New York City Mayoral Candidates’ Response to HIV/AIDS 2009
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INTRODUCTION

Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC) fights to end the AIDS epidemic and uplift the lives of all affected, and advocates for evidence-based HIV prevention and care locally, nationally and globally. Part of our efforts include the publication of a voter guide to help educate people concerned about HIV about this year’s Mayoral candidates and where they stand on major issues affecting people living with HIV and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. GMHC and the New York City LGBT Center designed and submitted questionnaires to Mayoral candidates in the spring of 2009. The enclosed report details their responses to these questionnaires, as well as summarizes available opinions and positions on HIV and LGBT issues.

Since 2001, AIDS deaths in New York City have declined by 33%1. HIV diagnoses have declined by 5% from 2005 to 20062. Despite these improvements, however, we still encounter significant obstacles. Within New York City there was a 6% increase in HIV diagnoses observed among females ages 13–29 from 2005–20063. Over 90% of women newly diagnosed and women living with AIDS in 2006 were black or Hispanic4. The New York City Department of Health reported a 33% increase in HIV incidence from 2001 to 2006 among men who have sex with men (MSM) ages 13–295. Black and Latino MSM make up 77% of new HIV infections among young MSM in New York City6.

These statistics indicate that we are failing to slow the spread of HIV in New York City, particularly among young MSM and black women. New York City needs to target its prevention efforts and services for young women in the neighborhoods hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2000, 52% of all New York City women infected with AIDS resided in just ten neighborhoods known to have the highest concentration of poverty7. In addition to targeting women, these prevention efforts must also target young MSM of color. Funding must be expanded to support focused outreach and care for both women and young MSM of color, including mental health care and counseling, substance abuse treatment, supportive housing, services that address domestic violence, crisis intervention, case management, increased access to targeted HIV counseling and testing, STD screening and referrals to medical care.

Effort must also be invested in sensible sex education. Currently, sex education is not mandated by the NYC Department of Education, meaning that school principals decide whether or not to include sex education in their school’s curriculum. According to National Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, 47% of high school students in the United States are sexually active8. The birthrate among teenagers 15 to 19 in the United States rose in 2006 by 3%, the first such increase since 1991, and teen pregnancy in the South Bronx is twice as high as the national average9. The New York City Department of Education reported that four million young people in the U.S. contract STDs each year10. The sexual education curriculum adopted by the New York City Department of Education in December 2007 must be implemented in all middle and high schools so that every NYC public school student receives age-appropriate comprehensive sex education. A similar STD/HIV education program should be implemented in other institutional settings, including New York City correctional facilities.

At the local level, according to a 2005 Harris Interactive survey of New York State students, 77% report hearing sexist comments in school, 72% of respondents reported hearing homophobic comments, 57% reported hearing negative comments about a person’s gender expression, and 46% reported hearing racist comments11. The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), overwhelming passed by the City Council in 2004, prohibits harassment against students in public schools, including harassment based on real or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) and sex, and prohibits discrimination based on these
same characteristics\textsuperscript{12}. Research shows that family acceptance and school-based interventions, such as gay-straight alliances and anti-bullying initiatives, are key resiliency factors for gay youth\textsuperscript{13}.

City officials not only run the five boroughs but also have an influence on what happens at the state and federal levels. There are several pieces of state and federal legislation that GMHC recommends city officials support. One such bill, proposed by the Governor, State Senate and Assembly Health Committee Chairmen, would expand the offering of an HIV test in most diagnostic settings to help identify the 25% of HIV-positive New Yorkers who are unaware of their status. The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) must also be supported in order for it to add protections to transgender New Yorkers from discrimination in the workplace. The federal Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA), which would allow states to expand Medicaid to HIV-positive individuals who are asymptomatic and have not been given an AIDS diagnosis, should also be supported.

There are also issues surrounding housing for HIV-positive people that need support. One such piece of legislation is HASA for All (Intro 691), which would allow HIV-positive individuals who are asymptomatic to qualify for housing, nutrition and transportation services through the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA). GMHC recommends elected officials support enhanced rental assistance to allow HASA clients better access to private market apartments. It is also recommended they support the implementation of changes that will help remedy problems with HASA which were discovered by the Comptroller’s official 2003 audit and 2007 follow-up report. These issues interfered with finding housing for HASA clients in an efficient manner.

In addition to HIV-related issues, there are many unresolved policy issues affecting LGBT people. At the state level, New York has failed to grant marriage equality to same-sex couples. The federal government refuses to recognize same-sex marriage. The Uniting American Families Act, which would allow foreign permanent partners in a same-sex relationship with a U.S. citizen the ability to apply for U.S. citizenship, awaits passage in Congress. Also, the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would expand federal hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

GMHC publishes this guide in order to educate its clients, volunteers, supporters, and the general public about this year’s Mayoral candidates and where they stand on HIV/AIDS issues. Three of the four declared Mayoral candidates, Bill Thompson, Tony Avella and Tyrell Eiland, responded to a questionnaire which can be found in Appendix A. Mayor Michael Bloomberg declined to complete the questionnaire. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, GMHC is prevented by federal law from endorsing candidates.
Tony Avella

Date of Birth: October 27, 1957
Current Position: New York City Council Member 19th District
Committees: Chair, Zoning and Franchising, Fire & Criminal Justice Services; Higher Education; Housing and Buildings; Land Use; Veterans
Chief of Staff to Senator Toby Stavisky
Previous Service: Aide to New York City Council Member Peter Vallone Sr.
Aide to Mayor Koch
Aide to Mayor Dinkins
Chief of Staff to Senator Toby Stavisky
Education: Hunter College
City University of New York
Hometown: Queens, NY
Campaign Website: www.tonyavellaformayor.com

Tony Avella is a lifelong resident of Queens. He was first elected as City Council member in 2001. His public service career began over 20 years ago an aide to New York City Council Member Peter Vallone, Sr. He served as an aide to Mayors Koch and Dinkins and as Chief of Staff to State Senator Toby Stavisky and the late State Senator Leonard Stavisky.

