 40 passes; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, urges coordination in the form of annual training, information and resource sharing, and an annual pro-reparations event with like-minded credible organizations that support reparations for African Americans.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **RETENTION OF POLICE MISCONDUCT RECORDS**

**WHEREAS**, the preservation of police misconduct records would save money and provide greater accountability and transparency in police departments and agencies misconduct cases; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the right of the public to access information about its government, and specifically, allegations of misconduct made against police officers and how those allegations are handled by Police Internal Affairs Divisions, Review Boards or other similar investigative entities; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with The Center on Wrongful Convictions, withholding information about police misconduct makes communities less safe by diminishing public trust in law enforcement, straining community-police relations; and

**WHEREAS**, at least twenty states and the District of Columbia still refuse to disclose such records, with another fifteen states permitting only limited disclosure; and

**WHEREAS**, police union contracts in many cities require that officer disciplinary records be erased after a set time period, sometimes as short as six months, compounding the problem; and

**WHEREAS**, police misconduct is also identified as the leading factor in wrongful convictions, costing taxpayers for the incarceration of the wrongfully convicted and when compensation is sought upon their release; and

**WHEREAS**, less than 10% of officers in most police forces get investigated for misconduct although some officers are consistently under investigation. One study revealed that nearly 2,500 officers had been investigated on 10 or more charges, and 20 officers faced 100 or more allegations yet kept their badge for years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will advocate and support the passage of federal legislation and/or the adoption of agency procedures that require all police departments and or policing agencies throughout the United States, and around the world as applicable, to maintain all public and nonpublic records relating to complaints, investigations, and adjudications of police misconduct be permanently retained and may not be destroyed.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **END PRISON GERRYMANDERING**

**WHEREAS**, the Census Bureau, state, and local governments have traditionally counted incarcerated individuals as residents of the areas of imprisonment, rather than in their home communities; resulting in the unequal distribution of resources in other communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the framers of the Constitution of the United States chose population to be the basis for sharing political power by stating, “Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers...”

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the United States requires state and local governments to redraw legislative districts each decade on the basis of population, so as to ensure each resident the same access to government; and

**WHEREAS**, the results of the Census help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding, including grants and support to states, counties and communities allocated every year for the next decade; and

**WHEREAS**, rural areas house 40% of the country’s prison populations which consist of black and Latino prisoners, predominately from urban areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the miscount of incarcerated people misrepresents demographic makeup and skews its system of legislative representation, as well as allocation of resources; disproportionately denying minority communities equal representation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for the U.S. Congress to pass a law that will require the Census Bureau to count incarcerated persons in their pre-incarceration residence for the 2030 and all subsequent Census; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all chapters will advocate for the repeal of any state law or constitutional amendment that requires incarcerated persons to be counted in the city where their prison is located for state legislative districting.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ESTABLISH OFFICE(S) OF INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITORING**

**WHEREAS**, in our nation's history, the government, including law enforcement has condoned wrongful actions against African American citizens which served to deprive them of their constitutional rights and liberties solely on the basis of their color without recourse; and

**WHEREAS**, presently the government's actions concerning the deaths of African Americans such as George Floyd, Terrance Crutcher, Brianna Taylor, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland and many more at the hands of our police continue to occur without proper redress. There is evidence that police training and tools are prone to look at people of color as dangerous, extremely violent, and presumptively guilty. According to the NAACP, Black people make up “13.4% of the population but make up 22% of fatal police shootings”; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that the stated goal of law enforcement is to “protect and serve”. However, unfortunately that objective has been compromised by the biased actions of improperly trained law enforcement personnel, thereby leading to the community distrust of the entire law enforcement system by Black Americans and other minorities”; statistics indicated that 65% of Black adults have felt targeted because of their race; and.

**WHEREAS**, we need objective, unbiased oversight and independent transparent review of alleged misconduct by police officers, conducted by respected community members unaffiliated with law enforcement. Moreover, said members should be charged with educating the community of its findings in addition to providing recommendations to affirm, change, or improve policies and training.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, through its chapters will identify whether an Office of Independent Monitor is warranted within their geographic region and if so, contact the relevant government official(s) to advocate for the establishment of said office.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, through its chapters should advocate for and support the establishment of an Office of Independent Monitor in jurisdictions where one does not exist and more specifically in jurisdictions 1) where the number of traffic stops for people of color exceeds the percentage of people of color within that jurisdiction; 2) the arrest rate for people of color exceeds the percentage of people of color within its given boundaries; and 3) there has been a public outcry or lawsuit(s) filed within the jurisdiction as a result of police brutality within the last two years.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **SUPPORT AUTOMATIC EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS**

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 Americans have some type of criminal record and a criminal conviction can be a barrier to employment, housing, education, voting and civic engagement. While automatic expungements would support individuals who have criminal records with re-entry to society, individuals who may be eligible for expungements are unable to have their criminal records cleared because of the associated costs and complexity of the process; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs associated with petitioning the court for expungement of criminal records, range from \$400 - \$1000 of court costs and \$1000 • \$4000 to retain a lawyer, can reduce the number of individuals who are eligible to petition the court for expungement of their criminal record; and

**WHEREAS**, the criminal legal system disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly Black Americans. The cost of expungement may be out of reach for individuals that lack resources, specifically for people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans are more likely than White Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, are more likely to experience lengthy prison sentence. Moreover, African American men with a felony conviction are least likely of any demographic to receive job offers; and

**WHEREAS**, in data collected by the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), 93% of HR Professionals claim their organization has a position on hiring employees with criminal records. However, 32% of HR Professionals report that their organization chooses to not have an HR policy on the hiring of individuals with criminal records; and

**WHEREAS**, although forty-five states have some form of misdemeanor and/or felony relief, only seventeen states have processes in place to automatically enact relief and bypass a court petition which can be lengthy and include court costs and filing fees.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for the automatic expungement of individuals' criminal records who are eligible to have their criminal record cleared according to their state law, or the laws in the country in which the chapter resides.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ADJUST THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. serves as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with Special Consultative Status for the United Nations (UN), which has defined youth as between 15 and 24 years of age since 2002, and the United States (US) has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, but not had any President send it for ratification by the US Senate since 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 more than half of states in the United States have no minimum age for criminal responsibility for either the juvenile or criminal justice systems; and

