

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

(Las Vegas, Nev., - February 6, 2003) – Fourteen cities across the United States, including Las Vegas, will observe National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, 2003. Activities and observances are planned throughout the day in an effort to stem the rising tide of HIV/AIDS in African American communities across the nation.

As part of the days activities personnel from the Health District Office of AIDS will be conducting free, confidential HIV testing and voter registration at the Second Baptist Church at 500 Madison Street and at the Flamingo Library, 1401 East Flamingo Road from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Additional activities planned for the day include:

Opening Ceremonies, Press Conference and Reception

Community Resource Center, Building B
2432 North Martin Luther King Blvd.
9am-11am

Opening Ceremonies Speakers:

Rev. Willie Davis, Pastor Second Baptist
Rev. Spencer Barrett, Pastor First A.M.E., Chair of the NAACP
Rev. Marion Bennett, Zion United Methodist Church
Lionel Starkes, Clark County Health District Office of AIDS

Elected Officials:

Mayor Oscar Goodman
Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates
Councilman Larry Weekly
Councilwoman Lynette Boggs-McDonald

Panel/Press Conference Speakers:

Kay Bjournsen, RN, CCHD
Leslie Kellum-O'Brien, UMC Wellness Center
Rev. Sylvester Rogers, Pastor Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Persons living with HIV/AIDS
Panel moderator: Sherman Rutledge Jr.

(more)

Evening Musical Program "We Speak and We Sing Out"

Flamingo Library Theater

1401 East Flamingo Rd.

7pm-8:30pm

Moderator: Keith Andrews

This musical will also include Lenore Simon with a monologue from the acclaimed play "Before It Hits Home," Victory Missionary Baptist Praise Dancers, Soloists from Trinity A.M.E. Church and the Metropolitan Baptist Church.

The objectives of National Black HIV/AIDS Day are to educate the community, encourage testing, and promote involvement and advocacy. Currently, the Office of AIDS Surveillance Project reports that 23 percent of AIDS cases and 27 percent of HIV infection in Clark County occur in African Americans. AIDS is the leading cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. Of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, more than 50 percent are among African Americans and of the reported pediatric AIDS cases in the United States, two-thirds are African American children.

For more information contact the Clark County Health District Office of AIDS at 942-9318.

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