

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 26, 2012

Proclaim June 27, 2012 National HIV Testing Day in Los Angeles County

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are an estimated 1.2 million people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the United States. An alarming 21 percent of these individuals are unaware of their positive HIV status.

Since the early 1980s, 200,000 Californians have reportedly contracted HIV and nearly 90,000 have died – 33,950 of those deaths have occurred among Los Angeles County residents alone. California ranks second in the nation in reported cumulative Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases, and there are an estimated 6,400 new HIV infections in California every year.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports that by the end of December 2011, there were approximately 43,936 people living with HIV/AIDS in the County of Los Angeles, of which 38,449 (88%) are men; 5,045 (11%) are women, and 442 (1%) are transgender persons. In addition, it is estimated that over 12,800 Angelenos have HIV and are unaware of their status.

HIV/AIDS has a devastating impact on communities of color, women and young people in the United States. Racial and ethnic minorities accounted for almost 71 percent of all newly diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS and 73 percent of newborn cases of HIV/AIDS in 2010.

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
JUNE 26, 2012
PAGE 2**

Each year on June 27, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) organizes National HIV Testing Day. This initiative reminds us that there are important reasons for learning one's HIV status (including taking advantage of dramatic advances in HIV treatment options, and protecting sexual partners from HIV infection), and encourages individuals to seek out voluntary HIV testing as a critical first step in promoting and protecting one's health. People with knowledge of their HIV status can make more informed decisions about their lives.

The Empowerment Congress of the Second District is engaging community leaders, community stakeholders, faith-based groups, and elected officials to help stop the spread of HIV by encouraging efforts to educate community members about the importance of taking control of one's own health and getting regular screenings for HIV.

Los Angeles County should work toward preventing the spread of HIV and providing greater access to prevention, care, treatment and support services to those impacted by HIV disease.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS proclaim Wednesday, June 27, 2012 National HIV Testing Day throughout Los Angeles County, and urge local residents, community stakeholders, and County employees to support and participate in events planned on this day.

###