

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

(Las Vegas, Nev., - February 7, 2004) – Cities across the United States, including Las Vegas, will observe the fourth annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, 2004. A variety of local activities are planned, with each tying into the vision of mobilizing African-American communities to “get tested, get educated and get involved” in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

A morning health forum will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Second Baptist Church, located at 500 Madison Avenue. The following speakers are scheduled:

- Tony Dorsey, from “Sista to Sista;”
- Lydia Harris, from FACT (Fighting AIDS in the Community Today);
- Willie Liggans-Veasley, from the Second Baptist Church;
- Devona Meeks, a community member;
- Lionel Starkes, from the Clark County Health District Office of AIDS.

Additionally, the Clark County Health District Office of AIDS will be conducting free, confidential HIV testing at two locations throughout the day:

Victory Missionary Baptist Church Annex
1312 F Street, Suite 104
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Flamingo Branch Library
1401 E. Flamingo Road
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Finally, an evening musical program titled “We Speak We Sing Out” will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Flamingo Library Theater, located at 1401 E. Flamingo Road.

The Clark County Health District Office of AIDS reports that 23 percent of local AIDS cases and 26 percent of local HIV infections are among African Americans. Nationally, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African Americans represent

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12 percent of the population, but account for 52 percent of AIDS related deaths and 50 percent of both newly-reported HIV infections and AIDS cases each year. Moreover, HIV and AIDS are among the leading causes of death for African-American men and women ages 25 to 44.

For more information on HIV and AIDS, contact Cherie Filler-Maietta with the Clark County Health District Office of AIDS at 759-0726. The on-site interview and information contact for February 7, 2004 is Inez Staten, who can be reached via cell phone at (702) 277-3182.

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