**WHEREAS**, adolescent brain research has confirmed that the human brain continues to develop until a person's mid-20s and that it is not until the mid-20s that human brains more effectively have judgment, impulse control, or ability to assess risks; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, over 200,000 youth under age 15 were arrested in the US (making up 30% the total youth arrests) and research studies show that many youths who have offenses have witnessed family or community violence, and that are they are more likely to be victims of abuse and/or neglect than youth who have never been arrested; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention and non-interventionist research studies have indicated that limiting justice-involvement for youth who really need behavioral health services saves money and increases public safety by reducing the likelihood for future offending as youth and as adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the racial breakdown for juvenile arrests for all youth under age 18 in 2019 was 63% White, 34% Black, and 3% other, indicating that racial and ethnic disparities among justice involved youth of all ages –but especially among younger youth—persist despite the number of juvenile arrests reaching a new low (falling 67% since 2006); and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta has already resolved its recommitment to end police violence and to ending mass incarceration, specifically by raising awareness of the school-to prison pipeline and its effects on the Black family.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will advocate for national legislation to raise the minimum age to 14 for criminal responsibility for all US juvenile and criminal justice system jurisdictions; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate and support the ratification and adoption process of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ADDRESSING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN WEALTH GAP**

**WHEREAS**, it has been over 50 years since the passage of landmark civil rights legislation outlawing discrimination based on race, gender, religion and national origin, data reveals that economic disparities based on race persist. The median White household has a net worth 10 times that of the median African American household; and

**WHEREAS**, the racial wealth gap is the consequence of decades of inequality and discrimination stemming from the system of chattel slavery, mandated segregation, discrimination in education, exclusion from public programs that promoted home ownership and limited access to employment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Social Security Act of 1935 excluded agricultural and domestic workers, which was 65 percent of the African American workforce; racism and discrimination in state-controlled G.I. Bill programs excluded many Black veterans in the South from seeking higher education and getting access to home loans; and the Federal Housing Administration, established in 1934, designed and implemented a nationwide system of racial classification in individual neighborhoods known as redlining, the vestiges of which are under-invested, under-resourced and low opportunity in Black neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, because of structural, institutional and systemic racism in policies and practices, African Americans have not been able to accumulate or pass on wealth. The Black-White racial wealth gap is a structural, policy-created problem, and it will require structural, policy-driven solutions.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will advocate for increased funding in infrastructure, business development and green spaces in racially and economically isolated communities, in addition to increasing the federal minimum wage and cancelling student loan debt which disproportionately affects African Americans and the Social Action Commission will provide an update on advocacy efforts during the 2023 and 2024 Delta Days at the Nation's Capital and the 2023 National Convention; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, through its chapters will advocate for policy solutions that address historic discriminatory and exploitive policies that fueled the racial gap and continue to strip wealth from communities of color; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will advocate for improving data collection on race and wealth with data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, in addition to adopting a racial equity framework or lens to assess the current and past impact of public policy on the racial wealth gap. The Sorority will further advocate for the use of project surveys such as the National Asset Scorecard for Communities of Color (NASCC) by the Census Bureau or the Federal Reserve System, providing data on debt and assets disaggregated by race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, etc., establishing a benchmark to result in better advocacy, research and policy solutions to address and undo the wealth gap. The Social Action Commission will provide an update at the 2023 National Convention on its reduction of the wealth-gap advocacy.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ENHANCING PROTECTION AGAINST ONLINE PAYDAY LOAN LENDERS**

**WHEREAS**, according to a report by the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, nearly 12 million Americans take a payday loan each year, with the typical borrower earning just \$30,000 annually according to the Center for Financial Services Innovation, while payday loan lenders earn \$9 billion a year in fees; and

**WHEREAS**, payday loans are advertised as being helpful for unexpected or emergency expenses, 7 in 10 borrowers use them for regular, recurring expenses such as rent and utilities and these loans average annual interest is in the amount of 391percent; and,

**WHEREAS**, some online payday loans that originate in the United States are held by companies that have partnered with sovereign nations, most notably Tribal Nations, or are wholly owned by Tribal Nations, which do not adhere to Federal or State banking laws, and are able to charge interest rates over 300%; and

**WHEREAS**, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau filed a lawsuit against four tribal entities (the “Tribal Defendants”), asserting violations under the **Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010** and the Truth in Lending Act; however, the lawsuit (Consumer Financial Protection Bureau *v.* Golden Valley Lending, Inc.,) was dismissed without prejudice by CFPB before judgment was rendered on whether or not the tribal entities were bound to adhere to the protections afforded in the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2020 and the Truth in Lending Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in 2020 also eliminated its 2017 payday loan rule’s central consumer protection measure, its ability-to-repay provision, which curbed unaffordable loan terms by requiring lenders to determine a borrower’s capacity for repaying loans all at once before granting a loan further opening the door for predatory actions by payday lenders.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will support any legislation that discourages use in disadvantaged populations and the initiation of the rulemaking process to reinstate the 2017 payday loan rule’s ability to pay provision; and.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Social Action Commission will provide state social action coordinators with information regarding their state’s statute related to payday lending and encourage states to advocate for laws like Colorado’s Payday Lending Reform (2010), Ohio’s Fairness in Lending Act (2018), Virginia’s *Fairness in Lending Act of 2020* or Hawaii’s *Payday Lending Reform in 2021*; and each state will provide to the Social Action Commission an update on their before the 2022 Regional Conventions and the 2023 Delta Days at the Nation’s Capital.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND EXPAND ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET IN BLACK COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, broadband is different from dial-up internet service since it provides a higher-speed of data transmission which permits the highest quality of internet services, such as videoconferencing for telehealth, that require large amounts of data transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, 42 million Americans lack high-speed internet access, including nearly 17 million school children who lack internet access at home creating a nationwide Homework Gap that left unsolved could be become an opportunity gap, and many of these Americans live in underserved, rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, even in areas where broadband is available, approximately 100 million Americans still do not subscribe due to concerns over affordability as well as education on the service; and

**WHEREAS**, many Americans in rural and remote regions rely on broadband to connect to services and opportunities that are in physically distant locations, and many jobs, schools, healthcare services, and civic engagement activities are shifting to virtual environments, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) top priority for the past four years has been closing the digital divide, recognizing that high-speed broadband and the associated digital opportunity is increasingly essential to innovation, economic opportunity, education, health care, and civic engagement in today's modern society; and

**WHEREAS**, a paradigm shift in how Americans rely on the internet has occurred due to COVID-19, which makes addressing these disparities more urgent; having access to broadband is critical to quality of life and economic recovery since 74% of businesses plan to permanently shift to more remote work post-COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, America is facing a digital chasm, a cluster of digital divides that challenge our ability to connect rural homes to broadband, provide affordable service for low-income families, permit people to gain skills to enter the workforce, grant access to patients relying on telehealth, educate students with online instruction, and allow all Americans to fully participate in the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, this measure solidifies Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s commitment to eliminating the digital divide in rural and low-income communities as evidenced by our previous resolutions:

- Improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Resources for Educational Advancement (2010)
- Disparities in Technological Resources in American Schools (2015)
- Support for Rural and Underserved Populations (2015)
- The Development of Telecommunications Technology Among Blacks (1994)
- Access to the Information Highway (1998).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will: 1) advocate to change the Federal Communications Commission's broadband definition from internet service delivered at 25/3 Mbps to internet service delivered via fiber-optic cable at 250/250 Mbps and to create high-performance fiber-optic broadband networks with a minimum of 250 Mbps; and

