



NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor hosts United Nations officials and workshop on HIV/AIDS Thursday

At the invitation of Mayor Thomas A. Masters, the United Nations is coming to Riviera Beach on Thursday to discuss successful tools it uses to fight HIV/AIDS around the world.

The workshop, to be led by officials from the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 24, 2011, in the City Council Chambers, 600 W. Blue Heron Boulevard. It is free and open to the public.

UNAIDS is the UN's main advocate for comprehensive and coordinated global action on the HIV epidemic. The two primary officials expected to attend are Dr. Djibril Diallo, NYC-based senior advisor to the UNAIDS executive director (Dr. Diallo's bio is attached), as well as Gregory Smiley, a senior policy advisor in the Washington, D.C. office.

Dr. Diallo will discuss UNAIDS' global best practices, with an eye toward imparting information useful at the local level. More specifically, Dr. Diallo will discuss tools the agency used to eradicate the virus in one African village. Mr. Smiley will speak on U.S. policies and programs on AIDS, and the latest developments in Washington.

To this end, the Mayor and UNAIDS worked to ensure that the concerns and issues specific to local HIV/AIDS activists and sufferers were addressed by asking them to forward questions and suggestions.

"We wanted this to be a dialogue," the Mayor said.

The Mayor invited Dr. Diallo and the agency here after meeting him in Senegal, West Africa, in December 2010, when both were invited by the Senegalese government to an international celebration of African heritage. For more information on the agency, visit www.unaids.org.

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Thomas A. Masters

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