

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 12-0185

## In Support of Native Peoples HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

**WHEREAS**, HIV and AIDS has affected the City and County of Denver more than any other area in the state, reporting the most persons living with the disease and the most HIV and/or AIDS-related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, men continue to represent the majority of new HIV and AIDS cases in the U.S., while women and youth ages 14-26 comprise two of the fastest growing groups contracting HIV. In 1985, women represented 8 percent of AIDS diagnoses; by 2011 they accounted for more than 27 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of HIV/AIDS among Native Hawaiians and American Indians/Alaska Natives poses a significant risk to the public health and well-being of these communities. Native peoples had the third and fourth highest rate of new HIV infections per 100,000 persons of all racial/ethnic groups in 2008, despite having the smallest populations; and

**WHEREAS**, according to CDC research on disadvantaged youth, the rate of HIV among young women aged 16 to 21 is 50 percent higher than the rate among young men in that age group; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver recognizes the continued work to bring HIV and AIDS awareness by groups including Branching Seedz of Resistance, Cafe Cultura, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, Denver HIV Resource Planning Council, Denver Indian Health and Family Services, Latinos Integrating Sexuality Teaching Others Safer Sex, National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, Servicios de La Raza, Sisters of Color United for Education, and Youth HIV Awareness Coalition.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That Denver City Council proclaims March 20, 2012, to be known as Native Peoples HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 5, 2012

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PRESIDENT