HIV
PREVENTION:

Mr. Avella:

• **Supports** the restoration of funds to help HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and services for young women in neighborhoods most affected by the epidemic.

“I am very much aware of the importance of preventive efforts and targeted services. As Mayor, I would do a budget modification to restore these funds.”

• **Opposes** cuts to HIV prevention with MSM of color.

“I would oppose further cuts to these programs. As Mayor, I would assure appropriate funding.”

• **Supports** requiring all middle and high school principals to implement age-appropriate comprehensive sex education.

“With regard to sex education curriculum implementation, I believe consistency across the middle and high schools is essential. Assuming mayoral control remains in place, as Mayor, I would require inclusion and would work with parents, teachers and principals to assure implementation.”

• With regards to attempts to remove written informed consent before getting tested for HIV to ensure every person tested is provided with the knowledge necessary to make an educated decision Mr. Avella is **undecided** but stated:
"I believe detailed informed consent prior to HIV testing is imperative. However, if the current system of written informed consent may be a barrier, as mayor I would work with the LGBT community and health care providers to explore alternatives."

LOCAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Avella supports:

- Streamlining the process of funding allocation to make money available to community-based organizations, such as GMHC, as soon as the contracts are awarded.

He said:

"As a City Council Member, I have personal experience with and understand the frustration experienced by many worthy organizations. As Mayor, I will totally overhaul the system to reduce bureaucratic red-tape, ensure that organizations receive funding on a timely basis, ensure that communities of color receive their fair amount of funding, and fund groups over a multiyear period to provide continuity."

STATE LEGISLATION

Mr. Avella supports:

- Expanding the offering of an HIV test in most diagnostic settings.
- The passage of this legislation could lead to identifying the 25% of New Yorkers living with HIV and are unaware of their status.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Avella supports:

- Passage of the federal Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) which would allow states to expand Medicaid to HIV-positive individuals who are asymptomatic and have not been given an AIDS diagnosis.

HEALTH OF THE INCARCERATED

Mr. Avella supports:

- Implementing STD/HIV education prevention programs, including the distribution of condoms in prisons in New York City Correctional Facilities.
- “…Prevention programs are essential. As Mayor, I would support program implementation.”

HOUSING

Mr. Avella supports:

- HASA for All (Intro691) which would allow HIV positive individuals who are asymptomatic to qualify for housing, nutrition and transportation services through the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA).
- “As a City Council Member, I co-sponsored this legislation. Obviously, as Mayor I would ensure its implementation”
- Implementing the necessary changes to HASA as recommended by the NYC Comptroller in order to effectively serve clients in need of housing.
- “I question why it took four years for the Comptroller’s office to find out HASA had not fully implemented the changes.”
- Increasing the level of enhanced rental assistance to allow HASA clients better access to private market apartments.

“Expanding affordable housing in New York City is a key tenet of my mayoral campaign. As Mayor, I will support the increase.”

**LGBT EQUALITY**

**LOCAL LEGISLATION**

Mr. Avella supports:

- Establishing oversight of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to implement the recommendations of the Public Advocate’s Report.
- Mandating that all data sets used by New York City government agencies to assess, monitor and evaluate City-funded or City-contracted health and human services include sexual orientation and gender identity demographic data.

“Clearly, if questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity are not asked, New York City cannot accurately assess need and determine efficacy of health and human service delivery. As Mayor, I would support such a mandate.”

Mr. Avella is undecided about:

- Mandating that the New York City DOHMH enact a measure to allow transgender people born in NYC to amend their birth certificates without requiring that they undergo sex reassignment surgery.

**STATE LEGISLATION**

Mr. Avella supports:

- Full implementation and enforcement of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which overwhelmingly passed the City Council in 2004 but was vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg.

“As a New York City Council Member, I was the second person to sign on as a co-sponsor of this legislation. Obviously as Mayor I would ensure its implementation.”

- Passage of the state Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which would add protections for transgender New Yorkers from discrimination in the workplace.
- Efforts by the Governor and state legislators to allow same-sex marriage.

“I support marriage equality and support the efforts of the Governor and state legislators. I have asked City Council legal division to draft a City Council Resolution which I would introduce to support the Governor’s marriage equality bill.”

“New Yorkers deserve an open and honest discussion on Marriage Equality” Avella said.

“We need to send a clear message to Albany to pass marriage equality. It is the right thing to do… I have been married for 20 years and everyone deserves the chance to be as blessed as I have been,” he said. “The law should not discriminate on who has the right to do this and who doesn’t. We all deserve the right to love and the state needs to recognize this.”
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Avella supports:

- Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), inclusive of protections for transgender Americans, which would add protections for LGBT Americans from discrimination in the workplace.

- Passage of the Uniting American Families Act, sponsored by New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler, to allow foreign permanent partners in a same-sex relationship with an American the ability to apply for U.S. citizenship.

- Passage of the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which would expand federal hates crimes laws to include sexual orientation.

“Given recent incidents in New York City, this legislation is more important than ever.”

ENDORSEMENTS

- The New York Community Council
- League of Humane Voters

OTHER REMARKS

Prior to his election, he served in numerous volunteer capacities including, founder and President of the North Shore Anti-Graffiti Volunteers, Bay Terrace Civilian Patrol President, College Point Sports Association President, Preservation Alliance of Northeast Queens President, Bayside Historical Society President, founder and President of the Joint Community Council of College Point, and a member of Queens Community Board #7.

