

# City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem Dwaine R. Caraway, Rickey Smiley, KBFB 97.9 The Beat, The City of Dallas, Out The Box Entertainment and the MLK, Jr. Family Clinic announce first “Hip Hop for HIV” Concert**

**DALLAS** - Change is necessary for forward movement and growth, and next month that movement means survival as Dallas Mayor Pro-Tem Dwaine Caraway, Radio One’s Rickey Smiley, KBFB 97.9 The Beat, the City of Dallas and The MLK, Jr. Family Clinic launch an initiative to educate the community on the epidemic of HIV/AIDS.

The first Hip Hop for HIV concert will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Sept. 14 on the steps of Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. The goal of the event is to increase awareness, alleviate the fear associated with HIV/AIDS, and encourage everyone to know your status and help eradicate the spread of the disease.

Knowing your status and “testing for tickets” is the core concept of this soon to be annual event. Testing sites will be designated throughout the Metroplex as participants collaborate with community organizations to begin confidential testing. Those tested will receive a free ticket to the concert.

“Testing for tickets is one creative way to address the disease, specifically the age group between 15 to 30 years of age,” said Mayor Pro-Tem Dwaine R. Caraway. “People can learn their status, then be proactive about maintaining a healthy lifestyle, taking preventive measures, and becoming more informed about the social and medical services available for treatment. This initiative is part of our Teen Summit program that we kicked off last year.”

The concert will feature international, national and local Hip Hop artists such as David Banner, Mike Jones, Bun B, Day 26, Pleasure P, Young Berg, Trap Star and more. The artists will emphasize the importance of knowing your status and encourage education and prevention.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

- U.S. – About 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS. New technology shows that the incidence of HIV is higher than previously known (with estimates at 56,300, rather than the original estimate of 40,000, new HIV diagnoses each year). It is estimated that 25% of those infected with HIV do not know it.
- State of Texas – over 60,000 Texans are living with HIV/AIDS, with about 5,000 new HIV diagnoses each year
- Dallas County – over 13,000 in Dallas County are living with HIV/AIDS, with over 700 new HIV cases reported last year (2007).

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