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that the Sorority will advocate with federal government agencies to help rural communities without broadband access to build their own broadband plan and to encourage new competitive entrants, such as rural electric cooperatives; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the Sorority will advocate for the establishment of a federal targeted subsidy for fixed-broadband subscriptions to ensure low-income families have broadband access.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ENHANCE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected black-owned ventures, such as beauty salons, taxi services and day-care centers, that closed or were on the brink of closing due to precipitous drops in demand; and

**WHEREAS**, between February and April of 2020, the number of black-owned businesses declined more than 40%, the largest drop across any ethnic group; and

**WHEREAS**, 58% of black-owned businesses were at risk of financial distress before the pandemic, compared with about 27% of white-owned businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for COVID-19 loans, business support reached only 20% of black-owned businesses; also, the success rate of white businesses who applied and received PPP loans was 60% compared to 29% for black applicants; and

**WHEREAS**, as of October 2020, black-owned businesses reported only an 8.8% growth and profitability and cited the business interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason; and

**WHEREAS**, black-owned businesses were less equipped to handle mandated closures, more likely to be located in areas with high volumes of COVID-19 cases and had less access to relief; and

**WHEREAS**, black-owned businesses will struggle to withstand another wave of economic uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, on top of decades of inequity that made it hard for black owned businesses to flourish in the first place.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for the expansion of financial capital to black-owned businesses that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **MITIGATE THE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT LOAN DEBT CRISIS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, a college education is an opportunity for future economic and social mobility in the United States for Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs associated with a college education requires many students to take out large student loans to finance their college education; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 4.6 million Americans have a total of \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt which is considered the largest form of unsecured consumer debt in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Brookings Institute, four years after graduation, 48% of Black students owe an average of 12.5% more than they borrowed and 29% face monthly student loan payments of \$350 or more; and

**WHEREAS**, Black graduates owe more on federal undergraduate loans four years after graduating with a bachelor's degree compared to white graduates; and black graduates are almost twice as likely as white graduates to accumulate graduate school debt; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Association of University Women ("AAUW") has found that women hold almost two-thirds of the outstanding student loan debt and black women have the highest student loan debt of any racial or ethnic group; and

**WHEREAS**, many state and municipal governments recognize this crisis of college affordability and student loan debt as an economic roadblock for families, identifying issues such as childcare, lack of resources at high school, lack of employment after college, stagnant incomes as challenges for paying student loans.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT REOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will advocate and support the passage of legislation and/or Executive Order that would cancel student loan debt and provide immediate financial relief to millions of Americans that are struggling from the burden of student loan debt including but not limited to HR 4797, S Res 46, and H Res 100 (117<sup>th</sup> Congress), or sufficiently similar legislation in future Congresses, which would cancel at least \$50,000 of student debt. The National Social Action Commission will report on progress made to cancel at least \$50,000 student debt at the 2022 and 2023 Delta Days at the Nation's Capital.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AND RACIAL DISPARITIES**

**WHEREAS**, African Americans represent 13 percent of the general population but account for 39 percent of people experiencing homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans represent more than 50 percent of homeless families with children; and

**WHEREAS**, systemically African Americans have been denied rights and socioeconomic opportunities, which the disproportionality in homelessness and lingering effects of racism continue to be by-products of systemic inequity; and

**WHEREAS**, poverty is a strong predictor of homelessness and African Americans still live disproportionately in concentrated poverty or neighborhoods exposed to environmental toxins and limited access to quality care, services, nutritious food and economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the racial disparity in incarceration rates for African Americans has worsened and is more than six times the rate of White incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Brown people in high poverty areas are at greater risk of being targeted, profiled and arrested for minor offenses, resulting in overcriminalization and problems in accessing safe and affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, People of color are more likely to lack health insurance than White people, particularly in states without Medicaid expansion, therefore, placing them at risk of becoming homeless; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will continue to work diligently to use their power to address the plethora of racial inequities and disparities that are attributable to homelessness in communities of color; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and all chapters will advocate for and use their influence to support Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, which is an important program to help low-income people afford housing to prevent homelessness.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ADDRESSING DEED LARCENY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, homeownership is a key to wealth building in the African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, homeownership and landownership are passed down from generation to generation in the African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, a property deed is a written and signed legal instrument that is used to transfer ownership of the real property from one owner (grantor/seller) to a new owner (*grantee/buyer*); and

**WHEREAS**, deeds are either official in that they are executed as a result of a court legal ruling or are privately created, meaning they are executed by a deal struck between individuals and/or businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, deed theft involves the transfer of a property deed by someone who does not have a right to do so or a person unknowingly transfers ownership to another. One type of deed theft targets homes whose owners are deceased; scammers know that these properties are vulnerable and attempt to steal them away from the deceased owner's rightful heirs by targeting family members who may not be entitled to inherit part or all of the property; and

**WHEREAS**, scammers target vulnerable homeowners – people who are elderly or disabled, those who own homes but struggle to pay ongoing expenses, and/or those who have liens for unpaid city charges; and

**WHEREAS**, African American homeowners in communities that are becoming increasingly gentrified such as Brooklyn, New York; Detroit, Michigan; and Oakland, CA for example, are losing their homes to scammers who trick homeowners into signing over their ownership for very low amounts or promises of financial assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will encourage chapters to work with their state attorney general, other state and local government offices and other partners such as local AARP, National Council of Negro Women (“NCNW”), the NAACP and the National Bar Association to combat deed theft in their communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. through its chapters, will organize deed theft awareness and education programs for their members and the public and engage in advocacy efforts at the state and local level for policies/laws to protect against deed theft using New York's Homeowner Protection Program as a model.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the chapters will submit to the Social Action Commission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a report on their community education efforts, partnership development and state and local advocacy efforts related to deed theft by a date to set before the regional conferences in 2022 and the National Convention in 2023.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **RAISE AWARENESS OF HOMELESSNESS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, African Americans represent 13 percent of the general population, but account for 39 percent of people experiencing homelessness and more than 50 percent of homeless families with children; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated has acknowledged the issue of homelessness since 1990 and advocated for quality affordable housing for families and children to provide children with a safe place in which to grow-up, protect children from, physical disease, abuse, and stunted emotional development; (Homelessness, 1990) and Homeless Children, 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, the homelessness system across the United States was already overburdened and under-resourced prior to the COVID19 pandemic, yet the ensuing economic disruption and housing crisis on households in every state due to COVID-19 resulted in a 15% increase in homelessness between 2019 and 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, systemically African Americans have been denied rights and socioeconomic opportunities, which the disproportionality in homelessness and lingering effects of racism continue to be by-products of systemic inequity; and

