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NAACP DC DEMANDS &PIZZA REMOVE MARION BERRY KNOTS FROM MENU IMMEDIATELY

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The NAACP DC Branch demands &Pizza immediately remove the inflammatory, culturally insensitive and drug-use insinuating “Marion Berry Knots” from the menu and issue remuneration to support substance-abuse prevention in all cities within the &Pizza marketing area.

&Pizza recently introduced a new menu item, “Marion Berry Knots,” advertised with inflammatory language referencing powdered sugar and criminal usage. Although the spelling of the menu item is “marion berry,” after a berry and not “Barry,” the marketing and advertising is intentional and overtly disparaging to DC’s iconic, four term former Mayor and “Mayor For Life,” The Honorable Marion Shepilov Barry, Jr. &Pizza is a 55-store chain spanned across the East Coast and based out of the DC-area, so the original owner and new CEO know DC history and the racial, health and social implications of drugs in DC and Black communities.

As we approach the 10-year Anniversary commemorating the loss of “Mayor For Life” of the District of Columbia and lifelong civil rights activist, The Honorable Marion Shepilov Barry, Jr., we should be remembering the name and any reference to Marion Barry as the city’s most beloved Mayor and a civil rights leader that fought tirelessly to promote economic, educational and social equality for Blacks and underserved communities. Marion Barry served as the first chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960. As a civil rights leader with SNCC, Marion Barry led protests against racial segregation and discrimination. Marion Barry was elected as the second Mayor of the District of Columbia and served from 1979 to 1991 and from 1995 to 1999. As Mayor, Barry established the summer youth employment program, expanded DC government employment and increased contract opportunities, which promoted job growth and economic development in the District of Columbia.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC President, stated, ***“The life, legacy, lineage and name of Marion Barry deserves to be remembered as a pioneer for economic development, real-estate development, black business empowerment, youth employment and as the Mayor of the people. Mayor Barry taught us the power of economics and today, we call on the community to demand &Pizza right this egregious wrong.”***

For more information, please email 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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