

Press Release: October 30, 2020

Contact: Taylor Hopkins, (407) 675-6412, press@floridarrc.org

NAACP and FRRC Join Forces to bring Early Vote Bus Tour to Miami's *Souls* to the Polls Event

FRRC joins NAACP, Generational Cure, Miami Dolphins FOOTBALL UNITESTM, The Circle of Brotherhood and Cox Media Group to make final early voting push, mobilize Returning Citizens in Dade County

MIAMI, FL — On the final day of early voting, NAACP and the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition are teaming up for Souls to the Polls—a series of events to mobilize ministries and their congregations to cast their vote Sunday. Souls to the Polls is a nationwide initiative that hopes to inspire people to go straight from church to the voting booth. The event sites are one of the final stops on FRRC's statewide Free The Vote Bus Tour, which has been mobilizing Returning Citizens, people with past felony convictions, to the polls.

FRRC and NAACP will be joined by radio host and entertainer Radio Big Mack as they talk to people about the importance of using their voice in this election.

Events will take place Sunday, 12 p.m - 2 p.m. ET at the following early-voting sites:

- Joseph Caleb Center, 5400 NW 22nd Avenue-Building A, Miami, FL 33142
- North-Dade Regional Library, 2455 NW 183rd Street, Miami Gardens, FL 33056

"Just the act of voting is a celebration of democracy and a rallying cry for justice in our communities," said Desmond Meade, Executive Director of FRRC. "And it's an act that too many people have been kept from for too long. We're here today to celebrate those who have voted and urge those who haven't yet to join us in using their voice."

In 2018, more than two-thirds of Floridians voted in favor of restoring voting rights to 1.4 million returning citizens. Florida's legislators, however, amended the law, adding a requirement that returning citizens pay their remaining fines and fees before re-enfranchisement. After the state moved to weaken the impact of Amendment 4, FRRC and the NAACP worked hard this election year to ensure as many returning citizens are eligible to vote as possible. FRRC, with the support of more than 88,000 donors nationwide, helped raise more than \$27 million to pay returning citizens' fines and fees. They removed the voting obstacle for tens of thousands of returning citizens and plan to continue this work well past the 2020 election.

Ruban Roberts of the NAACP said of the event, "Souls to the polls is one of the most impactful voting events every year because it hits people where they are: in their communities and in their houses of worship. It isn't about who people vote for, it's about celebrating the right to vote especially for communities who haven't always had that right."



The Miami Dolphins FOOTBALL UNITESTM is a proud event sponsor and has supported FRRC and a range of efforts to increase voter awareness and engagement through South Florida.

"The Miami Dolphins believe in an inclusive democracy in our state and are committed to our local community," said Jason Jenkins Senior Vice President of the Miami Dolphins. "Democracy should be unencumbered and easily accessed by anyone who wants to practice their right. We show up in solidarity and in support of our communities."

To join FRRC and the NAACP at any of their stops, please contact press@floridarrc.org

For further information contact

- Taylor Hopkins at press@Floridarrc.org or phone number, 407 675 6412,
- Miami Dade NAACP-Civic Engagement Committee civicengagementmdb@gmail.com
- Miami-Dade NAACP Communications <u>miamidadecommunications@gmail.com</u>

###

About The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. For more information, visit https://floridarrc.com/.

About NAACP

Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. We have over 2,200 units and branches across the nation, along with well over 2M activists. Our mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

About The Miami Dolphins Football UNITES

The Miami Dolphins Football UNITES program strives to connect the intersections of the community to create a more inclusive South Florida through partnerships with organizations that value inclusivity and believe in the power of diversity.

About Radio Big Mack

Radio Big Mack is a radio personality/comedian from Sicklerville, NJ now living in Miami, FL. Big Mack is the Music Director and On Air Personality on the "Trick N Trina Morning Show" & the #1 night show "The PAC JAM with Radio Big Mack & DJ Nasty 305 on 99JAMZ in MIAMI. He is also a stand up comedian and one of the newest cast members of MTV's Wild N Out!