



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information:  
Gary R. Smart 809-5508  
Bfriar1980@comcast.net

**Greater New Haven Branch NAACP Local Agenda In Alignment With National Association's Resolutions on Youth Violence**

**New Haven, CT July 23, 2008** - Local and state NAACP leadership have wrapped up a very important meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio this past week that featured an appearance by both presidential candidates. However, what made this Annual Convention of the NAACP so relevant was the affirmation of concerns raised by the national leadership and its member states regarding the youth of this nation. The New Haven contingent lead by Branch President James E. Rawlings participated in a number of forums while helping to shape national policy by debating and voting on policy statements and resolutions. "It was clear that there is still much to be done across the country to assure social justice in America" stated President Rawlings, "especially the growing economic disparities where the majority population has more than a ten fold difference in net assets than the average African American family". In addition, the prison industry has profited greatly from the disproportionate number of youth incarcerated as a result of numerous cases of social injustice. The national board of the NAACP voted on a number of very important issues, keying in on the following points:

- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Family

Presidential candidates Obama and McCain presented their ideas and potential solutions to the rising crime rates, lack of sufficient education for children and the need for significant involvement of adults in the overall development of productive youth. "The fact that our candidates for the highest office of this land and the national NAACP see the same issues as priorities as we at the local level indicate that our Branch has chosen a path that is of importance and must be addressed immediately". President Rawlings stated as he referenced the recent statements made at a press conference where he challenged community leaders and others to work with the Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP (GNHBNAACP) to help find solutions in our own neighborhoods.

Over the coming months, the GNHBNAACP invites all its members to attend and participate in continued discussions about the health and safety of our communities. As the national association prepares to celebrate its Centennial in 2009, the GNHBNAACP will be planning a number of events to coincide with this historic milestone. All general meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at St. Luke's Church on Whalley Avenue in New Haven. For up to date information on meeting schedules, press releases and other pertinent communication please view our website at [www.naacpnewhaven.org](http://www.naacpnewhaven.org).

###