

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHIELA KUEHL

November 28, 2017

WORLD AIDS DAY

Consecutively, for more than three decades, Los Angeles County has experienced the second largest HIV epidemic in the United States. Nearly 61,000 people are living with HIV in the County and there are approximately 1,950 new diagnoses each year, most among gay men, African-Americans, Latinos and transgender persons. While we have made great progress in reducing new HIV infections, HIV continues to impact a significant number of our families and friends.

Each year, on December 1st, the international community unites to remember each of those whom we have lost too soon, reflect on the progress we have made, and renew our commitment to a strong HIV response. The theme for World AIDS Day 2017 is: ***Increasing Impact Through Transparency, Accountability, and Partnerships.*** This year, Los Angeles County will renew its commitment to fighting the HIV epidemic by presenting the first Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Strategy. The strategy outlines three main goals to address the local HIV/AIDS epidemic:

1. Reduce annual HIV infections to 500,
2. Increase the proportion of Persons Living With HIV who are diagnosed to

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at least 90%, and

3. Increase viral suppression among Persons Living With HIV to at least 90%.

We must continue to take advantage of the many scientific advances that allow us to imagine an end to the HIV epidemic. Today we are able to control the epidemic with the best biomedical tools, including 4th generation testing technology, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, single pill anti-retroviral treatment with minimal side effects, and supportive services such as Patient Navigation for HIV-negative persons and Medical Care Coordination for people living with HIV. For the first time, we have the tools we need to curb an epidemic without a vaccine or cure.

Sustaining momentum on the progress we have made will require ongoing commitment and passion from every sector in our County and across every level of government. Today we recommit to making the best use of the tools available by ensuring equitable access to all people impacted by HIV and with a special care for the most impacted communities. Let us rededicate our support for all people living with HIV and to ending this epidemic ***once and for all***.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Recognize December 1, 2017 as World AIDS Day in Los Angeles County;
2. Declare the Board of Supervisors' support for the Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Strategy; and
3. Recognize the Department of Public Health for its leadership in drafting the Strategy and its ongoing collaboration with the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV to oversee the implementation of the Strategy.