For his numerous volunteer civic endeavors on behalf of all New Yorkers, in 1997 he was awarded New York State’s Community Service Award from nominations received across the entire State.
Michael Bloomberg was first elected in 2001. As of July 10, 2009, Michael Bloomberg has spent over $36 million on promoting his re-election campaign. His major opponent, Bill Thompson, has spent $2.4 million.

Michael Bloomberg did not complete the questionnaire sent to him by GMHC. This portion of the report is based solely on Michael Bloomberg's record as Mayor, including information compiled from his campaign website and local press coverage. GMHC staff and interns made thorough attempts to get a completed questionnaire.

**HIV**

New York City to this day remains the epicenter of the domestic HIV crisis. In 2001, the year Bloomberg was elected Mayor, there were 3,612 new cases of HIV infection. In 2007, the most recent year for which data is available, there were 3,787 new cases of HIV infection in New York City. The number of new cases of HIV has remained relatively stable each year during his Administration; though significant disparities exist among populations affected. In September 2007, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) reported a 33% increase in HIV incidence in the last six years among young men who have sex with men (MSM) ages 13–29. Nearly four in five of these young MSM were black and Latino. And while overall the number of new HIV diagnoses in New York City declined by 5% from 2005 to 2006, a 6% increase was observed in females ages 13–29 years old.

**HIV/AIDS FUNDING**

In 2008, the Bloomberg Administration made many cuts to the fiscal year 2009 (FY09) budget. Some of these cuts included $750,000, or 30% from the Injection Drug Users Health Alliance (IDUHA) Harm Reduction funding, and HIV rapid testing services received a $1 million cut. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has prioritized increased HIV testing efforts in the Bronx. This runs contrary to the Bloomberg Administration's proposed cuts to rapid testing. After accepting many of his proposed cuts, the City Council adopted a FY09 budget that effectively cut HIV prevention and treatment programs by 42%.
In addition to the cuts made last year and despite Michael Bloomberg’s 2009 campaign promises, on January 30, 2009, Michael Bloomberg released the Mayor’s preliminary financial plan for the FY10 which included the following cuts:

- Reimbursement for HIV Tests Provided to Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC). The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will bill for HIV tests to HHC patients.
- $200,000 cut: HIV Prevention/Control Contracts at HHC. The Department will reduce funding for HIV/AIDS services for case management and health education provided through HHC.
- $597,000 cut: HIV Prevention/Control Contracts at Community-Based Organizations. Starting in the 2011 fiscal year, the City will reduce community-based provider contracts for anti-stigma and behavior modification. No contracts will be terminated due to this reduction.
- $491,000 cut: Reduce Nutrition Program Administration. This is a reduction of 50% in contract for administration of a nutrition program that provides counseling and food to HIV/AIDS clients.
- $1,876,000 cut: Reduce HIV/AIDS Contracted Case Management. There would be a reduction in the number of case management staff in contract supportive housing programs who are performing functions that may already be provided by outside-agency staff.

**HOUSING**

January’s preliminary financial plan also included the following cuts to HIV housing programs:

- $2,401,000 cut: HIV/AIDS Homemaking Re-estimate. This would accrue a savings from lower utilization of homemaking services by families impacted by HIV/AIDS.
- $1,300,000 cut: Transfer Scattered Site II Clients to HASA Case Management.
- HIV/AIDS Supportive Housing Contract Accruals. Delays in the implementation of NY/NY III congregate supportive housing units would generate one-time savings.

These proposed cuts (about $6 million) were not enacted in the City FY10 budget.

**HIV TESTING**

Mayor Bloomberg’s administration has prioritized removing written informed consent practices from the HIV testing process. This would affect the quality of education and counseling offered both before and after an HIV test is administered. GMHC, along with many New York City HIV service providers, staunchly opposes efforts to eliminate written consent, which serves as basic protection of a client’s civil liberties, and ensures quality of a testing episode.

In 2004 Michael Bloomberg set forth an initiative to use rapid result HIV tests for all homeless males entering a shelter, in order to make them aware of their status and thus help prevent the spread of HIV.

Michael Bloomberg’s Health Department is devising new ways to expand testing including working with health care providers and community groups in the Bronx to ensure all residents between 18 and 64 get a voluntary test. In June 2009, it was reported that targeted City efforts to increase HIV testing in the Bronx resulted in an additional 160,000 tests over one year.

The City has dramatically increased testing in prisons, homeless shelters, hospitals and health clinics while maintaining written informed consent. GMHC maintains that this consent requirement is not a barrier to expanding testing.
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM POLICIES

Currently, sex education is not mandated by the NYC Department of Education, meaning that school principals decide whether or not to include sex education in their school’s curriculum. Mayor Bloomberg has not adequately implemented comprehensive sexuality education programs in the public school system. According to National Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, almost half (47%) of high school students in the United States report being sexually active. Because youth are not receiving adequate information about protecting themselves when they chose to engage in sexual activity, four million young people in the U.S. contract sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) each year. GMHC has urged Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Chancellor Joel Klein to require all middle and high school principals to implement the sex education curriculum initially adopted in December 2007. Unfortunately, this has not yet occurred.

GMHC has also urged the Bloomberg Administration to implement the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which would require staff training on the particular needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and encourage the development of gay-straight alliances, anti-harassment trainings and other gay-affirming interventions. Research shows that family acceptance and school-based interventions, such as gay-straight alliances and anti-bullying initiatives, are key resiliency factors for gay youth. Young gay and bisexual men in schools with pro-gay interventions report less risky behaviors associated with HIV transmission including unsafe sex. Passed overwhelmingly by the New York City Council in 2004, DASA was vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg. His veto was defeated by a City Council override a few months later. Since then, the Bloomberg Administration has failed to implement the provisions of the law, arguing that the Department of Education already has adequate policies in place to deal with harassment of its students.

