

**NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF COLORED PEOPLE**

www.njnaacp.org

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUNE 18, 2010 9:15AM**

### **Commemoration of Juneteenth Must Honor An “Absolute Equality of Rights” for African Americans in New Jersey**

Contact:  
James Harris, President  
(973) 518-2990  
info@njnaacp.org

The New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NJSCNAACP) appreciates the special recognition of “Juneteenth” Day by Governor Christopher Christie because the elimination of slavery changed the legal status of people of African ancestry in the United States of America. Gov. Chris Christie, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Attorney General Paula Dow are commended for conducting this proclamation ceremony on June 18, 2010 in the State House.

Historically, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. NJSNAACP must note that Juneteenth was the realization of freedom delayed two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863.

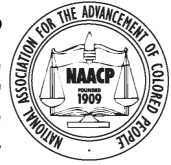
While it is notable that we commemorate this history of commitment to freedom, the NJSCNAACP remains very concerned about proposed policies from Governor Christie which will reverse some of the programs and policies that were created to insure equal opportunities and justice in New Jersey. The NJSCNAACP appeals to the Governor to reconsider and reverse his decisions and proposals that are destructive to the civil rights of African Americans and other minorities and poor residents in New Jersey.

The NJSCNAACP believes that the following programs are essential to education, economic, political and social equality of all residents in New Jersey.

- Reappointment of New Jersey Supreme Court Justice John Wallace
- Full implementation of the New Jersey Supreme Court Mount Laurel Decisions
- Maintain adequate funding for higher education, especially the Educational Opportunity Fund Program and the Tuition Aid Grant program
- Full funding of and full compliance with the Education Reform Act of 2008

# NEW JERSEY STATE NAACP PRESS RELEASE

Commemoration of Juneteenth Must Honor An "Absolute  
Equality of Rights" for African Americans in New Jersey



Page 2

- Full funding of the free and reduced lunch program in schools
- Extension of income tax for individuals earning more than \$400,000
- Adequate funding for implementation of the New Jersey Amistad law
- Appointment of more African Americans and other underrepresented minorities in the administration
- Aggressive enforcement of affirmative action and equal opportunities policies and programs, especially those that were created to increase economic opportunities for African American businesses
- Rejection of any education vouchers and private voucher schools that divert scarce financial resources from public schools to non-public schools

The NJSCNAACP looks forward to meeting with the Governor and cabinet members to discuss the most effective ways to implement programs that will eliminate racial disparity and discrimination in New Jersey.

#####

**Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in education and in the public and private sectors. The NAACP is organized into State Conferences and Regions, and the New Jersey State Conference has 41 units or branches throughout the state. For more information about the New Jersey State NAACP, please visit us on the web at [www.njnaacp.org](http://www.njnaacp.org).**