

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2007

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Mayor Healy to Host National HIV Testing Day Power 105.1 Radio Station to Present Gift Certificates to First 105 Tested

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy**, entertainment personalities and health care professionals will help test more than 200 people for HIV and AIDS during a **National HIV Testing Day** event, which will be held from **4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, 2007** at the “HUB” parking lot, 360 Martin Luther King Drive.

Knowing if you have the virus or the disease is the first step towards a healthy life, health care professionals say. The event, which is co-sponsored by the Mayor’s Office, the Municipal Council, the Department of Health & Human Services, and Power 105.1 radio station, is an opportunity for any resident of Jersey City to be tested for HIV.

The first 105 people tested will receive a \$25 American Express gift certificate, compliments of Power 105.1. On hand to greet residents will be Power 105.1’s Ed Lover and DJ Kut. Ed Lover has made a commitment to undergo an HIV test at the event. A special celebrity appearance will be made by Gbenga Akinnagbe, who plays “Chris” on the HBO series “The Wire.”

“HIV and AIDs is a serious issue and affects thousands of people in Jersey City,” **Mayor Healy** said. “But one of the most important tools in fighting this disease is outreach, like the National Testing Day, and educating our residents.”

Hudson County is second only to Essex County in total numbers of HIV and AIDS cases, and Jersey City, with 6,131 HIV and AIDS cases, has the second highest total among New Jersey cities.

“It is so important for people to understand what measures they can take in their lives to be healthy,” **Mayor Healy** said. “By being tested, people who might have HIV or AIDS can become informed about what treatments are available for them.”

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Trained staff from Horizon Health Care Center, North Hudson Community Action Corporation, and the Center for Comprehensive Care at Jersey City Medical Center will administer the quick test for HIV, which will have results within 20 minutes, with great accuracy. It is done with a swab of the inside of the cheek and is totally painless.

Should a patient test positive, he or she will be taken to a testing site where blood can be drawn and analyzed.

According to the latest reported information with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, 4,378 people in Hudson County were living with HIV or AIDS last year. Since 1990, the percentage of people dying from AIDS has fallen dramatically, from 78 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 2004.

“At one time, AIDS meant the end of life, but not anymore. Patients who receive treatment for HIV and AIDS and stay with it have many medical options to help them remain healthy. And identifying the virus is the first step towards a healthy life,” said Tom Cronin, administrative director for the Center for Comprehensive Care at Jersey City Medical Center . The Center for Comprehensive Care is the largest HIV and AIDS center in Hudson County .

Upcoming Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services events are as follows:

Sept. 25, 2007	The 20 th Anniversary of the Jersey City AIDS Task Force
Oct. 3, 2007	20 th Annual Senior Health Fair
Dec. 1, 2007	World Aids Day

For more information on the National HIV Testing Day, contact the Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services at 201-547-5583.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-686-7244.///

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