

Mayoral Candidate Bill Thompson

Website: www.thompson2009.com

Positions on Addressing Critical AIDS Housing Issues

- Supports expanding housing opportunities and rental assistance to poor people with HIV regardless of health status (known as HASA for ALL).
- Supports proposed state legislation to cap rents of poor people with HIV in public housing at 30 percent.
- Supports addressing HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) rental assistance levels.
- Pledges to address city's dependence and wasteful spending on single-room occupancy (SRO) housing and will work to redirect funding to community-based housing providers.
- Will work to protect current AIDS housing stock and HASA housing programs from being targeted for cuts in the city budget.
- Undecided about providing housing for undocumented immigrants living with HIV/AIDS, but pledges to work with advocates to come up with solutions to this complex problem.

Positions on the Coordination and Monitoring of City AIDS Services

- Would call for re-establishment of the Mayoral Office of AIDS Policy.
- Will insist on more stringent standards and more frequent and rigorous inspections of SROs by HRA, and will continue to fight vendors to provide clean and safe housing for HASA clients.
- Will ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS will be included on all levels of decision-making and in significant advisory capacities, before policies are implemented.

Positions on Additional AIDS Services:

- Questioned the proposal issued by the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene that funnels Ryan White funding for case management primarily through hospitals and leaves out significant participation by community-based AIDS organizations.
- Supports increased funding for syringe-exchange programs across the city and to expand syringe access.
- Will work to increase funding for legal services for people living with AIDS and HIV.
- Will coordinate testing efforts in the city to make HIV testing available to as many people as possible, especially in communities of color.

Notable quote: "Community-based providers are often the best and most effective source of care to this population. Community-based support organizations provide vital services and must

be maintained as key components in our efforts to provide care to people living with HIV/AIDS. To cut them out of the equation in the midst of this ongoing health crisis just doesn't make sense."