**WHEREAS**, poverty is a strong predictor of homelessness and African Americans still live disproportionately in concentrated poverty or neighborhoods exposed to environmental toxins and limited access to quality care, services, nutritious food and economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Brown people in high poverty areas are at greater risk of being targeted, profiled and arrested for minor offenses, resulting in overcriminalization which impacts individuals' ability to access safe and affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, People of color are more likely to lack health insurance than White people, particularly in states without Medicaid expansion, therefore, placing them at risk of becoming homeless due to excessive medical expenses; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will continue to work diligently to use their power to address the plethora of racial inequities and disparities that are attributable to homelessness in communities of color; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and all its chapters will advocate for 50% increased funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, and expansion of the Department of Health and Human Services' Federal Real Property Assistance Program, which are important programs to help low-income people afford housing to prevent homelessness.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **AFFIRM CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND COMBAT LEGISLATIVE ATTACKS AGAINST ITS MERIT**

**WHEREAS**, Black people have been in America since 1619, but were not recognized as American citizens until the ratification of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1868, the existing narrative on topics such as their 200 plus years of enslavement and the resulting vestiges of racial inequality are subjects that are often relegated exclusively to Black people, when historical events and records reflect that the initiation, influence and perpetuation of the institution of slavery and the resulting systemic racism that permeates America's banking, housing, justice, educational etc. institutions today was and continues to be done by White people; and

**WHEREAS**, history is defined as "the whole series of past events connected with someone or something", an accurate understanding of American history cannot be taught if the aforementioned subjects related to the history of Black people in America are intentionally omitted from the chronological teaching of American history in our school systems, and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 there has been significant media attention on Critical Race Theory (CRT), which is a frame work of legal analysis that was developed in the late 1970's and early 1980's "which studied racism at the systemic level, examining how policies, laws and court decisions can perpetuate racism even if they appear neutral or fair." The current hysteria over the 1619 Project and CRT is being used to prohibit and or eliminate what little Black History is being taught in America's schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States currently has no requirement for including the teaching of Black History in public school curriculums, and 12 only states have voluntarily formally recognized the importance of teaching Black History and honoring the contributions of African Americans; clearly the majority of states have been negligent or deficient in addressing the experiences of Black people, whose labor and artistic talents were extremely instrumental in creating the nation's wealth and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Representative Joyce Beatty, Ohio District 3, submitted to the 117th Congress, HR 1394, which mandates the inclusion of Black history as a required component of American history for entities (institutions of higher education, libraries, and museums) to be eligible for American History and Civics Academies' competitive grants; and

**WHEREAS**, public campaigns such as #TruthBeTold advocated for the inclusion of teaching Black History, which was a response to Executive Order 13950 issued during the Trump administration which prohibited any diversity and inclusion training in federal agencies (13950 has been reversed by the Biden/Harris Administration).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. opposes all local, state, and national legislation banning elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools, school districts, and educators from including curriculum addressing the lived experiences, history, and contributions of Black Americans, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. supports and advocates for the passage of HR 1394, The Black History is American History Act, and similar legislation as required, to demand teaching of Black History as apart of AP US History and/or Civics credits; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. supports all efforts at the local, state and federal levels resulting in an American history curriculum representative of the evolution of the United States of America and allows educators to teach the whole truth, including the impact of slavery and racism on the fabric and framework of America and American society, both past and present.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **CLOSE THE EDUCATIONAL GAP DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR BLACK STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the inequities in education experienced by Black communities; with challenges ranging from the significant transition from in-person to remote and digital learning, to food and housing insecurity, and lack of access to technology, all of which create difficulties for access to remote learning; and these and other social issues have further intensified educational disparities for Black children across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, now more than ever, there is a need to demand that school boards/districts and policymakers act intentionally to address policies that sustain educational gaps in Black communities and advocate to create policies to dismantle educational inequalities, and draft policies building equity in resources and provide competitive, public-school education to all children; and

**WHEREAS**, Racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps related to education will likely widen due to disparities in access to computers, home internet connections, and direct instruction from teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, understanding the average student with full access to the resources mentioned above could fall seven months behind academically, Black and Hispanic students could experience even more significant learning losses, equivalent to 10 months for Black children and nine months for Latinos due to disproportionate access to these resources, and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has placed an undue amount of stress on families, particularly Black families who are more likely to work out of the home or low-income families who have less access to broadband and technological devices, understanding only 66% of Black households in the U.S. had home broadband service in 2019, and understanding only 45% of Black Americans owned a desktop or laptop computer in 2015, and understanding without access to the internet or a computer, Black parents are at a disadvantage and essentially incapable in educating their children in the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Black parents disproportionately represent essential workers who are unable to work from home and, thus, less able to provide parental academic supervision and support necessary for remote learning; and

**WHEREAS**, schools that serve Black children are at a disadvantage to provide remote learning experiences as a result of an abrupt transition to online learning, while many home environments were not prepared or able to offer a comparable or sustainable learning environment for children; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will promote the need for increased investments in school infrastructure and remote learning resources to ensure Black children in under-resourced communities have access to electronic devices with high-speed internet access essential for distance learning and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta will organize with local educational leadership and school districts to provide funding to enhance instruction that is responsive to Black students' individual academic needs, and to raise awareness for programs to provide tutoring to Black children from preschool to college students through the pandemic and beyond; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta will meet with local and state leaders with a three-fold mission to:

1. ensure teachers serving Black children have the necessary professional training and resources to provide effective remote instruction,
2. advocate for the implementation of an Office of Equity in every school district in the country, and
3. Speak to elected officials concerning funding and waive eligibility verification for school nutrition programs to ensure children have access to free meal programs during school closures and distance learning.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM AND CLIMATE INJUSTICE**

**WHEREAS**, environmental racism refers to communities of color being disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards and being more likely to live in areas with heavy pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a global issue and communities of color, low income, and immigrant communities bear the brunt of climate change impacts such as: increased respiratory illnesses; heat related illnesses; exacerbation of other health conditions such as diabetes; and extreme weather-related events; and

**WHEREAS** environmental issues such as industrial pollution, poor sanitation, poor air quality, poor water quality, and lead pollution are rampant in socially and economically vulnerable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for climate and environmental justice is prevalent within our global community. Due to racist practices in land development, housing and economic disinvestments, communities of color have long been the sacrifice zones for more affluent communities. These conditions are further amplified as climate change occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, as the United States moves towards clean energy solutions, communities of color are being left behind to bear the higher cost of fossil fuel energy consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated has a long history of fighting racist practices and social injustices.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated supports efforts in the fight for environmental justice and to mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities of color; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated chapters will educate and inform members and community about environmental, climate, and energy justice issues in their local communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated chapters will connect communities with available resources such as but not limited to emerging technologies, community solar, lead pipe replacement, weatherization assistance programs, and green infrastructure programs to minimize the impacts of climate change and environmental racism within their communities; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated advocates for legislation that decreases and eradicates environmental harm on communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ELIMINATE SALES TAX ON FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

