FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES WORLD AIDS DAY

San Francisco, CA- On the twenty third anniversary of World AIDS Day, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) is pleased to join the World Health Organization, the United Nations and other communities around the world in reaffirming our united effort in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The HRC and the City and County of San Francisco remain proud of our long-standing history of fostering continued support and compassion for people living with HIV and AIDS. We also like to take this opportunity to honor those brave individuals who lost their lives to the pandemic but whose spirits live on in the battle against HIV and AIDS.

"Today on World AIDS day, we join the nation and world in remembering and honoring our friends and loved ones who we have lost to HIV/AIDS," said San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. "San Francisco remains a leader committed to finding a cure and supporting those living with HIV/AIDS. I hope you will join with me in not just remembering all those we have lost, but in celebrating their lives, and recommitting yourselves in continuing to work for a future without HIV/AIDS."

Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission expressed, “For over twenty years, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission has fought to improve the quality of life and end discrimination against persons with HIV and AIDS. On this World AIDS Day let us remember the importance of advancing human dignity for all San Franciscans.”

The Human Rights Commission is the City department entrusted to mediate and investigate complaints of discrimination based on HIV and AIDS status and also works with the agency’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Committee (LGBTAC) and local community based organizations to raise awareness about institutional biases, disparate treatment, misinformation and ignorance about HIV and AIDS. On November 15th, the Human Rights Commission’s LGBTAC organized a panel discussion entitled “HIV and the Law” at the LGBT Center exploring the intersection of HIV, human rights, stigma and California criminal laws. The HRC is dedicated to continuing its efforts on HIV/AIDS justice programming in 2012.

The Human Rights Commission works to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect and promote human rights for all people. The Commission encourages any individual who believes they have been discriminated against on the basis of their HIV or AIDS status, their association with persons who have HIV or AIDS, or retaliated against because of their HIV or AIDS status to contact the agency regarding their rights. The Human Rights Commission was established in 1964 by City Ordinance and became a Charter Commission in 1990.