The 2007 National School Climate Survey conducted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network found that LGBT youth experience hostile school climates that may affect academic achievement. Over 86% of LGBT youth reported being verbally harassed, 44% were physically harassed and 22% reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation. The survey also found that students who were more frequently harassed reported grade point averages that were half a grade lower than those who were less often harassed.

LGBT EQUALITY

Michael Bloomberg holds an annual Pride event at Gracie Mansion and marches in the annual Pride parade. He also, however, marches in the St. Patrick’s Day parade, which does not allow gay New Yorkers to march openly as a group. Mayor Bloomberg also marches in the gay-inclusive “St. Pat’s for All” Parade in Queens each year.

In December of 2005, a 4 to 1 decision in Hernandez v. Robles ruled that same-sex couples have no right to marry under the state’s constitution. This decision was made only after Michael Bloomberg appealed a lower court ruling that would have allowed same-sex marriage, thus creating another obstacle in the fight for same-sex marriage equality. On same-sex marriage equality, The Examiner, a well-known LGBT publication, reported:

When Gavin Newsom was marring gay couples in San Francisco in 2005, Bloomberg instead appealed against a court ruling that would have allowed gay marriage in New York City, and he won, which is why gay people are now forced to look to the State Legislature to make marriage equality happen.
In 2006, The New York Times reported:

The issue of gay marriage is one that haunted Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg as he ran for re-election, with his Democratic opponents and gay-rights advocates criticizing him for appealing a court decision that could have allowed same-sex couples to marry in New York.

In 2009, Mayor Bloomberg joined Governor Patterson in calling for the passage marriage equality into law. In doing so he stated:

“It is not the state’s place to define marriage in a way that excludes a segment of the population from the legal benefits associated with marriage…”38

In 2002 Mayor Bloomberg signed into law an amendment to the City Human Rights law that defines gender to include actual or perceived sex as well as a “person’s gender identity, self image, appearance, behavior or expression whether or not that gender identity, self image, appearance, behavior or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the legal sex assigned a person’s birth”39.

In 2005 he signed Local law 85, The Local Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2005 to ensure that all New Yorkers were covered by the strongest civil rights in the country.

The city had vigorously fought the Equal Benefits Law, arguing it would prove costly to taxpayers because it would limit its ability to select low-cost bidders for city work40. After the City Council passed it, Mayor Bloomberg vetoed it. The Examiner reported:

And when the city council passed the Equal Benefits Law, requiring that contractors who do work with the city avoid discrimination and offer gay employees the same work benefits offered to straight couples, Bloomberg again sued to prevent that from being enforced, and again he won.

Some transgender people decide to have sex reassignment surgery, while others decide not to undergo such surgery or cannot afford it. The Department of Health, driven by the influence of the Bloomberg Administration, decided that transgender people who had not undergone sex reassignment surgery could not alter the sex listed on their birth certificate42.

In summary, same-sex marriage has been an issue Michael Bloomberg has wrestled with for some time, without reaching a resolution, despite his re-election in 2005. Michael Bloomberg has voiced his support for same-sex marriage and LGBT rights on numerous occasions, yet has taken actions that run counter to the passage of LGBT equality.
ENDORSEMENTS

- Assemblywoman Barbara Clark
- Bishop Mitchell Taylor
- Impacto Latin News
- Log Cabin Republicans–New York
- Reverend Floyd Flake
- SinoVision
- The China Press
- The High-Way Democratic Club
- The Irish Voice
- The Jewish Press
- The New York 10-13 Association
- The New York City District Council of Carpenters
- The Queens Chronicle

OTHER REMARKS

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the AIDS Vaccine Design and Development Laboratory:

“We have taken a wide range of steps to promote new industries and diversify our economy, and the New York City Bioscience Initiative and our efforts to grow that sector are among the most important. Even more imperative is the work that will go on inside the new facility, as dedicated researchers and scientists advance efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine and help rid the world of the HIV epidemic.”

–Michael Bloomberg, November 12, 2008

On same-sex marriage equality:

“I don’t know whether it’s more likely or not…If they consider a bill, I think they should pass it, and I would be happy to testify for it.”

–Michael Bloomberg, March 25, 2009

On a non-committal health plan:

“What I support and don’t support is not important. What I care about is how any plan they pass will affect New York City…I don’t want to go and prejudice their negotiations. In a real world, they have to come up with something that can get a majority of the votes. And to polarize them is just dysfunctional. It may make a great sound bite for you, but it doesn’t help the country.”

–Michael Bloomberg, June 24, 2009

“…Mike is the biggest individual donor to State Senate Republicans in history—the very people blocking votes on gay rights…”

–Allen Roskoff, July 2009 BloombergWatch.com,
    Originally Published in The New York Blade
INDEPENDENT MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Tyrell Eiland

Date of Birth: April 18, 1977
Minority Outreach and Development Associate, Blue Cross Blue Sheild, 2003
White House Intern, 1998
Education: Indiana University, Fundraising
Howard University, Architecture
Hometown: Rye, New York
Campaign Website: www.EilandNYC.com

“What I learned as a result of my childhood in Port Chester is that you can relate to anyone on the street — there is something that connects everyone. My desire is to bring some of that Port Chester mentality to New York City. The city needs a new face and a new voice and a level of compassion that has been lacking. It needs someone who can relate to the common man.”

–Tyrell Eiland www.EilandNYC.com

Tyrell Eiland may be new to the political playing field but he is no stranger to service. Mr. Eiland was the youngest member elected to the Board of Directors for the Port Chester Carver Center in its 65 year history and served as the Youth President for the Westchester County Council on Urban Youth; he achieved this before graduating from high school. After graduating from Howard University and working in Washington D.C. for some time, Mr. Eiland returned to New York to pursue the position of Mayor and resides in the Eastchester section of the Bronx.