**WHEREAS**, access to menstrual products is a dignity and equity issue and the lack of access to these necessary products can cause emotional duress, physical infection and disease; and

**WHEREAS**, most states impose a tax on menstrual products and this tax is assessed on women who are already financially disadvantaged; and

**WHEREAS**, 17 states and the District of Columbia either have no sales tax or have already exempted menstrual products from sales tax. there are five states \* with no sales tax, and twelve states;

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that students have basic necessities in order to focus on education. Providing menstrual products in schools is critical and only fair to ensure a student's education is not impacted due to a lack of supplies and equal opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated family finances, services and products provided by community health departments are lifelines for those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, menstrual equity and reduction or elimination of the effects of period poverty can be achieved by designating menstrual products as medical devices; aligning with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to recognize menstrual products as basic needs is primary to achieving menstrual equity; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated will advocate for the elimination of the state sales tax on menstrual products in the 33 states that remain by 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Delta Chapters in the United States and around the globe will advocate for menstrual products will be provided for students in all schools; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. advocates for federal legislation that supports menstrual equity and period poverty tax elimination for citizens in all 50 states.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **INCREASE RESEARCH FUNDING TO END ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

**WHEREAS**, Alzheimer's is a public health crisis with a devastating global impact on the health, social, and economic outcomes of millions of people living with the disease, their families, and caregivers; and

**WHEREAS**, recent estimates indicate that Alzheimer's disease is the third leading cause of death for seniors, after heart disease and cancer, and is responsible for one out of every three deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 6.2 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, a devastating degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia. Of this number, seventy-two percent are age 75 or older; one in nine people aged 65 and older (11.3%) has Alzheimer's dementia; and almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women; and

**WHEREAS** Alzheimer's and other dementia disproportionately affect older Black and Hispanic Americans compared to older White Americans. In fact, Black Americans are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's, and Hispanic Americans are one and a half times more likely to develop the disease, and

**WHEREAS** the under-representation of Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Native populations in research not only hinders researchers' understanding of the health disparities, but also restricts their knowledge of how an approved therapy or diagnostic test may affect these populations; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2021 and 2061 caring for individuals with Alzheimer's will cost American society \$20 trillion including \$15 trillion designated to Medicare and Medicaid.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for continued drug research and the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent, slow or cure Alzheimer's disease; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for health equity and improved access to treatments for communities of color and women who are disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's disease; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for the enactment of federal legislation such as the bipartisan Equity in Neuroscience and Alzheimer's Clinical Trials (ENACT) Act, (H.R. 3085/S. 1548), and comparable legislation in countries where we have members, which will increase the participation of underrepresented populations in Alzheimer's and other dementia clinical trials; expand education and outreach to these populations; encourage the diversity of clinical trial staff; and reduce participation burden.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for a 50% increase in research spending to speed the discovery of treatments, delay the progression of the disease in its early stages, and give affected individuals more time to live independently and actively.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **RAISE AWARENESS TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY IN MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES WHILE RESPONDING TO RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**WHEREAS**, in 1913, the twenty-two Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated demonstrated commitment to social and racial equity by boldly participating in the Women’s Suffrage March in Washington, DC as their first public act; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated defines racial equity as a condition where one’s racial identity should not determine or predict their outcomes in areas such as wealth, employment, health care, criminal justice, and education; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated recognizes that national protests demanding justice for Black Lives have highlighted the systemic racism and injustices that have long persisted in our country; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated acknowledges that median White wealth in America is 12 times higher than median Black wealth, and the Black-White wealth gap is a function of structural racism and public policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Medical Association (AMA), in their Racism Policy Statement of 2020, Racism as a Public Health Threat H-65.952, acknowledged that “although the primary drivers of racial health inequity are systemic and structural racism, racism and unconscious bias within medical research and health care delivery have caused and continue to cause harm to marginalized communities and society as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, racial inequities persist in every system of society, and thus a specific anti-racist lens is required for health equity and broader systemic change; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated recognizes numerous statistics and studies show that Black Americans experience unjust and unfair treatment in our criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated recognizes that systemic racism exists across all aspects of society, including policies, laws, and historic practices, which have long contributed to the unequal opportunities and outcomes of Black people.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for the federal government to commence agency-wide equity assessments by 2022 that highlight barriers that underserved communities and individuals face in accessing opportunities and enact policies to address the findings.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will establish a Subcommittee on Advancing Racial Equity by 2022 to build awareness, actively research, and identify the equity priorities for programming and advocacy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate and support the passage into law of the Senate Bill 162 and the House Resolution 666 “Anti-Racism in Public Health Act of 2021”, and similar legislation as necessary, through letter writing campaigns and meetings with local, state, and federal legislative officials; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated through the establishment of partnerships with trusted community organizations who work with BIPOC populations, will support and develop programs that address root causes of systemic health inequities.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will sponsor four educational forums in 2023 on racial equity examining topics such as employment, education, health care, criminal justice, and housing.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **CALL FOR MANDATORY IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the health disparities between white Americans and Americans from racial and ethnic minority groups. According to the National Institutes of Health, data from states that reported racial and ethnic information during the first nine months of the COVID-19 crisis showed that while Black Americans represented only 13% of COVID-19 cases, Blacks represented 34% of COVID-19 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, while many factors contribute to racial health disparities, research has proven that healthcare professionals' implicit biases – or unconscious prejudices can compromise the quality of care they provide to patients of color. A 2014 study in the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine found that clinicians displayed a strong implicit preference for white patients, who they believed to be more “medically cooperative” than black patients, and that those biases could influence treatment decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare professionals are licensed by state bodies who evaluate a candidate's education, training and practical experience, and other factors that can affect the quality of care they will provide; and

