



PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYC HEALTH GROUP FINDS MOST CITY CANDIDATES SUPPORT ITS POLICIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Despite recent improvements in public health, New York City faces new and continuing public health challenges. These include high rates of heart disease, increasing rates of diabetes and obesity, one quarter of New Yorkers under the age of 65 lacking health insurance, and increasing health disparities by race and socioeconomic status. To help New Yorkers choose candidates for public office who will work to reduce these problems, the Public Health Association of New York City (PHANYC) today released candidate responses to its *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York*, a plan to improve health in New York City by 2010. PHANYC is the city's largest and oldest organization of public health professionals, and a member of the American Public Health Association.

Of the 24 candidates for Mayor and Borough President who responded to the PHANYC survey on its *2005 Agenda*, more than 85% say they will support the five key policy objectives and detailed action steps that will make NYC a healthier place by 2010. A full listing of candidate responses can be found on the PHANYC website at www.phanyc.org.

"We are pleased to see that so many of the candidates for Mayor and Borough President support our plan for improving the health of the people of New York City," said Linda Landesman, PHANYC President and Assistant Vice President, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation. "We look forward to working with the winners of the November election to achieve these aims." PHANYC will again survey all candidates for city offices after the September 13th primary and publish the results. "These surveys will help New Yorkers make informed choices about the public officials who make the policy decisions that affect the city's health," added Landesman. To date, 26 of the city's most respected professional, advocacy, community and research organizations have endorsed the Agenda. (See the list of endorsing organizations below.)

The *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York* identifies five priorities to improve the well-being of New York City residents. These include a call to (1) establish comprehensive age-appropriate health programs in all city schools that include nutrition and physical activity, health education and sexuality education; (2) reduce high school drop-out rates so as to improve lifetime prospects for health; (3) increase access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity; (4) increase access to preventive reproductive and sexual health care; and (5) reduce barriers to getting timely and effective primary and preventive care by developing comprehensive city-wide programs for the management and control of asthma, hypertension and diabetes.

"Our policy goals reflect public health science that shows the surest way to improve health is both to improve the living conditions of ordinary people and to increase access to preventive services," said Nicholas Freudenberg, President-elect of PHANYC and Distinguished Professor of Public Health at Hunter College City University of New York. "Realizing our goals will protect the health of our city's children, shrink the city's inequities in health between rich and poor and between Blacks and Latinos and whites, and reduce the high costs that illness imposes on New York's economy."

In the last six months, as part of the *Agenda for a Healthy New York* project, PHANYC has convened researchers and advocates to produce reports on city policies on education and health, nutrition and physical activity, and reproductive and sexual health. (Reports are available at www.phanyc.org.)

The *Agenda for a Healthy New York* is funded by The New York Community Trust. For more information about PHANYC and the *Agenda for a Healthy New York*, and to download *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York* as well as other reports, visit www.phanyc.org.

As of August 31st, the following organizations have endorsed PHANYC's *2005 Agenda for a Healthy New York*. For an updated list, visit www.phanyc.org.

Allen School
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York State, Chapter 2
Barrier Free Living, Inc.
Center for the Independence of the Disabled in NY
Center for Urban Epidemiological Studies at the New York Academy of Medicine
The Children's Health Fund
Clinical Directors Network, Inc.
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
Community Healthcare Network
FoodChange
Friends of Fort Tryon Park, Inc.
Greater New York Society of Public Health Education
Greater Southern Brooklyn Health Coalition, Inc.
Gynuity Health Projects
Health Policy and Development Associates
Hudson Guild
Medical and Health Research Association of NYC, Inc. (MHRA)
Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign
NYC Community Health Systems Group
NYCNEN – New York City Nutrition Education Network
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.
NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health
United Neighborhood Houses of New York
Urban Health Plan

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