

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 210104)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing February 7, 2021 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and honoring the work of Bebashi in providing access to culturally sensitive high-quality healthcare, HIV/AIDS services, health education, and social services.

WHEREAS, The first National Black HIV/AIDS was recognized in 1999 as a grassroots educational effort to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 30,000 people live with HIV in the Greater Philadelphia Region. Philadelphians are additionally being affected by HIV at a rate five times the national average and 50% higher than residents of New York City; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, Black Americans represented 43% of all new HIV cases, yet only made up 13% of the US population. In 2016, Black women in the United States were diagnosed with HIV at a higher rate than White women. In the Northeast, diagnoses were 21.9 times higher for Black women. Between 2014 and 2018, HIV cases increased by 12.3% among Black gay and bisexual men; and

WHEREAS, Despite advances in medication and treatment for people infected with HIV/AIDS, there is no cure. Public health officials warn against the dangers of no longer treating HIV as a serious threat, as this perception has led to increased infection rates in the US; and

WHEREAS, Bebashi – Transition to Hope was founded in 1985 as a full-service HIV/AIDS organization with a special interest in serving low-income people of color with HIV disease. As the second-oldest AIDS service organization in the Philadelphia region, Bebashi was the first African-American organization in the United States to address the AIDS crisis. It remains one of Philadelphia’s largest community-based minority providers of HIV/AIDS education and services for the urban community; and

WHEREAS, Bebashi’s purpose is to empower people to enhance the quality of their health and overall well-being by providing access to culturally sensitive high quality healthcare; and

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WHEREAS, Bebashi offers free at-home HIV testing kits; free and confidential HIV/AIDS, STI, and pregnancy testing; an extensive prevention education program; community resources on safe sex, preventative measures, and treatment; and free breast cancer screening and mammograms; and

WHEREAS, Bebashi's FoodFirst Food Pantry provides nutritious food for low-income individuals and families. Bebashi's HYPE program provides monthly KiKi lounges to celebrate the Philadelphia ballroom community and a safe haven for the LGBTQAI community; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, Bebashi was named a 2020 Champion in Action in the category of Inclusion & Equality. The award was announced jointly by Citizens Bank, NBC10/Telemundo62, and The Philadelphia Inquirer; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, Bebashi participated in WURD's The Lounge in a post-National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day discussion on Philadelphia's staggering infection rate numbers and how to educate our community on prevention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, National Black HIV/AIDS provides a unique opportunity to increase testing, education, treatment options, and community engagement in Philadelphia around HIV/AIDS prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes February 7, 2021 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and honors the work of Bebashi in providing access to culturally sensitive high-quality healthcare, HIV/AIDS services, health education, and social services.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy be presented to Bebashi, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the eleventh day of February, 2021

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Bass

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Bass, Parker, Gym, Gauthier, Brooks, Henon,
Thomas, Johnson and Domb