

February 10, 2006

Public Input Sought on Racial Disparities in Substance Abuse Policies

To: NAADPC member organizations and colleagues

From: Judge Arthur L. Burnett, National Executive Director, NAADPC

In our work gathering information on the eradication of disparities in substance abuse policies throughout the country, we are pleased to announce that the next series of public hearings with the Blue Ribbon Commission will be held in Los Angeles on February 17-18. The Commission, chaired by the Honorable Lee P. Brown, formerly the mayor of Houston and director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, invites both individuals and organizations to testify.

What: **Public hearings of the NAADPC Blue Ribbon Commission on “Racial Disparities in Substance Abuse Policies”**

When: **February 17-18, 2006**

Time: **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Where: **Loyola Law School, Burns Building, Student Lounge, 919 Albany Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015**

The schedule includes a press conference and possible meeting with the Los Angeles Times editorial board.

To date, we have convened public hearings in Washington, DC; Flint, MI, Barbados; and Houston, TX. The participation and input from member organizations has been excellent and continues to grow. I encourage you to share information on the hearings with your membership and urge the Los Angeles area affiliates to join us at the public hearings.

Testimony before the Commission is sought in response to critical questions, such as:

- *How do current substance abuse laws and policies impact the delivery of health, social and legal services to African Americans?*
- *How is race a factor in the implementation and execution of current alcohol and illegal drug law enforcement policies and treatment and prevention programs?*
- *How can quality treatment for substance use disorders be made available to all African Americans?*
- *To what extent should effective drug treatment be made available to those individuals charged with non-violent offenses in lieu of criminal prosecution and incarceration and to those in prison and jails?*

We have formed an unprecedented collaboration between black professional associations interested in promoting more effective policies and practices to address drug abuse and addiction. The involvement of your membership and colleagues is essential to our collective efforts to put forth needed recommendations. Written testimony is also welcome and can be submitted to me at:

Judge Arthur L. Burnett, National Executive Director
The National African American Drug Policy Coalition
c/o Center for Drug Abuse Research
Howard University
2900 Van Ness Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20008
202-806-8600
Email: info@naadpc.org

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.