



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2009

CONTACT: Phallan Davis 202-741-0915 direct line or email: pdavis@dccouncil.us

Councilmember Bowser advises everyone to “be in the know” *Saturday, June 27 is National HIV Testing Day*

Ignorance of the law excuses no one. And ignorance of your HIV status is not an excuse for passing it along to someone else. Everyone should get tested.

Three percent of residents in our nation’s capital suffer from HIV or AIDS. According to a report released by the Department of Health, this figure is the highest in the country and greatly surpasses the 1 percent benchmark at which a health issue becomes a “generalized and severe” epidemic. The report found high rates of HIV in almost every neighborhood in Washington D.C.

The District is the last stop of the three-week, fourteen city cross-country AIDS Healthcare Foundation testing tour called Testing USA 2009. The mobile unit is part of AHF’s nationwide effort to increase AIDS awareness and HIV prevention and testing efforts in the hardest-hit parts of the country.

On Saturday, June 27th, National HIV Testing Day, a mobile testing unit will be stationed at the DC Caribbean Carnival as part of its health and wellness campaign to provide free, rapid HIV testing. The festival takes place at Banneker Field, located at Georgia Avenue and Barry Place, near Howard University. The mobile testing unit will be inside Banneker Field from 1 to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. At this location, festival attendees can get also get their glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels tested.

The Magic Johnson Mobile Testing Unit will be on-site on Sunday. Stationed just outside of Banneker Field, attendees can get tested for HIV only from 1 to 5 p.m. at this location. Also, this mobile testing unit is permanently relocating to DC from Los Angeles.

Yes, National HIV testing day will observed this Saturday but the problem is too great here in the District and nationwide to wait for a special day to get tested. After all, who doesn’t want to be in the know? Visit the Department of Health’s [HIV testing page](#) to find a location near you to get tested.

###

A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs and is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the

Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information on Councilmember Bowser.

For any media inquires, please contact Communications Director Phallan Davis at 202-741-0915 or pdavis@dccouncil.us

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20004
202-724-8052 phone 202-741-0908 fax
