

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Taniella Jo Harrison

(516) 997-1208

THarrison@tchns.com

Free National HIV Testing Day program in Wyandanch on June 27

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter Inc. will host a National HIV Testing Day program at the Wyandanch Public Library on June 27 from 6-9 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The program's goal is to engage attendees in a conversation about the increase in HIV infections among older adults and black women, and what can be done to prevent the epidemic from increasing further. Several dynamic speakers will dispel misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and exactly who is at risk, while discussing with attendees what they can do individually and in their communities to best advocate for women and girls with regard to HIV/AIDS issues.

According to Amfar.org, African-American women have an HIV prevalence rate that is nearly 15 times that of white women. While African-Americans and Hispanics represent 26 percent of all women in the United States, they account for 82 percent of AIDS cases among women. Also of note, more than half of Long Islanders living with HIV/AIDS are 45 years of age or older.

The evening's speakers will include AIDS activist Maria Davis; Dr. Gregson Pigott, Director of the Suffolk County Office of Minority Health; and Dr. Margaret Sukhram, Nurse Practitioner Women's Health of Old Westbury. Free HIV tests will also be available at the event.

"The speakers will be addressing what women of color can do now to protect themselves against the virus," said Taniella Jo Harrison, the HIV/AIDS Initiative Chair for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter, Inc., which advocates for black women and girls in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. "HIV/AIDS is having a devastating impact on black and Latina women who live in Wyandanch and all over Long Island. Many women are not consistently protecting themselves without knowing the status of their partners. Education and getting tested is crucial." Ms. Harrison is also the Executive Vice President of Tri-County Home Nursing Services, Inc. located in both Westbury and Coram.

The Wyandanch Public Library is located at 14 South 20th Street in Wyandanch. For more information, visit www.li100bw.com, call (516) 813-0901 or email info@li100bw.com.