**WHEREAS**, knowing that health care professionals' implicit racial biases pose a threat to the quality of health care people of color receive, state officials in Michigan recently introduced regulations mandating that all doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers in Michigan will be required to complete a minimum of two hours of implicit bias training. One hour of implicit bias training will be necessary for annual health care license renewals; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated recognizes that the implicit biases of healthcare professionals can lead to deadly consequences for their patients and is committed to supporting innovations that reduce health disparities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated urges elected officials and administrators throughout the United States and in our international locations to adopt innovations such as mandatory implicit bias trainings designed to help healthcare professionals understand, acknowledge and address their racial biases; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated chapters and sorors will advocate for legislation and regulations, on the state, provincial, and/or federal levels to address mandatory implicit bias training for healthcare professionals to help reduce adverse health outcomes in the Black community.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **CREATE ACCESS TO FOOD SECURITY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, according to the USDA's *Household Food Insecurity in the United States* report, more than 35 million people in the US experienced hunger in 2019 including 10 million rural and urban children who lived in food-insecure households pre-pandemic facing hunger every day; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, in 2020, 1 in 5 African American individuals may have experienced food insecurity- more than twice the rate of white households due to a lower median income of approximately \$42,000 compared to the median income of non-Hispanic, white households who earned \$69,000 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, due to systemic social, economic and environmental discriminatory policies and practices 21.6% of persons in African American communities (1 in 4 Black children) including many households that experience food insecurity do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and visit their local food banks and other food programs for extra support; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the availability of current local, state, and federal and private funding and resources through programs such as the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program, USDA National Hunger Hotline Clearinghouse, and FUEL, African American communities still go hungry; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will educate our members and advocate to increase local, state and federal funding and resources to expand the before and after school and summer feeding options for children and their families in partnerships with leading national African American and hunger reduction organizations, or organizations that focus on hunger reduction within marginalized communities internationally; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated calls for partnerships with local and national grocery stores to provide food-centered educational programming offering healthy alternatives for low-income families and the expansion of farmers markets.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **RAISE AWARENESS AND TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS IN BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**WHEREAS**, at least 28.8 million Americans will suffer from an eating disorder in their lifetime, yet eating disorders have historically been associated with heterosexual, young, white females, but in reality, they affect people from all demographics, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, culture, size, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation at similar rates; and

**WHEREAS**, eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Someone dies as a direct result of an eating disorder every 52 minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, people of color – especially African Americans – are significantly less likely to receive help for their eating issues, which have real consequences, leading to fewer diagnoses, treatment options, and pathways to help for those who do not fit the stereotype; and

**WHEREAS**, Black teenagers are 50% more likely than white teenagers to exhibit bulimic behavior, such as bingeing and purging; and

**WHEREAS**, when presented with identical case studies demonstrating disordered eating symptoms in white, Hispanic and Black women, clinicians were asked to identify if the woman's eating behavior was problematic: 44% identified the white woman's behavior as problematic; 41% identified the Hispanic; 17% identified the Black woman's eating behavior as problematic; and

**WHEREAS**, eating disorders are treatable, but insurance does not adequately cover eating disorder treatment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated advocate for increased state, provincial, and/or federal funding for research and programming to address eating disorders - especially in predominantly Black communities; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated advocates at the federal and state levels to pass legislation that mandates insurance coverage of eating disorder treatment.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT FROM JANUARY 1, 2015, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, on November 18, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/16 to outline a program of activities to recognize the implementation of the “International Decade for People of African Descent” as nearly 200 million people in the Americas identified as Afro-descendants, and millions more reside around the world, outside of the African continent;

**WHEREAS**, as a nongovernmental organization, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated holds official Special Consultative Status at the United Nations, and the organization practices international awareness and involvement, especially concerning policies affecting women, children, and the African diaspora;

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated supports the “International Decade for People of African Descent” and have been recognized for its commitment to social action, especially on issues pertaining to women and the Black community;

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2015, the International Day of the Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the United Nations unveiled the Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the United Nations’ Visitors Plaza in New York City;

**WHEREAS**, on December 4, 2015, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation recognizing the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 annual implementation report described the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent’s findings on the “alarming levels of police brutality, excessive use of lethal force by law enforcement officials, racial bias and disparities in the criminal justice system, mass incarcerations and tough-on-crime policies that have had a disproportionate impact on African Americans.” The Group further stated that there is “a persistent gap in almost all the human development indicators between African Americans and the rest of the population”;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Secretary-General’s 2017 implementation annual report specifically highlighted the lack of “universal health insurance” and disproportionate impact on and treatment of African American women resulting from the intersection between the existing disparities and discrimination in the United States’ legal system and the resulting challenges in accessing preventive care and treatment;

**WHEREAS**, with less than four years remaining in the “International Decade for People of African Descent,” time is of the essence.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated recognizes January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2024 as the “International Decade for People of African Descent.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated affirms the belief that we must make every effort through programming and advocacy to combat systematic racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia, which people of African descent encounter;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that chapters will use their influence to promote the International Decade for People of African Descent in community programming and chapter events.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ADVANCE THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND PUBLIC LIFE**

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization providing assistance and support through advocacy, established programs, and chapters in the United States and in countries throughout the world, with partnership between the National Social Action Commission and the International Awareness and Involvement Subcommittee of the National Program Planning and Development Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a United Nations Non-Governmental Organization with Special Consultative Status that advances its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust and resolutions on the global stage and that participates in the annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the principal intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

**WHEREAS**, women are subjected to gender discrimination in both the public and private spheres and increasingly experience higher levels of unemployment, poverty, debt, and other economic hardships as compared to their male counterparts, all of which are a focus of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; and

**WHEREAS**, women are underrepresented in leadership and decision-making in political, economic, and public life across the globe, only accounting for one-quarter of all legislators worldwide, and UN Women and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights believe that risks of political engagement are likely higher for women from communities that have been marginalized; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, in 2021, there are an historic number of Black women serving in leadership in the executive and legislative branches of federal and local government; and

**WHEREAS**, the disproportionate impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic on women, in particular women of color, raises the urgency and vital call for the inclusion and representation of women in leadership and decision-making for the just and equitable recovery of societies; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will advocate for and advance initiatives for Black women in leadership and decision-making in public life and support policies that promote women's full and effective participation in political, economic, and public life across the globe.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **SUPPORT AND AFFIRM THE INTERNATIONAL ACT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, violence against women “means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life .... Other acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy .... also include forced sterilization and forced abortion, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.”

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime. Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner.