HIV

PREVENTION

Mr. Eiland:

- **Supports** restoring funds to help HIV-prevention efforts and services for young women in neighborhoods most affected by the epidemic.
- **Opposes** cuts to funding to support outreach to MSM of color.
- **Supports** requiring all middle and high school principals to implement age-appropriate comprehensive sex education.
- **Opposes** attempts to remove written informed consent before getting tested for HIV, to ensure every person tested is provided with the knowledge necessary to make an educated decision.

CITY LEGISLATION

Mr. Eiland **supports**:

- Streamlining the process of funding allocation to make money available to community-based organizations, such as GMHC, as soon as the contracts are awarded.
STATE LEGISLATION

Mr. Eiland is undecided on the following issue:

- Expanding the offering of an HIV test in most diagnostic settings.
- The passage of this legislation could lead to identifying the 25% of New Yorkers living with HIV and are unaware of their status.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Eiland supports:

- Passage of the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA).

In response to the GMHC quesitonnaire, Mr. Eiland commented:

“By allowing treatment at an early stage you prevent higher costs of service once the person needs services when the condition worsen and has full blown AIDS. ETHA would soften the financial burden that is now being seen with so many people needing services at the late stages of the illness. I support ETHA and will advocate for its passage.”

HEALTH OF THE INCARCERATED

Regarding the implementation of STD/HIV education programs in New York City Correctional Facilities, Mr. Eiland said:

“I think some pilot programs need to be implemented to determine the effectiveness of a prevention program in the Correctional System.”

HOUSING

Mr. Eiland supports:

- HASA for All (Intro 691).
- Implementing the necessary changes to HASA as recommended by the Comptroller in order to more effectively serve clients in need of housing.
- Increasing the level of enhanced rental assistance to allow HASA clients better access to private market apartments.

LGBT EQUALITY

LOCAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Eiland supports:

- Establishing oversight of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to implement the recommendations of the Public Advocate’s Report.

In 2008, Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum issued a report that described the lack of adequate healthcare available to LGBT New Yorkers, as a result of homophobia and hostility from providers. The Public Advocate’s report included the following recommendations for HHC:
• Require in-house LGBT sensitivity training for all HHC employees.
• Designate an LGBT liaison in each HHC facility.
• Establish, display, and enforce a zero-tolerance discrimination policy.
• Establish a review process to monitor progress.

Mr. Eiland also supports:
• Mandating that all data sets used by New York City government agencies to assess, monitor, and evaluate City-funded or City-contracted health and human services include sexual orientation and gender identity demographic data.

Mr. Eiland does not support:
• Mandating that the New York City DOHMH enact a measure to allow transgender people born in NYC to amend their birth certificates without requiring that they undergo sex reassignment surgery.

He qualified his stance by saying:

“Legally, unless the person has undergone sex reassignment surgery, the person’s legal gender has not changed and thus a birth certificate cannot be changed based on the those circumstances.”

STATE LEGISLATION

Mr. Eiland supports:
• Full implementation and enforcement of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA).
• Efforts by the Governor and state legislators to allow same-sex marriage.

Mr. Eiland does not support:
• Passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA).

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Eiland supports:
• Passage of the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (also known as the hate crimes bill), which would expand federal hates crimes laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

He commented:

“With a growing and alarming number of hate crimes involving sexual orientation, I would support New York State expanding its hate crime bill. As the government, we must support and protect all citizens without regard to sexual orientation or any other difference.”

Mr. Eiland is undecided about the following:
• Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
• Passage of the Uniting American Families Act, sponsored by New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler, to allow foreign permanent partners in a same-sex relationship with an American the ability to apply for U.S. citizenship.
DEMOCRATIC MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Bill Thompson

Date of Birth: July 10
Current Position: New York City Comptroller
Previous Service: NYC Comptroller, 2002 – Present
Vice President, Baum and Co., 1999 – 2001
President, Board of Education, 1994 – 2001
Deputy Borough President, Brooklyn, 1983–1992
Brooklyn’s representative to the school board,
President of the Board of Education
Education: Tufts University, 1974
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
Home: Brooklyn, NY
Campaign Website: www.Thompson2009.com

“As Mayor, I will continue to fight for fairness and opportunity for all New Yorkers. Our
city is and must remain a beacon of opportunity for ALL who call New York home, a
compassionate place for the vulnerable, and a place where every single New Yorker has the
means to realize his or her dreams and aspirations.”

–Bill Thompson

Born in Brooklyn, the son of a New York State Supreme Court Judge and public school teacher,
Mr. Thompson’s roots can be found in the City of New York. After his graduation from Tufts
University in 1974, Mr. Thompson spent his career in both the public and private sectors,
and became the City’s Comptroller in 2002. As Comptroller, Mr. Thompson is in charge of
managing City debt and funding, including New York City’s pension fund worth about $100
billion, and reporting the state of the economy, among other responsibilities.

In addition to fulfilling his responsibilities as Comptroller, Bill Thompson has made numerous
efforts to demonstrate his support for the LGBT community. Every year as Comptroller,
Bill Thompson publishes an LGBT Directory of Services and Resources48. Not only has Mr.
Thompson marched in the LGBT Pride Parade, he also held a Pride Celebration at the LGBT
Community Center in June of 2009.

HIV

PREVENTION

Mr. Thompson supports:

• The restoration of funds to help HIV/AIDS-prevention efforts and services for young
  women in neighborhoods most affected by the epidemic.

Mr. Thompson extended his support while commenting on Sex Education curriculum in
middle and high schools. He said:

“As mayor I would require all middle and high school principles to implement the
sex education curriculum approved in 2007. Access to accurate and age-appropriate
sex education is crucial to empowering our teens to protect themselves from sexually
transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies. No teen should suffer from preventable
health problems due to a deliberate lack of education and awareness in our schools.”
Mr. Thompson also opposes:

- Cuts to HIV prevention with MSM of color.
- Attempts to remove written informed consent before getting tested for HIV to ensure every person tested is provided with the knowledge necessary to make an educated decision.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Thompson supports:

- Streamlining the process of funding allocation to make money available to community-based organizations, such as GMHC, as soon as the contracts are awarded.

