

The World Conference of Mayors, Inc.

(United Nations of Cities)

HONORABLE JOHNNY FORD, Founder, '84

Secretary General

Tuskegee, Alabama (USA)

www.worldconferenceofmayors

Announcement

Press Release

For Immediate Release

The World Conference of Mayors (WCM) has adopted a resolution calling upon Mayors to issue a Proclamation proclaiming June 27th as National HIV/AIDS Testing Day, according to the Honorable Ron Davis, Mayor of the City of Prichard, Alabama and President of the WCM.

"The HIV/AIDS disease has reached epidemic proportions in the cities of America, especially in minority communities", emphasized WCM Founder, the Honorable Johnny Ford.

The WCM is very pleased that our organization has again adopted a resolution in support of the National Testing Day in the cities of America. We are calling upon Mayors to lead the charge, asking them to be the first to be tested as a motivational stimulus to the public to take advantage of the free testing that will be available across the nation on June 27th.

In 2008, then Tuskegee Mayor, Johnny Ford joined with other officials in New York City to ring the NASDAQ Bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. This year, the NASDAQ Bell will be rung again to kick-off the National Day of Testing on June 26th, inasmuch as June 27th falls on a Saturday.

Recently, Mayor Ford met in Washington with First Lady Michelle Obama, at which time she challenged leaders to mobilize their support of community service initiatives, especially in the field of health. Ford said, "I wish to commend the First Lady and the President, as well as the Director of the Communicable Disease Center (CDC) for their renewed fight and their overwhelming support of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The WCM has requested funding along with the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA) in New York, and its President the Honorable C. Virginia Fields, former president of the Borough of Manhattan. If funded, resources will be available for the two organizations, the WCM and NBLCA, to collaborate in an effort to strengthen the ability of Mayors and others to more effectively fight HIV/AIDS in the cities of America

Six cities will be targeted, according to Ford: New York (former Mayor David Dinkens); Chicago (former Mayor Harold Washington); Los Angeles (former Mayor Tom Bradley); San Francisco (former Mayor Willie Brown); Philadelphia (former Mayor Wilson Goode) and Houston (former Mayor Lee Brown). Ironically, when HIV/AIDS epidemic began to surface as a major disease in US cities, all of these cities were served by African American Mayors, who were all members of the World Conference of Mayors, Inc. and the National Black Conference of Mayors, Inc.

"We want to thank the Honorable Louis Maxwell, Chairman of the Macon County Commission, and also the chairman of The Comprehensive Health Center, for making the center available for the tests. The Comprehensive Health Center on Lee Street will be open for testing between the hours of 9:00AM-3:00PM on June 27, 2009. We encourage all citizens to take advantage of this testing opportunity, and expect to be the first tested," stated Ford.

