

AIDS AWARENESS AND BLOOD SAFETY
ON WORLD AIDS DAY

In the year Two Thousand Nine.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988 to ensure renewed and continual constructive attention to the grave threat posed by both HIV-AIDS and the debilitating medical conditions, pain, suffering and social-familial-economic hardships associated with HIV infection; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, The Center for Disease Control reports that there are more than one million people in the U. S. currently living with HIV infection, and more than 56,000 Americans become infected with HIV annually; and

WHEREAS, among the many groups and persons whose lives have been shattered by HIV, approximately ten-thousand people affected by bleeding disorders, specifically people with Hemophilia, who contracted HIV (as well as Hepatitis C and other viruses) as a result of tainted blood products prescribed for use during the 1980's and 1990's; and

WHEREAS, family members of infected persons with bleeding disorders contracted HIV from the infected persons who, at the time, were unaware of their seroconversion; and

WHEREAS, among the infected, no less than eight thousand have died; and

WHEREAS, the prognosis is hopeful for people living with HIV and related infections; people

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40 with HIV and their families confront daily the fear of disease, pain and suffering associated with HIV,
41 and financial and social challenges accompanying HIV infection; and

42 WHEREAS, in the past, the medical-pharmaceutical community and government regulators
43 failed to exercise reasonable, responsible and appropriate diligence that likely would have profoundly
44 mitigated if not forestalled the HIV epidemic inflicted on persons who received contaminated blood
45 and blood products; and

46 WHEREAS, with improved safety and monitoring of blood, blood products and other
47 medications, patients with chronic illness must depend on safe, available medications to effectively
48 respond to illness; and

49 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize those in the bleeding disorders community who must
50 confront past and future co-morbidities associated with genetic and chronic illness; and

51 WHEREAS, Vermont CARES is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to improve
52 the quality of life, create compassionate communities and prevent the spread of HIV by working with
53 people affected by HIV/AIDS as a catalyst for social and individual change;

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council recognizes December 1st, 2009 as
55 World AIDS Day in the City of Burlington and marks this solemn occasion by identifying the need to
56 address issues, increase public awareness of HIV and AIDS, encourage more wide screen testing
57 within our community and increase support and care for community members living with HIV/AIDS;
58 and

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council acknowledges the work and advocacy of
60 Vermont CARES for Vermonters living with AIDS and HIV and their families and friends, and thanks
61 them for their continued dedication to this important cause.; and

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests a copy of this resolution be forwarded
63 to Peter Jacobsen, Executive Director of Vermont CARES.