“As mayor I will ensure that funds awarded to community-based organizations are dispersed in a timely manner. Government must be a responsible partner with community-based organizations and make certain that allocated funding is dispersed as quickly as possible. Timely and efficient funding will help ensure effective services to communities that need them most, and we cannot accept the delay of payments promised by the City that places an unfair burden on community-based providers.”

STATE LEGISLATION

Mr. Thompson supports:

- Passage of legislation proposed by the Governor and the State Senate and State Assembly Health Committee Chairmen to expand the offering of an HIV test in most diagnostic settings and find the 1 in 4 New Yorkers living with HIV who are unaware of their status.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Thompson supports:

- Passage of the federal Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) which would allow states to expand Medicaid to HIV-positive individuals who are asymptomatic and have not been given an AIDS diagnosis.

HEALTH OF THE INCARCERATED

Mr. Thompson said

“Prisons and correctional facilities are a critical source of the HIV infection now ravaging vulnerable demographics in the city and we must implement prevention programs that affectively address this problem.”

HOUSING

The New York City Council Office of Communications issued a release in 2005 regarding the findings of Comptroller Thompson’s audit that uncovered failures by the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) in the effort to provide housing to New Yorkers with HIV and AIDS. As comptroller, Mr. Thompson is familiar with HASA’s shortcomings and has vowed to work to correct them.

Mr. Thompson continues to support:

- Legislation he previously proposed as current Comptroller including increasing the level of enhanced rental assistance to allow HASA clients better access to private
market apartments, and implementing the necessary changes to HASA in order to more effectively serve clients in need of housing.

When asked about the HASA For All (Intro 691) bill he replied:

“I support the expansion of HASA services and as Comptroller [I] have conducted audits which uncovered waste and inefficiencies that have affected the quality of services received by New Yorker’s living with AIDS. In terms of expanding HASA services to individuals who are asymptomatic we need to do so in a well thought out way that ensures that the needs of asymptomatic New Yorker’s are being addressed in a efficient, cost effective and use friendly manner.”

LGBT EQUALITY

Bill Thompson controls nearly $100 billion in New York City pension funds. As Comptroller, Thompson has used this leverage to promote corporate sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination policies, as well as domestic partner benefits for gay employees. Shareholder resolutions put forth by Thompson call for companies that have not already done so to revise their policies to forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity49. “It is important that we send a message to companies that once we file shareholder proposals, we’re not going to go away until they do the right thing,” said Bill Thompson. “We will not give up until all of these companies amend their policies to provide equal treatment for all.”50

Daryl Herrschaft, Director of the Workplace Project at the Human Rights Campaign said, “For those that chose to buck that trend, shareholder advocacy is an effective way to quickly secure senior-level engagement on the issues facing LGBT employees. Members of the LGBT community and all fair-minded Americans have a steadfast advocate who has achieved results in New York City Comptroller William Thompson.”

Bill Thompson marches in the gay-inclusive “St. Pat’s for All” Parade in Queens each year. Mr. Thompson does not march in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade because it does not allow gay New Yorkers to march openly as a group.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Thompson supports:

• Establishing oversight of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to implement the recommendations of the Public Advocate’s Report.

• Mandating that all data sets used by New York City government agencies to assess, monitor and evaluate City-funded or City-contracted health and human services include sexual orientation and gender identity demographic data.

• Mandating that the New York City DOHMH enact a measure to allow transgender people born in NYC to amend their birth certificates without requiring that they undergo sex reassignment surgery as long as “government issued documents such as birth certificates are responsive to the needs of the transgendered New Yorkers while accounting for legitimate security needs or our City.”

STATE LEGISLATION

Mr. Thompson supports:

• Full implementation and enforcement of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which overwhelming passed the City Council in 2004 but was vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg.
• Passage of the state Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which would add protections for transgender New Yorkers from discrimination in the workplace.

• Efforts by the Governor and state legislators to allow same-sex marriage.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Thompson supports:

• Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), inclusive of protections for transgender Americans, which would add protections for LGBT Americans from discrimination in the workplace.

• Passage of the Uniting American Families Act, sponsored by New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler, to allow foreign permanent partners in a same-sex relationship with an American the ability to apply for U.S. citizenship.

• Passage of the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which would expand federal hates crimes laws to include sexual orientation.

ENDORSEMENTS

• Congressman Anthony Weiner
• Congressman Charlie Rangel
• Current Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
• Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer
• Former Mayor David Dinkins
• Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats (GLID)
• Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
• Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn
• Leonard Nimoy (actor)
• Out People of Color Political Action Club
• Stonewall Democratic Club of New York City
• Various leaders (100 in total) from Greek community in Queens

OTHER REMARKS

Mr. Thompson said:

“Campaigns are about a person. Do I think I identify better with the average New Yorker? Yes.”52

On marriage equality for same-sex couples:

“[My position] won’t change, it won’t waiver, and [as mayor] I’ll be reaching out to members of the state legislature to pass the legislation because it’s the right thing to do.”53
On housing:

“Our City has become unaffordable for a vast number of its residents…In Bedford-Stuyvesant or Bushwick, for example, a family making the median income for the neighborhood would need to spend two-thirds of that income to rent a three-bedroom apartment. In Washington Heights, Kingsbridge or Brownsville, it would cost three-quarters of their income; in Harlem or Mott Haven, that same family would spend 100 percent of its income on rent. This is not only inappropriate, it’s unconscionable…”54

Richard Allman, President of the Stonewall Democrats said55:

“As a member and leader of the Stonewall Democrats, it’s my job to help elect pro-equality Democrats in New York. And today, I couldn’t be prouder to announce our endorsement for Bill Thompson for Mayor of New York.

