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MEDIA RELEASE

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Equality Illinois and Partners Announce LGBT-Focused Mayoral Forum

CHICAGO - Please join us: A first-of-its-kind LGBT-focused Mayoral forum has been organized by almost 30 LGBTQ organizations across our great city. All the candidates have been invited and now it's your turn to take part in this historic election. The forum will be held on February 9, 2011, from 6pm-8pm Downtown Chicago at Adler School for Professional Psychology. Space is extremely limited so you must RSVP (only for yourself) starting on February 2, 2011 via our online registration form here (<http://afc.aidschicago.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1192>).

More about the forum:

The forum will be the culmination of a community-wide process that started last fall to ensure that issues important to the LGBTQ community are addressed by each Mayoral Candidate. Read some feedback the candidates have already given to us here (link to questionnaires). The coalition is offering the candidates the opportunity to speak directly to the LGBTQ community and to educate voters as to their vision of the office of the Mayor of Chicago with a focus on issues directly impacting LGBTQ people. We are very excited to have Tracy Baim, of Windy City Media, moderating the event. The forum is free and space is open to the public, but due to room size reservations are first-come-first-served.

As of January 20, our coalition members include: Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Amigas Latinas, Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA), Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago, Boricua Pride, Center on Halsted, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Equality Illinois, Howard Brown Health Center, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Chicago, I2I: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago, Illinois Gender Advocates, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, Join the Impact Chicago, Lambda Legal, Lesbian & Gay Bar Association of Chicago, LGBT Change, LGBT Immigration Project of Heartland Alliance, Orgullo En Accion, POW WOW, Inc., Public Pride Alliance, The Civil Rights Agenda, The Literary Exchange, TransActions, Video Action League, and Windy City Black LGBT Pride.

Do you have a question for the candidates?

The forum will cover five issue areas: Education, HIV/AIDS, Youth Homelessness, Transgender Rights and Public Safety. We are seeking questions about these issues areas from community members. If you have a question for the candidates, please fill out our online form (<https://afc.aidschicago.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1193>). We will choose twelve questions from among those that are submitted to be addressed by the Candidates.

Live Webstream:

Due to the limited space, we will be streaming the Forum live online, so you can watch the Forum as it happens from anywhere there is a computer and an internet connection.

Go to www.windycitytimes.com or www.wrte.org, beginning at 6pm on Feb. 9 for the live webcast.

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Equality Illinois was founded to secure, protect and defend the civil rights of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender Illinoisans. It is one of the Midwest's largest gay civil rights organizations.