

**City of Sebastopol**

**RESOLUTION NO 5736**

***A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sebastopol  
Commending The Centennial Celebration of the NAACP  
and its  
Santa Rosa-Sonoma County Chapter of the NAACP***

WHEREAS, in February 2009, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will celebrate a 100 year journey as the nation's oldest, largest and most effective civil rights advocacy organization - a legacy that has forever changed the landscape of American history, and specifically a spotlight on the protection of Civil Rights throughout Sonoma County for the past 56 years; and

WHEREAS, for one hundred years, the NAACP's collective courage of people of all races, nationalities and faiths united on one premise - that all men and women are created equal. The Association continues to be at the forefront of issues paramount to our communities. The NAACP's efforts have led to the launch of new initiatives and programs aimed at eliminating disparities in education, economic development, healthcare, and technology; within Sonoma County the efforts of O. Platt Williams (founding President in 1953) helped to monitor home buying for prospective African Americans and bringing Melva Joy Patillo (Beals) to Santa Rosa for personal safety (from her participation as one of the "Little Rock Nine" black students to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957); and

WHEREAS, despite violence, oppression, trauma, intimidation and hostile government policies, the nation's beacon for social justice and its grass-roots base of members has persevered; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP's most courageous moments have involved everyone from school children to laborers to professionals to presidents to just ordinary men and women, those who decided to champion what's right and just; Gilbert Gray (President, 1959-1962) and the Santa Rosa Branch membership of 200 endorsed a Step-Up Program, calling for a diversification in Jobs, Housing and Education; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the NAACP is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, from the ballot box to the classroom, the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this great organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African Americans would be heard; and the noteworthy community efforts of Eddie Mae Sloan (Warrior-Shero) establishment and timeless sustainability with SCPEO projects for woman, children and other people of disparities (Head Start, Council on Aging, Alianza Del Pueblo, Ya-Ka-Ama Indian Education Center, Commission on the Status of Women, Roseland Children's Health Center, to name just a few); and

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa-Sonoma County Chapter of the NAACP works within the mission of its charter to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sebastopol City Council Recognize, Acknowledge, and Extend best wishes for the NAACP's Centennial Celebration, and commending the Santa Rosa-Sonoma County Chapter's NAACP membership for 56 years for their courage and commitment to voter empowerment, political awareness and the fulfillment of 'all peoples' freedom, justice and equality in the City of Sebastopol).

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by City of Sebastopol City Council following a roll call vote:

City of Sebastopol City Council:

Ayes: Councilmembers Wilson, Shaffer, Vice Mayor Kelley and Mayor Gurney

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilmember Robinson

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Sarah Glade Gurney, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mary Gourley, City Clerk