“Bill Thompson has been a true friend to our community for years. As city comptroller, he successfully pressured dozens of major U.S. companies to explicitly ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and he’s kept the heat on the entire Fortune 500 to follow suit.

“Not only is Bill in favor of equality for all New Yorkers, but he’s also done the math. His office issued a report stating that marriage equality would produce tens of millions of dollars for the city every year. That finding has helped in our fight for marriage for all.”
2009 New York City Elections Questionnaire 
HIV/AIDS and LGBT Issues

Please complete the questionnaire below by circling the answers that match your positions and commenting if necessary. Completed questionnaires should be signed, dated, and submitted via fax to: (212)367–1050 no later than Friday, June 12, 2009. A published report of representative responses will be disseminated publicly, and to the press, through GMHC and the New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center.

***

Gay Men’s Health Crisis fights to end the AIDS epidemic and uplift the lives of all affected. Founded in 1981, GMHC is the oldest HIV/AIDS organization in the world. GMHC is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community-based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS. We provide prevention and care services to more than 15,000 men, women and families that are living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in New York City, and advocate for scientific, evidence-based public health solutions for hundreds of thousands worldwide.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center provides a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of our organizations, institutions and culture; cares for our individuals and groups in need; educates the public and our community; and empowers our individuals and groups to achieve their fullest potential.” Established in 1983, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has grown to become the largest LGBT multi-service organization on the East Coast and second largest LGBT community center in the world, with over 6,000 people and 300 groups visiting each week.

HIV PREVENTION

1. Background:

   Recent New York City budget cuts will have a negative impact on women throughout the five boroughs. In 2000, 52% of all New York City women infected with AIDS resided in ten neighborhoods known to have the city’s highest concentration of poverty. Will you support restoring funds targeting prevention efforts and services for young women in the neighborhoods hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemics in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx?
   (a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

   Comment:

2. Background:

   In September 2007, the NYC DOHMH reported a 33% increase in HIV incidence in the last six years among young men who have sex with men (MSM) ages 13–29 years old. Black and Latino MSM make up 77% of new HIV infections in young MSM in New York City.

   Would you oppose further cuts to support focused outreach and care for young MSM of color?
   (a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

   Comment:
3. Background:

Currently, sex education is not mandated by the NYC Department of Education, meaning that the school principals decide whether or not to include sex education in their school’s curriculum. According to National Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, almost half (47%) of high school students in the United States report being sexually active. Because youth are not receiving adequate information about protecting themselves when they choose to engage in sexual activity, 4 million young people in the U.S. contract sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) each year.

Do you support requiring all middle and high school principals to implement the sex education curriculum—which would provide every NYC public school student with age-appropriate comprehensive sex education—initially adopted in December 2007?

(a) Yes    (b) No    (c) Undecided

Comment:

4. Background:

Despite claims that written informed consent are a barrier to HIV testing, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) more than tripled HIV testing while maintaining written informed consent.

Do you oppose attempts to remove written informed consent and to significantly reduce the information that one receives when getting tested for HIV?

(a) Yes    (b) No    (c) Undecided

Comment:

HOUSING

5. Background:

Stable housing increases a person’s likelihood of attending medical visits, adhering to treatment and staying on medications, and ensures less stress-related illnesses for people with HIV.

Do you support the passage of HASA for All (Intro 691), which would allow HIV positive individuals who are asymptomatic to qualify for housing, nutrition and transportation services through the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA)?

(a) Yes    (b) No    (c) Undecided

Comment:

6. Background

In 2003, the New York City Office of Comptroller William Thompson audited HASA and recommended changes to improve the efficiency of housing placement services. In a follow-up report issued in June 2007, Comptroller Thompson reported that HASA had not fully implemented the recommended changes from the 2003 audit.

Do you support implementing the necessary changes to HASA as recommended by the NYC Comptroller in order to more effectively serve clients in need of housing?

(a) Yes    (b) No    (c) Undecided

Comment:
7. Background

HASA's rental payment standards are woefully outdated. The current guidelines HASA uses for approving requests “above enhanced rental assistance” rely on October 1, 2002 Section 8 rent payment standards, despite the fact that Section 8 payment standards have increased by 17% since that time. Many HASA clients can no longer find appropriate housing, because other rental subsidy programs pay a much higher rate.

Do you support increasing the level of enhanced rental assistance to allow HASA clients better access to private market apartments?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

PRISON HEALTH

New York City can play a major role in stopping the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C, and other STDs to other inmates, their families and others with whom they come into contact, including after release.

8. Do you support implementing STD/HIV education prevention programs, including the distribution of condoms in prisons in New York City Correctional Facilities?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

BUDGET

Many organizations cannot adequately or effectively run the programs and services for which they received contracts because the money they were promised is not given in a timely manner. This delayed process forces some organizations into financial crisis, and they must operate the program with their own money and then wait for the City to reimburse them when the money is finally available. Once they receive the money, groups conducting prevention in communities of color have only a few short months or even weeks in which to spend its government funding before the end of the fiscal year.

9. Do you support streamlining the process of funding allocation to make money available to community-based organizations as soon as the contracts are awarded?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

LGBT CIVIL RIGHTS

As many as 80% of public high school students in New York City report having been harassed or bullied at some point. Anti-gay harassment is a major cause of high dropout rates among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Research shows that family acceptance and school-based interventions, such as gay-straight alliances and anti-bullying initiatives, are key resiliency factors for gay youth. Furthermore, young gay and bisexual men in schools with pro-gay interventions report less risky behaviors associated with HIV transmission including unsafe sex.
10. Do you support full implementation and enforcement of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which overwhelmingly passed the City Council in 2004?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Undecided

Comment:

LGBT HEALTHCARE
There is considerable evidence that LGBT persons experience significant health disparities across a number of health problems and concerns including cancer, obesity, mental health, substance abuse, violence prevention, smoking and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). In December 2008, the New York City Public Advocate’s Office published a comprehensive report on the critical need for improving access to LGBT sensitive and affirmative care in hospital, outpatient, community and behavioral health settings, including recommendations to HHC to: provide in-house LGBT sensitivity training to all HHC employees; require mandatory staff education; designate an LGBT liaison in each HHC facility; establish, display, and enforce a zero-tolerance discrimination policy; and establish a review process to monitor progress. Since then the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has discontinued funding for its Office for LGBT Health.

