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RACISM

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Long Island's ERASE Racism Will Honor Civil Rights Pioneer

**Ambassador Andrew Young
to Receive the Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award**



Andrew Young, civil rights leader and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Congressman, and Mayor of Atlanta will receive the Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award at the annual benefit reception of ERASE Racism, the innovative nonprofit organization working to change Long Island's status as one of the most racially segregated suburban regions in the United States.

Ambassador Young will be honored on Wednesday, June 2, at the Garden City Hotel at a gala reception hosted by ERASE Racism's board of directors and is expected to speak on civil rights in modern America.

ERASE Racism was launched in 2001 as a special initiative of the Long Island Community Foundation and has worked to reframe the analysis and public discourse surrounding Long Island's status as the third most racially segregated suburban region in the country when measuring black to white residential patterns. It became an independent nonprofit organization in 2004 and was a driving force behind the enactment of new fair housing laws and enforcement systems in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. These laws offer accessible redress for victims of discrimination and a local path to increased prevention. The organization was honored for its work with the Liberty Bell Award from the Nassau County Bar Association.

In many ways, organizations like ERASE Racism stand on the shoulders of pioneers like Andrew Young, who is one of the nation's best known civil rights leaders. Ambassador Young brings a unique perspective formed by his wealth of experience in national and global leadership to his focus on the challenges of this era. He confronted segregation with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and galvanized a movement that transformed a nation through

non-violence. Young was a key strategist and negotiator during the Civil Rights campaigns in Birmingham and Selma that resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Elected to Congress in 1972, he was appointed by President Carter to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations where he negotiated an end to white-minority rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe and brought Carter's emphasis on human rights to international diplomacy. His leadership as Mayor of Atlanta took place during a recession and a reduction in federal funds for cities, but he turned to international markets for investments in Atlanta and led the effort to bring the Centennial Olympic Games to the city. As Co-Chair of the Atlanta Olympic Committee, he oversaw the largest Olympic Games in history.

Ambassador Young has received honorary degrees from more than 60 universities and colleges in the U.S. and abroad. President Carter awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom and France awarded him the Legion d'Honneur, the greatest civilian honor in each nation. President Bill Clinton appointed him the founding chair of the Southern African Enterprise Development Fund. He serves on a number of boards, including: the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change, Barrick Gold, Goodworks International, the United Nations Foundation, the Atlanta Falcons and the Andrew Young School for Policy Studies at Georgia State University. As a continuation of his activism, Ambassador Young founded the Andrew Young Foundation to promote the "way we understand our people, our global community and all our possibilities."

Andrew Young Presents, the Emmy-nominated, nationally syndicated series of specials produced by Ambassador Young through the Andrew J. Young Foundation, Inc. is seen in nearly 90 American markets and around the world through the Armed Services Network. Ambassador Young is the author of two books *A Way Out of No Way* and *An Easy Burden*.

"We are thrilled to honor someone of Ambassador Young's international stature and committed leadership and to have him here on Long Island, where the struggle for civil rights has entered a new chapter as Long Islanders of good will combat institutional discrimination in housing, healthcare and education," said Elaine Gross, founder and President of ERASE Racism.

For information on the reception, please contact Project Manager Rosemarie Walker at 516-921-4863 x13 or vial email - Rosemarie@eraseracismny.org. Sponsorship packages are available.

For more information on the work of ERASE Racism, please visit our website - www.eraseracismny.org

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