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**Ravinia Hayes-Cozier Named Director of Government Relations and Public Policy of the National Minority AIDS Council**

August 20, 2007—Washington, DC—The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) recently named Ravinia Hayes-Cozier the new Director of Government Relations and Public Policy (GRPP). In this role, Hayes-Cozier will develop and recommend HIV/AIDS policy on behalf of the 3,000 HIV/AIDS faith- and community-based organizations (F/CBOs) and AIDS service organizations that NMAC represents nationwide, to policy makers, opinion leaders and funders. She also will serve as NMAC's Official Spokesperson, providing insight into the agency's stance on issues of policy, as well as disseminating information about its programs and services.

“Ravinia brings over 25 years of leadership in HIV/AIDS advocacy to NMAC. Her influence in raising awareness, developing policy and implementing change in communities of color affected by HIV and AIDS cannot be overstated,” says NMAC Executive Director Paul Kawata. “We are honored to have her as part of our team and look forward to better serving our constituents through this auspicious partnership.”

Prior to joining NMAC, Hayes-Cozier served as Executive Director for the Harlem Directors Group, a consortium of 33 F/CBOs, and was responsible for program and policy development for the consortium. She also served as an Assistant Commissioner for HIV services for New York City's Health Department, ensuring the sustainability, capacity and financial stability of F/CBOs delivering HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services in all five of New York City's boroughs. She also headed HIV policy development for the City, and played a key role on the national stage in the development of the Minority AIDS Initiative.

In addition to her experience advocating on behalf of domestic and international grassroots organizations, Hayes-Cozier has extensive knowledge in management, and is a certified trainer from Dale Carnegie and Associates, Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University, and has over 500 credit hours in human resource development.

“It is essential to promote policies that reflect the needs and successes that come out of local programs,” affirms Ms. Hayes-Cozier. “By supporting and advocating for substantive and sound HIV/AIDS policy, we can develop programs and advance an agenda that reflect the needs and experiences of our constituents.”

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*NMAC's GRPP Division promotes sound national healthcare policy, with a distinct focus on issues related to HIV/AIDS, access to care and social justice as they impact*

*communities of color. To achieve its goals, GRPP engages in wide-range activities around advocacy and policy development, as well as grassroots education and community mobilization.*

*The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) was founded in 1987 to develop leadership within communities of color to address challenges of HIV/AIDS. NMAC has responded to the needs of communities of color by developing programs enhancing the skills necessary to confront this health crisis, including a public policy education program; national and regional training conferences; treatment and research programs and trainings; numerous publications and a website: [www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org). The agency also serves an association of AIDS service organizations, F/CBOs, hospitals, clinics, health departments and other groups assisting people and families living with and affected by the AIDS epidemic. NMAC's advocacy efforts are funded through private funders and donors only.*