11. Do you support establishing oversight of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to implement the recommendations of the Public Advocate’s Report?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Undecided

Comment:

12. Background
New York City has been documenting sexual orientation on the annual Community Health Survey, which provides data on the health of New Yorkers, including neighborhood, borough and citywide estimates on a broad range of chronic diseases and behavioral risk factors. However, sexual orientation and gender identity data collection is still not routinely collected within other data sets used by New York City to assess need and determine efficacy of service delivery. There no data collected at all within any survey on transgender populations.

Do you support mandating that all data sets used by New York City government agencies to assess, monitor and evaluate City-funded or City-contracted health and human services include sexual orientation and gender identity demographic data?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Undecided

Comment:

13. Background
Transgender New Yorker’s make up a segment of our population that has an extremely high HIV risk that some experts estimate as low as 15 percent and as high as 60 percent. Transgender advocates have been working with the NYC DOHMH for years obtain access to accurate birth certificates, a vital form of documentation. The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems’ White Paper on Recommendations for Improvements in Birth Certificates notes, “A birth certificate breeds all others: Social Security cards, school records, driver’s licenses, passports and employment records.” When transgender people show a birth certificate with a gender other than the one they live in, they may be accused of fraud, turned away, or harassed, arrested, attacked,
humiliated, or discriminated against. If transgender individuals are unable to present accurate identification when they travel or apply for employment, they will undoubtedly continue to be harassed and accused of fraudulent, even criminal, behavior, resulting in continued social marginalization that further exacerbates their HIV risk.

Do you support mandating that the New York City DOHMH enact a measure to allow transgender people born in NYC to amend their birth certificates without requiring that they undergo sex reassignment surgery?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

There are a number of pieces of legislation on the State and Federal levels of government that are of significant importance for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and those living with HIV/AIDS. Though City officials may not have a direct impact on what legislative bodies in Albany and in Washington, DC do, they do have great influence. City officials often have unique relationships with elected officials in other levels of government. It is incumbent upon City officials to utilize those relationships and influence policy.

STATE

14. Do you support passage of legislation proposed by the Governor and the State Senate and State Assembly Health Committee Chairmen to expand the offering of an HIV test in most diagnostic settings and subsequently finding the 1 in 4 New Yorkers living with HIV who are unaware of their status?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

15. Do you support passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which would add protections for transgender New Yorkers from discrimination in the workplace?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

16. Do you support efforts by the Governor and state legislators to allow same-sex marriage?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:

FEDERAL

17. Do you support passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), inclusive of protections for transgender Americans, which would add protections for LGBT Americans from discrimination in the workplace?

(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided

Comment:
18. Do you support passage of the Uniting American Families Act, sponsored by New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler, to allow foreign permanent partners in a same-sex relationship with an American the ability to apply for U.S. citizenship?
(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided
Comment:

19. Do you support passage of the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (aka hate crimes bill), which would expand federal hates crimes laws to include sexual orientation?
(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided
Comment:

20. Do you support passage of the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) which would allow states to expand Medicaid to HIV-positive individuals who are asymptomatic and have not been given an AIDS diagnosis?
(a) Yes  (b) No  (c) Undecided
Comment:
## APPENDIX B:

### CANDIDATES RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Michael Bloomberg</th>
<th>Bill Thompson</th>
<th>Tony Avilla</th>
<th>Tyrell Eiland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Support restoration of funds for targeted prevention efforts for young women</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Oppose cuts to support for focused outreach and care for young MSM</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Support requiring school principals to implement sex education curriculum</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Oppose attempt to remove written informed consent and reduce information when testing for HIV</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Undecided. “…detailed informed consent prior to HIV testing is imperative. However, if the current system of written informed consent may be a barrier… I would work with the LGBT community and health care providers to explore alternatives.”</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Support passage of HASA for All (Intro 691)</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Support implementation of NYC Comptroller recommended changes to HASA</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>7. Support increasing level of enhanced rental assistance to allow HASA clients better access to private market housing</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>8. Support implementation of STD/HIV education prevention programs in NYC Correctional Facilities</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>“Pilot programs must be implemented”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Support streamlining funding allocation process</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>10. Support full implementation and enforcement of Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)</td>
<td>No Response</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>11. Support establishing oversight of DOHMH to implement recommendations of the Public Advocate’s Report</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Support mandating that data sets used by NYC government include sexual orientation and gender identity demographic data</td>
<td>No Response</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>13. Support mandating NYC DOHMH to enact a measure allowing transgender people born in NYC to amend their birth certificate without sex reassignment surgery</td>
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<td>No Response</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Support efforts to allow same-sex marriage in New York state</td>
<td>No Response</td>
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<td>17. Support passage of federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)</td>
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alexa Mieses interned with Gay Men’s Health Crisis during the summer of 2009 as part of the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship. She is an undergraduate student hoping to achieve a medical degree as well as a Master’s Public Health.

CREDITS

Edited by Sean Cahill, Nathan Schaefer, Lyndel Urbano

Design by Adam Fredericks
Gay Men’s Health Crisis is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community-based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS.

GMHC fights to end the AIDS epidemic and uplift the lives of all affected.

For more information, please call the Hotline or visit our Web site.

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