



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE of the MAYOR | RALPH BECKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rachel George
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Salt Lake City to Host World AIDS Day Event

City & County Building to be illuminated in red to promote awareness

SALT LAKE CITY – Representatives of Mayor Ralph Becker's office will join City Council members, the Utah AIDS Foundation and the People with AIDS Coalition of Utah on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. to commemorate World AIDS Day with a resolution presentation and ceremony on the west side of the Salt Lake City & County Building, 451 S. State Street.

Mayor Becker encourages residents to attend the event, wear red and light a candle in remembrance of those who have been affected.

"We are proud to be part of a worldwide effort to increase awareness, provide education and demonstrate compassion for those affected by HIV/AIDS," said Mayor Becker. "As a community, we have a responsibility to work toward breaking misconceptions about this disease. That effort begins with knowledge and understanding."

The World AIDS Day event is free and open to the public and will feature a ceremonial red-lighting of the Salt Lake City & County Building, live classical music, a performance by the Rowland Hall choir, a candlelight vigil, bell ringing ceremony and blessing from Congregation Kol Ami Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman. Residents are encouraged to support the event by wearing red.

As part of the event, the Salt Lake City Gallery Stroll will participate in "A Day Without Art," shrouding a particular piece of art by an artist whose life was taken by AIDS. "Ruby Slippers by Wayne Sessions" is this year's selected work. Sessions was an artist who used his passion for art to expand his voice in speaking out about HIV/AIDS before he died in 2006.

According to the Joint United Nations Program there are over 33 million people throughout the world living with HIV, including 2.5 million children. In Utah there are currently over 3,200 people who are

reported to be living with HIV. HIV infections remain on the rise in Utah with over 65 percent of all new HIV infections in 2010 occurring in residents of Salt Lake County.

For more information about the event, please visit www.slcgov.com/red.

EVENT: World AIDS Day Commemoration

WHO: Council Chairwoman Jill Remington-Love
Utah AIDS Foundation Executive Director Stan Penfold
Congregation Kol Ami Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman

WHEN: Thursday, December 1, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Salt Lake City & County Building, West Steps
451 S. State Street, Salt Lake City

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