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Denver Joins Global Effort to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030

Denver, CO (August 14, 2015) – Cary Kennedy, Deputy Mayor and Chief Financial Officer for the City and County of Denver, will join community members and local public health officials at 9 a.m. on August 15 in signing an agreement to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic during the opening ceremony of the AIDS Walk Colorado at Cheesman Park.

By signing on to the Paris Declaration agreement, Denver becomes the fourth North American city to join the Fast Track Cities Initiative to end the AIDS Epidemic by 2030.

Launched in Paris on World AIDS Day in 2014 led by the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), this global initiative aims to dramatically reduce new HIV infections and future AIDS-related deaths through increasing testing, treatment and education. “Ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 is feasible if the world’s major cities act immediately and decisively to fast-track their AIDS responses by 2020,” said Benjamin Young, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of IAPAC.

In signing the Paris Declaration, Denver agrees to achieve the following Fast Track targets by 2020:

- 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status.
- 90% of people who are HIV-positive are on treatment.
- 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads.
- Zero discrimination, including stigma.

Denver, who already has 74 percent of people diagnosed with HIV in treatment, is poised to be one of the first cities to achieve these targets through collaborative efforts implemented by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver’s Office of HIV Resources, Denver’s HIV Resources Planning Council, and Denver Public Health. Together, these partners

will expand HIV testing and prevention services, expand HIV care and adherence to treatment, and end discrimination through expanded access to care and support services, education and public information campaigns.

“Despite a 60 percent decrease in new HIV infections since 2005 and improved engagement in HIV care over the past few years, Denver continues to be significantly affected by HIV,” said Sarah Rowan, MD, Director of HIV and Viral Hepatitis Prevention with Denver Public Health. “Being a part of this global initiative will help raise awareness and motivate the community to come together and take the steps necessary to put an end to this epidemic.”

About Denver Public Health

[Denver Public Health](#) provides a wide range of services that evaluate, promote and protect the health and well-being of the residents of Denver and beyond. Denver Public Health monitors the health of Denver and responds to disease outbreaks and other emergencies, as well as works with many partners to prevent health problems by decreasing injury, preventing tobacco-related illnesses and promoting healthy eating and active living. Clinical services include: STD screening and treatment, family planning, immunizations, tuberculosis screening and care, birth and death records, and HIV/AIDS care.

About Denver Environmental Health

[Denver’s Department of Environmental Health](#) (DEH) is dedicated to advancing Denver’s environmental and public health goals. DEH divisions include Community Health, Denver Animal Control, Environmental Quality, Office of the Medical Examiner and Public Health Inspections.

About International Association of Providers of AIDS Care

The [International Association of Providers of AIDS Care](#) (IAPAC) represents more than 20,000 clinicians and allied health care professionals in over 150 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of prevention, care, treatment and support services provided to men, women and children affected by and living with HIV and comorbid conditions such as tuberculosis and viral hepatitis.

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