



THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Bill de Blasio - PUBLIC ADVOCATE

My fellow New Yorkers:

As your Public Advocate I am encouraged to see the active collaboration in all of New York City "Stepping Up in Faith for HIV and AIDS".

The HIV/AIDS epidemic isn't just happening in faraway places. Before we can stop any epidemic, we first have to recognize the magnitude of the virus. HIV/AIDS is still a threat across the United States. And even though there are treatments to help people with HIV live longer than ever before, HIV/AIDS is still a significant health issue. Every 9½ minutes (on average), someone in the United States is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

We can all be leaders as we take more responsibility in order to do more as individuals, as communities, and as a nation to fight HIV and AIDS.

As individuals:

We should know whether or not we are infected with HIV;

If we are infected, we should seek medical care and protect others from becoming infected;

We should protect ourselves and others from HIV;

We should educate ourselves and others about HIV.

As NYC residents from all 5 boroughs:

We should mobilize to overcome the challenges and barriers to HIV prevention;

We should fight ignorance and complacency related to HIV;

We should increase the awareness about the severity of epidemic and the continued impact that HIV is having on our communities;

We should make sure that HIV prevention services, HIV testing, medical care and treatment are available to all who need them;

We should work to prevent stigma and discrimination—and to increase support for people living with HIV.

Together, we have the power to change the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio

Public Advocate for the City of New York