**WHEREAS**, every day around the world a war is waged against women and the girl child, taking millions of lives and causing terrible suffering. Before the age of eighteen, 8.5 million women first experienced rape, and 1 in 4 women have experienced severe physical violence, through rape, physical assault, or stalking, by an intimate partner in their lifetime; Black women experience intimate partner violence at a rate that is 35 percent higher than that of white women and about 2.5 times the rate of women of other races; Black women experience higher rates of intimate partner homicide when compared to their white counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately one out of every three women globally has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Violence continues to affect women of all ethnicities. The devastation Black women experience from intimate partner relationship violence is compounded because of historical and present-day racism, discrimination, the vulnerability of Black men to police brutality, and negative stereotyping; and

**WHEREAS**, violence against women is preventable and there are proven solutions that work. According to WHO, for women of color, socioeconomic challenges, lack of education, diminished employment opportunities, language challenges, and fears of deportation increase the difficulty of seeking resources to combat domestic violence. Additionally, men are more likely to perpetrate violence if they have low education, a history of child maltreatment, exposure to domestic violence against their mothers, harmful use of alcohol, unequal gender norms including attitudes accepting of violence, and a sense of entitlement over women; and

**WHEREAS**, a key component of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated’s mission is to address issues that impact the communities we serve, domestic violence obliterates the wellbeing of women which in turn leads to the destruction of the family unit, which affects the mental, emotional, and physical functioning of women, men, and children; and

**WHEREAS**, violence against women and girls is increasing globally during COVID -19 pandemic and needs a comprehensive local, national/territorial, and global approach. Additionally, the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA (2019)), would for the first time comprehensively incorporate these solutions into all U.S. foreign assistance programs - solutions such as promoting women’s economic opportunity, addressing violence against girls in school, and working to change public attitudes.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will promote passage of the IVAWA (2019), include this legislation in its advocacy efforts, and also work with the appropriate organizations and government entities to secure accurate information on the progress of advocacy efforts on behalf of the IVAWA (2019) legislation. Additionally, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will urge legislators to expand programs, safe houses, available financial assistance, and emotional support to women of violence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will support global initiatives that work toward fighting against violence against women through the UN Commission on the Status of Women; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated through its local chapters will provide resources for the protection of women and girls to ultimately end violence and use our organizational influence to encourage advocacy globally; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will establish collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations (shelters/funding) to support and expand the designation of safe spaces for women and where they can report abuse without alerting perpetrators (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, airports).



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **ERADICATE INTERNATIONAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, PALESTINE, TIGRAY**

**WHEREAS**, “Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated supports the 65th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; the priority theme: women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, women and girls are exposed to gender- based violence at alarming rates on the continent of Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern (specifically the Tigray Region in Ethiopia) and Southern African regions have the highest rates of sexual violence (forcible rape) and other forms of violence which include physical violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, in areas with a high HIV rates, such as in sub-Saharan Africa, women subjected to intimate partner violence are 50% more likely to be living with HIV, and men who are perpetrators of violence against women tend to be at a higher risk of being infected with HIV themselves and to use condoms less frequently, thus increasing the risk of HIV transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, emerging reports have shown that violence against women and girls has intensified since the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**; “The impacts of lockdowns and travel restrictions imposed in many countries to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the failure to designate sexual and reproductive health services and services for survivors of violence as essential services, and the undermining of women’s economic security have compounded the barriers for women and girls experiencing abuse, especially those who are trapped at home with their abusers” (Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director, 25 November 2020).

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will collaborate with local, governmental, and community leaders (including education, social development, health, police and law enforcement sectors) to play an active & coordinated role in the eradication of gender-based violence against women and girls in Eastern and Southern Africa by providing/supporting the provisions of temporary safe homes, legal assistance and basic needs to support survivors; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will enact and support culturally and regionally relevant programmatic partnerships, awareness campaigns and outreach measures that inform women and girls of their basic human rights in an effort to prevent future victimization by violent intimate partners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that an NGO with UN Special Consultative Status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2003, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will affirm, support advocate against implications of conflict that threaten the livelihoods and violate the basic human rights of Palestinian women and children; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will advocate for and support protective measures be provided for women and girls who bravely identify their perpetrators, to prevent intimidation and revenge tactics that can lead to further abuse and even death.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **CALL TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**WHEREAS**, the 1978 International Conference on Primary Health Care's Alma Ata Declaration asserted that "The existing gross inequality in the health status of the people particularly between developed and developing countries as well as within countries is politically, socially and economically unacceptable and is, therefore, of common concern to all countries." and established seven principles for Primary Health Care (PHC) including:

- 1. [PHC] reflects and evolves from the economic conditions and sociocultural and political characteristics of the country and its communities and is based on the application of the relevant results of social, biomedical and health services research and public health experience;
- 2. [PHC] addresses the main health problems in the community, providing promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services accordingly;
- 5. [PHC] requires and promotes maximum community and individual self-reliance and participation in the planning, organization, operation and control of primary health care, making fullest use of local, national and other available resources; and to this end develops through appropriate education the ability of communities to participate;
- 6. [PHC] should be sustained by integrated, functional and mutually supportive referral systems, leading to the progressive improvement of comprehensive health care for all, and giving priority to those most in need; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2019, the United Nations General Assembly held a high-level meeting on universal health coverage under the theme "**Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World**," which aimed to advance a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda and recommended strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) by allocating or reallocating 1% of GDP to Primary Health Care; and

**WHEREAS**, resource-limited countries have had already constrained and underfunded health systems/PHC services stretched as a result of the COVID19 pandemic, resulting in further setbacks in fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)#3 – ensuring health lives and promoting well-being for all; and

**WHEREAS** 49 million women, particularly in low-income economies will suffer disproportionately from pandemics (i.e. COVID-19 and Ebola) due to factors like contraceptive supply shortages resulting in 15 million unintended pregnancies during the COVID -19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, a "Shadow Pandemic" of Ebola has resulted in proportional increases in **maternal** mortality rates in West Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, low- and middle-income economies have fallen into further economic cutbacks in maternal care during COVID which could claim the thousands of women's lives.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated will advocate for policies at the United Nations and in country-states around the globe to accelerate progress toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC) for high quality PHC in Sub Saharan Africa, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services (including comprehensive sexual & reproductive health & rights) and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWS AND STANDARDS AS THE MANDATORY GUIDE TO ESTABLISH USE OF FORCE STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations has established Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law enforcement Officials (U.N. Basic Principles, adopted 1990, 8<sup>th</sup> U.N. Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders); and

**WHEREAS**, these principles are legality, necessity, proportionality and accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, these principles were found to not exist as guidelines for establishing use of force by law enforcement in many cities and police force departments; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement in the United States does not use universal guidelines for the use of force, excessive force or deadly force; and

**WHEREAS**, members of Black, Brown, Asian, Latino, and LGBTQ communities bear the brunt of excessive and deadly force by law enforcement.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that every chapter in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will

- a) Support local, county, state/provincial, and federal legislation that establishes legality, necessity, proportionality and accountability as the guidelines for use of force training and training manuals.
- b) Meet with their local law enforcement representatives to have conversations describing and implementing use of force standard operating procedures.
- c) Encourage, support and advocate that law enforcement entities adopt the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials in the United States and other countries in which Delta has chapters and that have not accepted the standards, as of 2021.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **AMEND THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN CITIZENS UNITED AND TO CALL FOR THE PASSAGE FOR HR1 AND SR 1 TO RESTORE ETHICAL CAMPAIGN FINANCING LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, On Jan. 21, 2010, the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United versus the Federal Election Commission (FEC) struck down a law that banned corporations from spending their own money on speech that advocated the election or defeat of candidates, which Citizens United PAC had argued that certain limitations on organizational spending on political campaigns were a restriction on First Amendment protected speech; and

