

Council Of Presidents

ΑΦΑ * ΑΚΑ * ΚΑΨ * ΩΨΦ * ΔΣΘ * ΦΒΣ * ΖΦΒ * ΣΓΡ * ΙΦΘ

MEMBERS



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Founded 1906
Dr. Everett B. Ward
General President



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Founded 1908
Dr. Glenda Glover
International President



Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Founded 1911
Reuben Shelton, III, Esq.
Grand Polemarch



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Founded 1911
David Marion, Ph.D.
Grand Basileus



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Founded 1913
Beverly E. Smith
National President



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Founded 1914
Micheal Cristal
National President



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Founded 1920
Valerie Hollingsworth-Baker
International Grand Basileus



Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Founded 1922
Deborah Catchings-Smith
International Grand Basileus



Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.
Founded 1963
Andre' Manson
Grand Polaris

Joint Position Statement Against Hazing

PREFACE

The organizations of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) are committed to nurturing the ideals of sisterhood and fraternalism in an atmosphere of responsibility and respect. We are also committed to upholding the dignity and self-respect of all persons seeking membership therein. Hazing is antithetical to this commitment and is prohibited by the rules of each NPHC organization. In 1990, the member organizations of the NPHC jointly agreed to disband pledging as a form of admission. Today we, the members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council do hereby reaffirm our unequivocal opposition to hazing and those who seek to perpetuate it.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS NPHC is comprised of local councils drawn from the ranks of 2 million college and professional members of the nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, namely: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., and the Council of Presidents of these member organizations who come together on issues that promote the common purposes and general good for which these organizations exist; and

WHEREAS these NPHC organizations, operating through chapters located in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia, are proud of their commitment since 1906 to scholarship, community service, leadership and the promotion of sisterhood and brotherhood in an atmosphere of respect and responsibility; and

WHEREAS these NPHC organizations are likewise committed to promoting the self-respect and dignity of all persons seeking membership in their respective organizations; and

WHEREAS hazing is antithetical to this commitment and is strictly prohibited by the constitution, policies and procedures of each NPHC organization; and

WHEREAS “pledging” has been officially abolished as a process for membership and pledge “lines” have similarly been abolished; and all members and prospective members are prohibited from engaging in hazing, pledge or pre-pledge “lines”; and

The Council of Presidents is comprised of the titular heads of the nine (9) traditionally Black Greek-Lettered Organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). They collectively represent 2 million college-educated individuals throughout the United States and abroad.

WHEREAS in 1990, the NPHC organizations issued a joint statement announcing the elimination of pledging and each has instituted within its respective organization, a revised membership development and intake process; and

WHEREAS each NPHC organization has instituted strong policies against hazing and has taken steps to reinforce and strengthen its stand against prohibited conduct; and

WHEREAS we continue to value our commitment to the fundamental principles of brotherhood, sisterhood, human dignity and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS the NPHC organizations desire to make their commitment against hazing abundantly clear and fully intend for every member, prospective member, parent, university and the general public to be aware of the individual and collective position of the organizations against hazing; and

WHEREAS each NPHC organization further desires to make known its commitment to cooperate with law enforcement and university officials in the investigation and/or prosecution of alleged hazing or other illegal activities by its members and to impose penalties and severe disciplinary actions upon its members who have been found to have engaged in hazing activities, up to and including expulsion; and

WHEREAS hazing has been defined as “the practice of physically or emotionally abusing newcomers to an organization as a means of initiation; and

WHEREAS hazing has been held to include *actions resulting in excessive physical discomfort, humiliation or harassment, without regard to where such activities are held, including, but not limited to paddling, required participation in morally degrading or humiliating activities, and other activities inconsistent with the anti-hazing policies of our respective organizations, the anti-hazing policies of the respective affiliated educational institutions, and federal, state or local law*; and

WHEREAS such conduct is inimical to the principles for which each organization stands and fails to foster respect for others or preserve human dignity;

BE IT RESOLVED AND RESTATED that hazing, pledging, pledge “lines”, pre-pledge “lines” and post-intake hazing are strictly prohibited by these NPHC organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND RESTATED that these NPHC organizations are committed to eradicate the scourge of hazing and to that end we hereby affirm:

That since 1990, the intake process has been recodified by each organization, which permits the conduct of intake only when specifically authorized by the officer placed in charge of the process and only at such times, places and in the presence of persons specifically authorized and certified to conduct the intake process;

That prospective members are advised that hazing is not a requirement for membership, nor is it tolerated;

That as a condition to participating in the membership intake process, members and prospective members must attest that they are fully aware of the member organization's policy against hazing and will not engage in prohibited conduct;

That the organization will fully cooperate with law enforcement authorities and with university officials in the investigation and prosecution of hazing and other illegal activity;

That members and applicants for membership are also put on written notice that they will be held responsible to the organization for violation of policies against hazing and the organization is entitled to pursue full remedies allowed by the law to obtain indemnification for damages caused by the actions of the members or applicants who participated in illegal, unauthorized or prohibited conduct despite notice to refrain from such conduct;

That each organization shall impose severe penalties up to and including expulsion for proven violations of its policies against hazing, impose sanctions against a chapter involved in such violations, and cooperate with the university in its implementation of sanctions against members and/or chapters;

That members and applicants for membership shall be required to immediately notify the national office of the Fraternity or Sorority, the local chapter advisor, university officials and law enforcement officials of any observed hazing incident or improper activity believed to be in violation of the policy against hazing, without fear of reprisal and that the application for membership will not be affected by reporting hazing or other prohibited activity; and, indeed, failure to report known violations may disqualify a candidate for membership; and, finally,

That these NPHC organizations shall continue to encourage their members to participate in activities which promote high scholastic achievement, sisterhood, brotherhood, and leadership and shall continue to affirm sound values and the worth of every person working together to accomplish organizational goals and serve the community.

[signatures begin on next page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Joint Position Statement Against Hazing on this 22nd day of June 2020.

Dr. Everett B. Ward
General President
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Micheal Cristal
National President
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Glenda Glover
International President
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Valerie Hollingsworth-Baker
International Grand Basileus
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

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Beverly E. Smith
National President
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Vanetta Cheeks-Reeder
National President
National Pan-Hellenic Council