



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: LaToya Henry  
(313) 447-6404

## OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT

### THE DETROIT BRANCH NAACP ANNOUNCES BLUE-RIBBON HOST COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION AND FREEDOM FUND DINNER 2019

**DETROIT (December 6, 2018)** – The Detroit Branch NAACP is pleased to announce plans for 2019 as we host the 110<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the NAACP, July 20-24, 2019, here in the city of Detroit. Next month, we will also be announcing plans for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner, scheduled for May 5, 2019. Today we welcome to our city NAACP President, Attorney Derrick Johnson, and other members of our Executive Board. As Detroit hosts the annual convention, it will send a signal to the rest of the nation that **ALL ROADS REALLY DO LEAD TO DETROIT**.

We are very excited about our special Blue-Ribbon Host Committee, chaired by Mr. Gerard Anderson, CEO of DTE Energy, led by Mr. Jerry Norcia, President of DTE Energy. DTE has been a leading partner with the NAACP locally and is expanding its reach to include an even more prominent national partnership as well. Ms. Nancy Moody, DTE Energy Vice President of Public Affairs, has been an energizing partner in plans for our 110<sup>th</sup> annual convention.

Mr. Gary Torgow, Chairman of the Board for Chemical Financial Corporation, will serve as a Corporate Co-Chair for our Blue-Ribbon Host Committee and as the Senior Corporate Chair for our annual dinner. As you know Chemical Bank has recently announced plans to relocate their national headquarters to the city of Detroit and are at this very moment constructing it in downtown Detroit. Our former Executive Director, Donnell White, is now a Vice President at Chemical Bank.

We are also pleased to have Ms. Tonya Allen, President & CEO of the Skillman Foundation, serving as Co-Chair for the Blue-Ribbon Host Committee and Senior Community Chair for our annual dinner. The Skillman Foundation, well known throughout this state, is dedicated to education, young people, and community development in the city of Detroit.

Of course, we could not do any of this without the participation of Ford Motor Company. We welcome them as a Co-Chair for the Blue-Ribbon Host Committee, as well as our annual dinner. Ms. Pamela Alexander of Ford Motor Company has been a stalwart supporter of the Detroit Branch, community organizations, and development throughout the city.

-more-

**Blue Ribbon Committee**

**Page 2**

We are excited about the new Ford technological establishment that is being planned for the old train station in the city of Detroit. They continue to demonstrate that Ford has a better idea.

Quicken Loans will serve as a Co-Chair for the Blue-Ribbon Host Committee as well as the Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner. Mr. Dan Gilbert has been a consistent supporter of the work of the NAACP in the area of youth, leadership, as well as ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics) Program. The UAW will also serve as a Co-Chair for Blue-Ribbon Host Committee. The UAW and the NAACP have had a historic relationship dealing with civil and human rights of workers and advancing the quality of life for all people.

These are a few of the key officers of our host committee as we lay plans to formulate the special Blue-Ribbon Committee. The Blue-Ribbon Committee is still growing as we look forward to the participation of both business and community partners in this great venture to shine a light on our city. This convention will bring together 10,000 persons, generate millions of dollars in income for the city, and will provide an opportunity to showcase the jewels of our city. Today, we are announcing and saying to the entire region, let's get ready for Detroit. Everybody is invited to be on the scene in 2019.

###