

**A RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO THE REPORT OF THE  
1898 WILMINGTON RACE RIOT COMMISSION**

*WHEREAS,* One of the most indelible events in North Carolina and American history occurred on November 17, 1898, when the city of Wilmington erupted in a bloody riot in which dozens of African Americans – including businessmen, community leaders, journalists, and elected officials – were murdered and banished from the city along with many of their white allies; and

*WHEREAS,* Public knowledge and historical memory of this event was obscure until the North Carolina General Assembly, led by Representative Thomas E. Wright and the late Senator Luther Jordan, both Democrats, established the Wilmington Race Riot Commission (“Commission”) in 2000 to develop a historical record of the event and to assess the economic impact of the riot on African Americans in Wilmington and across the Eastern region and the State; and

*WHEREAS,* The Commission, chaired by Representative Wright and Democratic Senator Julia Boseman, both of Wilmington, oversaw a formal investigation of the events of 1898 and approved a 464-page report, detailing the history of the riot and the events that precipitated it; and

*WHEREAS,* The Commission’s report concluded that past leaders of the North Carolina Democratic Party and others were directly responsible for and participants in the violence of November 17, 1898; and

*WHEREAS,* The report also concluded that the North Carolina Democratic Party engineered and executed a State-wide white supremacy campaign in order to win the 1900 elections that was vicious, polarizing, and defamatory toward African Americans and that encouraged racial violence; and

*WHEREAS,* The effects of that campaign and the Wilmington Riots lasted far beyond 1898, paving the way (a) for legislation that disenfranchised African American and poor white citizens, (b) for lynching and violence against African American citizens, and (c) for Jim Crow segregation until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; and

*WHEREAS,* The North Carolina Democratic Party embraces the Commission’s report as a chronicle of an important part of State history, but it is saddened by the full extent of past party leaders’ involvement in the Wilmington Riot of 1898 as these deplorable actions contradict the spirit, philosophy, platform, and policies of the modern North Carolina Democratic Party;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:*

That the North Carolina Democratic Party both acknowledges and renounces the actions of past Party leaders involved in the events of 1898 and those actions’ impact on the State of North Carolina and the United States of America; and

That the North Carolina Democratic Party sincerely apologizes for these actions – and their repercussions -- of past Party leaders; and

That the North Carolina Democratic Party celebrates its role in making the political process more inclusive for African Americans in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and honors the actions of each modern Democratic President and Governor, all of whom made significant strides toward desegregation; and

That the North Carolina Democratic Party is proud of all the Democratic African Americans elected and appointed to governmental posts in North Carolina;

That the Party is proud that all 28 members of the North Carolina General Assembly's Legislative Black Caucus are Democrats; and

That the Party is proud of new Democratic leaders who are continuing the tradition of pluralism in North Carolina government, including African American officials elected to State-wide or legislative office in November 2006; and

That the Party will aggressively continue its efforts to ensure diversity in the Democratic ticket by (a) establishing a training program for minority and women candidates for office and their campaign managers, (b) hosting an annual summit of minority elected officials who are members of the Party, and (c) honoring past and current minority leaders in the Party; and

That the North Carolina Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to encouraging equal opportunity by creating jobs, improving education, investing in health care, defending the security, protecting the environment, and ensuring full political participation for **all** North Carolinians, without regard to race, age, gender, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, or physical disability; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that Officers of the North Carolina Democratic Party will within seven (7) days send a copy of this resolution to the following:

- The City of Wilmington, by and through its mayor and council;
- New Hanover County, by and through its board of county commissioners;
- Members of the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission;
- Democratic members of the North Carolina General Assembly;
- Democratic members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation;
- North Carolina Human Relations Commission; and
- State-wide media.

### **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ORDERLY REDEPLOYMENT AND WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ**

WHEREAS, there is remarkable bipartisan agreement from the majority of American people that the Bush Administration's current occupation strategy of the last three years is not succeeding and cannot ever succeed and further military efforts along these lines are politically unacceptable to the American people, as shown by the 2006 election results;

WHEREAS, the Iraqi people have the inalienable right to full economic, political, and social self-determination and to full control of all Iraqi oil, land, and other resources, and

that the only legitimate American policy goal in Iraq is that the Iraqis achieve self-governance;

WHEREAS, there is no tolerance among the Iraqi people for any continuation of U.S. occupation of Iraq, and, as recently revealed by General Abizaid, not even any tolerance by the current Iraqi government nor our own top military commanders for an allegedly temporary increase of substantial American forces to be deployed in Iraq;

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party, in its deep gratitude and unalterable support for the dedication and bravery of our service men and women and their families, cannot stand idly by while even one more of our service men or women is killed or maimed by prolonging the senseless occupation policy of the Bush Administration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The North Carolina Democratic Party State Executive Committee calls upon the US Congressional Leadership to immediately vote for any and all resolutions consistent with an overall purpose of ending the occupation of Iraq, and starting the orderly redeployment and withdrawal of troops by the summer of 2007.

We further urge the Congress to maintain its resolve not to fund any permanent US bases in Iraq.

We support resolutions such as (1) the Murtha Plan and (2) H.R. 4232 (to be renumbered in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress), a resolution introduced by Massachusetts Democrat James McGovern and co-sponsored by nineteen (19) members of the US House of Representatives to oppose any funding not consonant with the foregoing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. Officers of the North Carolina Democratic Party will within seven (7) days of the passage of this resolution convey this resolution in writing to our senators and representatives.
2. Officers of the North Carolina Democratic Party will within seven (7) days of the passage of this resolution send a press release announcing the resolution to local and State news media.
3. Officers of the North Carolina Democratic Party will within seven (7) days of the passage of this resolution have a copy of the resolution placed in a prominent place on the North Carolina Democratic Party's public website.

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TODAY'S DATE  
AND OUR WORK OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS**

WHEREAS, today's meeting of the State Executive Committee occurs on the 20th day of January 2007;

WHEREAS, the official inaugural date for the President of the United States is also on the 20th day of January every four years, the last one being on that day in 2005 and the next one set for this day in 2009;

WHEREAS, North Carolina Democrats and our counterparts around the Nation are eager to work for and to elect our Democratic nominees for President and Vice President; and,

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's nominees for President and Vice President - whomever they eventually are - will be a vast improvement over the current occupants of those offices in every respect.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is proper and fitting that this year's meeting of the State Executive Committee of the North Carolina Democratic Party occur today, thus allowing it to serve as a countdown marker for Democratic success in two years; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we Democrats commit our actions, time, ideas, energy, treasury and prayers over the next twenty-one months toward ensuring electoral success for Democrats up and down the ballot in 2008, with the crowning achievement being our Democratic nominees for President and Vice President taking their oaths of office exactly two years from today at the 2009 Inaugural ceremonies.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NC NAACP'S HK ON J (HISTORIC THOUSANDS ON JONES ST.) RALLY AND MARCH ON FEBRUARY 10, 2007**

WHEREAS, the NC NAACP has a long and illustrious history of fighting for the rights of African Americans, low income people, and other victims of discrimination in our state, and

WHEREAS, the NC NAACP is organizing an historic People's Agenda Coalition Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, in Raleigh to bring a series of important issues, many of which have been long sought for by our party, to the attention of the legislature;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly endorses the "H K on J" meeting and march, and will communicate with its members and elected officials and urge them to attend.