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VICTORY FUND ENDORSES MONDAIRE JONES FOR CONGRESS; WOULD BE FIRST BLACK OPENLY LGBTQ MEMBER OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, DC – Today LGBTQ Victory Fund, the only national organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ leaders to public office, endorsed Mondaire Jones in his 2020 race for New York’s 17th Congressional district. Jones would be the first openly LGBTQ Black member of Congress and just the third openly LGBTQ person of color to serve in Congress if elected. His race for the open seat is key to efforts to increase the number of LGBTQ people elected to Congress in 2020.

Jones raised over \$218 thousand in the third quarter – his first quarter since announcing his candidacy in August – and last week received seven key endorsements from local progressive activists and leaders. One of his primary opponents, New York state Senator David Carlucci, spent eight years caucusing with Senate Republicans at a time when the Republican majority was blocking legislation to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination and to ban “conversion therapy.”

“While Mondaire is talking about the progressive issues most important to his constituents – healthcare access, universal childcare and climate change – he is also running a historic race that will be watched closely by LGBTQ people across the country,” said **Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund**. “Mondaire will become the first openly LGBTQ Black member of Congress when elected, becoming a crucial voice in a Congress with too few LGBTQ people and people of color. Our country needs more LGBTQ leaders like Mondaire who can positively influence the direction of the next U.S. Congress – benefiting not just his district but all Americans.”

Jones is Victory Fund’s fifth federal endorsement for the 2020 election cycle, having endorsed Mayor Pete Buttigieg for President of the United States and Ritchie Torres, Gina Ortiz Jones and Jon Hoadley for U.S. House. Torres, if elected, would be the first Afro-Latinx member of Congress.

In 2018, Victory Fund endorsed a historic number of LGBTQ candidates for Congress. Eight U.S. House candidates and two U.S. Senate candidates won their elections – the most ever.

More information about the candidates is available at victoryfund.org/ourcandidates. Since 1991, Victory Fund has helped thousands of openly LGBTQ candidates win local, state and federal elections.

ABOUT: LGBTQ Victory Fund works to change the face and voice of America’s politics and achieve equality for LGBTQ Americans by increasing the number of openly LGBTQ elected officials at all levels of government.

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