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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New York Urban League Calls the Community to Action
at 90th Anniversary Annual Meeting**

New York, NY- December 21, 2009 - “Everyone may not have the time or level of dedication that the panelist here today have, but everyone can do something, and there’s no excuse not to answer the call to action,” said **Arva Rice**, President and CEO of the New York Urban League at the closing of the NYUL 90th Anniversary Annual Meeting. The New York Urban League, www.nynul.org, brought together a distinguished panel of leaders, politicians, activist and principals, moderated by well-respected news Co-Anchor, **Brenda Blackmon**, FOX/MY9 on Thursday December 11, 2009 to discuss and define “real” solutions for education.

The evening, which featured panelists **Kevin Powell**, **Arva Rice**, **Iris Morales**, **Ernest Logan**, President of Council of School Supervisors & Administrators and **Sandy Johnson**, Principal of the Thurgood Marshall Academy, drew over 200 people to JPMorgan Chase, including Manhattan Borough President **Scott Stringer** and National Urban League President **Marc Morial**.

The Annual Meeting was a time for community members to join together and discussion an issue of vital importance to our community. Each panelist represented unique perspectives on the topic, yet all could agree on one thing, the time is now to make a difference in the life of a child. Ernie Logan encouraged people to contact him to connect with schools in their zip code; Kevin Powell encouraged men to join forces with his efforts to reach Black boys; and Arva Rice encouraged people to join the NYUL Young Professionals, volunteer for NYUL College Prep or to become a mentor. “We cannot worry about telling young men to pull up their pants” insisted Kevin Powell “instead we must work with them in order to help them develop into adults. We, as community members, all have the responsibility to mold today’s children into the adults of the future. It is not the sole responsibility of our teachers and principals; we must all take a role in the life of a child.”

The New York Urban League (NYUL) was founded by a group of prominent New Yorkers concerned with the poor state of blacks migrating to New York City from the south and the Caribbean islands. For the past ninety years the organization has focused on improving conditions of Blacks through programs in education, housing, and employment.

New York Urban League has a rich history and long legacy of improving the quality of life for black New Yorkers. From its inception it provided employment and connections for migrating blacks bridging the adjustment from the agricultural/rural life to the industrial urban center. Each decade following it provided critical services such as emergency aid for the unemployed during the Great Depression; formed of the Committee for Interracial Voluntary Hospitals to provide care and work in local hospitals; negotiated the opening of employment for blacks in the airline, brewing,

and baking industries; created “Street Academies” which became a national model for high school students; building 536 units of affordable housing on Staten Island; published the first State of Black New York report; and created its signature events including Frederick Douglas Dinner, Whitney M. Young Classic, and Champion of Diversity Breakfast among many other milestones.

For more information visit www.nyul.org or call 212.926-8000 ext 145.

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