



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NAACP DC URGES THE EXPANSION OF DC HOTEL PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MORE EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR HOMELESSNESS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The NAACP DC Branch urges the continued expansion of the DC Hotel Program to provide more emergency housing to safely shelter our homeless populations on Washington, DC. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Department of Human Services announced that it will open another hotel, serving an additional 200 high-risk people. This is progress and has already made a favorable impact to help save the lives of some of the District's most vulnerable, high-risk populations. However, 456 high-risk people will be left without housing on the waitlist.

The NAACP DC Branch advocates for homeless prevention and safe emergency shelters for the most vulnerable residents of the District of Columbia. The COVID-19 health pandemic continues to threaten the lives of our homeless populations, as our most vulnerable people are impacted by a lack of access to clean water and sheltered housing. 35% of the nation's homeless population are unsheltered, living in cars, abandoned buildings, parks or on streets. Amidst this continued COVID-19 health pandemic, individuals experiencing homelessness are at heightened risk of contracting this deadly virus.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, "Our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness are often forgotten when we prioritize whose lives matter. Our unsheltered homeless are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 due to limited access to running water and safe, sheltered housing. We thank the Mayor and the Department of Human Services for their efforts thus far to provide some housing to our homeless population. However, we still need to provide more emergency housing for the homeless and ultimately we need to provide real-affordable and low-income housing for residents of the District."

For more information, please email [naacp@naacpdc.org](mailto:naacp@naacpdc.org).

### **ABOUT NAACP:**

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 premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

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