



National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
Mourns the Loss of Dennis deLeon, President of the Latino Commission on AIDS

December 15, 2009- The Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, (NBWHAN) mourns the loss of Dennis deLeon, president of the Latino Commission on AIDS.

For 15 years, deLeon served as the President of the Latino Commission on AIDS, a national service and advocacy organization addressing HIV/AIDS and health disparities in the Latino community. Prior to his tenure at the Commission, Mr. de Leon served as Chair, for the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and was appointed Deputy Borough President for Manhattan from 1988 to 1990. Mr. deLeon also served on several boards, including the New York City HIV/AIDS Planning Group, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Housing Works, and the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership.

A tireless advocate for social justice and one of the first openly HIV-positive Latino leaders in the country, Dennis deLeon was a pioneer and a visionary, and in his lifetime he sought to eliminate health disparities among marginalized communities.

"My friend of almost three decades is gone," says Debra Frazer-Howze, NBWHAN's Chair, of Fund Development and Vice President of Government, and External Affairs at OraSure Technologies. "Yesterday New York City lost a leader, the state a statesman and the country a champion. I will deeply miss my friend and I am proud that God brought him into my life if only for a season."

Details about Service for Dennis deLeon can be found at www.latinoaids.org.

About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN)

The NBWHAN has been successful in working with many advocacy groups as well as local and national organizations to garner support for women's issues in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Founded in 2007 the NBWHAN has worked to influence the development of research initiatives and resources that will have a positive impact on program development and design for women and produce scientific based evidence of success. The NBWHAN is a community led initiative born out of the urgent need for Black women to set and implement a national HIV/AIDS agenda for Black women and adolescent girls in the areas of prevention, care, treatment, public policy and funding for all Black women and adolescent girls living with or at risk of HIV and AIDS and their families.

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