



MEDIA ALERT

July 14, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Phallan Davis 202-741-0915 direct or email pdavis@dccouncil.us

Statement: Councilmember Bowser congratulates Ben Jealous, NAACP president and Ward 4 resident, on the organization's centennial convention

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is hosting its centennial convention this week in New York. Ben Jealous, who resides in Washington's Ward 4, is the 17th president of the organization. For the past 100 years, the NAACP has been on the front lines of the battle for a more perfect union. From the "ballot box to the classroom," the organization has never wavered in its fight for equality and justice for all.

The NAACP Washington Bureau has for more than 55 years been one of the leading civil rights advocacy groups in our nation's capitol. The Washington arm was instrumental in the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the 1968 Fair Housing Act, the 1991 Civil Rights Restoration Act and the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

As its Web site states, indeed, the "NAACP is today." The fight for justice is just as urgent today as it was 100 years ago when the civil rights group was founded. Through its civil rights efforts, the NAACP has effectively worked towards the advancement and betterment of all America.

The organization's efforts to forge one America by fighting for the least of these is stated most eloquently by former NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins when he said "The players in this drama of frustration and indignity are not commas or semicolons in a legislative thesis; they are people, human beings, citizens of the United States of America."

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A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs and is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information on Councilmember Bowser.

For any media inquires, please contact Communications Director Phallan Davis at 202-741-0915 or pdavis@dccouncil.us

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 406, Washington, DC 20004
202-724-8052 phone 202-741-0908 fax
