



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The joint United Nations Program (UNAIDS) on HIV/AIDS, the American Association for World Health, and the World Health Organization (WHO) observes December 1st of each year as World AIDS Day, **this year marking its 20th anniversary;** and

WHEREAS, **The CDC estimates that there are 1.039 million people in the United States alone infected with HIV, and that as many as 315, 000 do not know that they are infected with the AIDS virus; and**

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides us all with an opportunity to “think globally and act locally” by focusing attention on the need for individual and collective involvement in the care of those living with AIDS and prevention of new HIV infections; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS remains a highly stigmatized condition, where cultural and ethnic disparities exist and persist in growing numbers because fear and discrimination of that stigma may prevent many from seeking treatment, or from disclosing their sero-status; and

WHEREAS, Discrimination of any kind including that pertaining to a persons HIV status is not something that can be tolerated in the city of Key West, Florida where we strive to live as “One Human Family”; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of the AIDS Memorial, Inc. in Key West will conduct a candlelight march and remembrance ceremony at the AIDS Memorial to which the public is invited at 5:30 PM on December 1, with the theme **“Leadership, Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise.”**

NOW, THEREFORE, I Morgan McPherson, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
Monday, December 1st, 2008 as

WORLD AIDS DAY

In the “Southernmost City of the Continental United States”. I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to take part in activities and observances designed to increase knowledge, awareness, and understanding of HIV/AIDS so we may help prevent its further spreading both locally and worldwide.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 18th day of November, 2008.

Morgan McPherson, MAYOR