**WHEREAS**, In Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that political spending is a form of free speech, that's protected under the First Amendment. The controversial 5-4 decision effectively opened the door for corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts, effectively reversing the century-old campaign finance restrictions imposed by the Tillman Act of 1907 and its amendments, and enabled corporations and other outside groups to spend unlimited funds on elections; and

**WHEREAS**, The ruling, encompassing the idea that "non-persons have speech rights" hence corporations have speech rights, allowed for a massive influx of PAC, lobbyist and special interest group spending in campaigns. When unlimited sums of money from the billionaire class flow into American elections, corruption and cronyism is sure to follow. We must not allow our elected officials to be compromised and sold based on the whims of the ultra-rich financier class. True, free elections and elected officials must be representative of the entire population; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court overturned restrictions on independent expenditures from corporations and labor unions. The decision set a precedent that through later rulings would spawn the creation of super PACs, which can accept unlimited contributions from corporations, unions, and other groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Campaign finance reform on state and local levels is key to building a movement towards a change on the federal level. Public financing of elections, at least partially, could lay the groundwork for this type of change. If enough states adopt campaign finance reforms as part of their constitutions, gradually, those changes may be influential enough to affect federal constitutional law, including, potentially, a reversal of the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision; and

**WHEREAS**, On February 22, 2019, US Representative Pramia Jayapal of Washington State introduced joint resolution HJR 48 to the House Judiciary Committee. This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment providing that the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, shall have no rights under the Constitution and are subject to regulation. The amendment requires federal, state, and local government to (1) regulate, limit, or prohibit election contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures; and (2) require that any permissible contributions and expenditures require public disclosure. The judiciary cannot spend money to influence elections under the First Amendment, and the amendment shall not be construed to abridge the freedom of the press; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of HJR 48 We the People Amendment would make it clear that our elected representatives do have the constitutional power to enact reasonable and even-handed laws that regulate expenditures that intend to influence elections or public officials. It would also clearly establish that only biological humans have constitutional rights, and those corporations and other artificial entities do not have constitutional rights, The effect of these two provisions would reduce the ability of artificial entities to control public policy and influence our policy makers.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, wilt advocate for and support legislative and other reforms, including Congress pass legislation akin to the 2019 HJR 48 the "We the People" Constitutional amendment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, will advocate for, build coalitions for and support legislation and policies at state and local levels to facilitate substantive campaign reform in order to ensure a more just and equitable elective process.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **COMMEMORATION OF SOROR NOMZAMO WINIFRED ZANYIWE MADIKIZELA MANDELA**

**WHEREAS**, Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela was born the fifth of nine children on 26 September, 1936 in the village of Mbongweni, Bizana (now called the Eastern Cape); and

**WHEREAS**, Soror Madikizela-Mandela was the first black social worker in South Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, Soror Madikizela-Mandela married fellow anti-apartheid activist and lawyer Nelson Mandela in 1958, and from the union had two daughters Zenani and the late Zindzi Mandela.

**WHEREAS**, Soror Madikizela-Mandela was an active member of the African National Congress (ANC) political party, serving on the ANC's National Executive Committee, heading its Women's League and known to her supporters as the "Mother of the Nation"; and

**WHEREAS**, Soror Mandela politician, serving in Parliament from 1994 to 2003, and from 2009 until her death, and was a deputy Minister of Arts and Culture from 1994 to 1996.

**WHEREAS**, having met all criteria for nomination and membership, Winnie Mandela became an Honorary Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. at the 38th National Convention in 1985; and

**WHEREAS**, Soror Madikizela-Mandela passed away on April 2, 2018, was granted a "Special Official Funeral" by the South African Government and laid to rest at the Fourways Memorial Park in Gauteng Province, South Africa.

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2018, the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "mourned the loss of anti-apartheid activist, human rights leader and the first Black female social worker in South Africa, Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela-Mandela - noting that she is and will always be a shining example of the #PowerInOurVoice."

**WHEREAS**, in November 2019, a delegation of members of Delta Sigma Theta, led by National President Beverly Smith, commemorated Soror Winnie Mandela by laying a wreath on her grave in celebration of her accomplishments and commemoration of her legacy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Delta Sigma Theta will declare September 26th of each year a day of commemoration and remembrance for Soror Winnie Mandela.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that all Chapters may plan commemorative programs or actions in her name, which shall be recognized under the banner of either the five-point programmatic thrust or social action - depending on the nature and objective of said activities.



## *Proposed Resolutions*

### **COMMENDING THE HONORABLE MARCIA L. FUDGE ON HER APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

**WHEREAS**, Marcia L. Fudge was initiated into the Epsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at The Ohio State University in 1972 and made a lifetime commitment to sisterhood, scholarship and service; and

**WHEREAS**, since her initiation, Soror Fudge has been an active and effective member of the sorority, including serving on the National Executive Board as Co-Chair of the Social Action Commission, Chair of the Finance Committee, National Treasurer, National First Vice President, and National President; and

**WHEREAS**, under Soror Fudge's leadership, expanding affordable housing, increasing homeownership and ending predatory lending were key issues on the sorority's national social action agenda that guided deliberations with federal, state and local lawmakers at *Delta Days in the Nation's Capital*, and state and local legislative conferences; and

**WHEREAS**, Soror Fudge was elected the first female and first African American mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio in 1999 and worked with local officials to develop a taskforce to protect consumers against predatory lending; secured the inclusion of property maintenance grants in the Warrensville Revitalization Action Plan; brought new residential development to the city; and addressed the city's growing foreclosure crisis through the formation of a local partnership that helped residents to buy and keep homes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Fudge's commitment and dedication were recognized by the residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio when they elected her to represent the district in the United States House of Representatives in 2008 and each consecutive Congress thereafter; and,

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Fudge served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) from 2013 to 2015 and led the CBC's efforts to ensure Presidential appointments to cabinet positions that impact housing, economic development, and civil rights; and was awarded the CBC Chair's Award in 2021 in recognition of her decades of service to those most at risk and to American families; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, in recognition of Congresswoman Fudge's decades of work on housing, economic development, and other key areas integral to the growth and sustainability of urban communities, President Joseph R. Biden nominated Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge to serve as the 18<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2021, Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge's nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and she was sworn in as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by Vice President Kamala Harris, becoming only the second woman of color and third woman to lead the agency; and

**WHEREAS**, in the short time Secretary Fudge has led the agency, she has made major contributions to the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to Build Back Better by eradicating homelessness, expanding affordable housing, ending discriminatory housing practices, and ensuring fair housing rules;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., commend Secretary Marcia L. Fudge on her appointment as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., commend Soror Marica L. Fudge for her five decades of continuous service to the sorority, the people of the state of Ohio and the nation.