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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NAACP CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ORGANIZATION'S EXISTENCE

Hillsborough County NAACP will be celebrating the organizations 100th Birthday, as will all units of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP is the nation's oldest, pre-eminent civil rights organization. In existence for nearly a century, and is responsible for a number of victories in the struggle for justice and equality in America. The Association continues to be at the forefront of issues paramount to our communities and constituents. Our efforts have lead to the launch of new initiatives and programs aimed at eliminating disparities in economic development, healthcare, education, technology and many other issues.

The birth of Tampa Branch NAACP was brought about due to sub-standard housing conditions and job discrimination in skilled and unskilled employment levels. The Tampa branch of the NAACP was organized in 1917. Reorganized in 1920-21, it continued to exist until 1996. NAACP Archives contain letters as far back as 1913 asking for NAACP assistance to do battle against racial discrimination in Tampa. The National Board of Directors merged the Tampa and Plant City branches under a new Charter as the Hillsborough County Branch of the NAACP on October 16, 1996.

The Hillsborough County NAACP Centennial Committee is planning various activities, including a Birthday Party celebrating the birth of both the National and local NAACP to be held on February 9, 2009. These events will begin with a W.I.N.(Women in the NAACP) Breakfast, a Health Fair, including testing and screening, and a Legal Redress Forum at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church on February 7, 2009; a Gospel Extravaganza, will highlight a

renowned artist, as well as local talent on February 8, 2009; an Education Forum, where the Hillsborough 8 will be recognized, and a look will be taken at Education, Then, and Now on February 12, 2008 at Middleton High School; a Golf Tournament at the historic Rogers Park and Golf Course on February 14, 2008; and a Re-dedication Celebration at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, where many of the NAACP activities in Tampa took place in the early days of the organization is scheduled for February 15, 2008. A culminating celebration will be the Centennial Gala on February 21, 2008, when the Centennial Scroll will be unveiled.

To participate in this awesome and momentous time in our history, you can become a sponsor, which includes some additional perks and bonuses. You may purchase an Ad in the Centennial Anniversary Scroll Journal, which is an advertisement book that will be on display at our formal extravaganza. If you have already received information by mail, you will be receiving a telephone call within a few days. If you have not yet received information regarding this historic event, please call Pat Spencer at 813-205-3834.