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## **COUNCILWOMEN QUIÑONES-SANCHEZ AND TASCO TO ANNOUNCE OPENING OF FIRST SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV CLINIC IN PHILADELPHIA**

PHILADELPHIA – City Councilwomen Maria Quiñones-Sánchez and Marian Tasco will announce the establishment of Philadelphia’s first HIV clinic specifically for the Spanish-speaking community, in partnership with Philadelphia FIGHT, Prevention Point Philadelphia, and the Norris Square Civic Association. The announcement about Clinica Bienestar (Well Being Services), located at Prevention Point Philadelphia, 166 West Lehigh Avenue in North Philadelphia, will be made at a press conference on Thursday, November 21 at 9 a.m. in the City Hall Caucus Room. “I am so proud to be a part of the announcement of this historic event,” stated Councilwoman Quiñones-Sánchez, who represents District 7, where Clinica Bienestar is located.

The clinic is funded by a recently announced five-year SPNS grant (Special Projects of National Significance) administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. “We are pleased to be initiating this very important project which will be offering the highest quality of care to a community that has been underserved,” said Jane Shull, Philadelphia FIGHT’s Executive Director. “We thank Councilwomen Quiñones-Sanchez and Tasco for their efforts in gaining community support for this culturally responsive clinical collaboration serving HIV-infected individuals.” The primary care clinic will be supported by the extensive medical, case management and social services of Philadelphia FIGHT.

“The clinic creates additional opportunities for those newly infected with HIV or lost to care to access medical care and other support services in the Latino community. We are excited to be partners with FIGHT on this project,” said José Benitez, Executive Director, Prevention Point Philadelphia. Speakers at the press conference will include Mr. Benitez and Jane Shull of Philadelphia FIGHT.

Councilwoman Tasco, Chair of the City Council Public Health and Human Services Committee, remarked, “This is a watershed moment for our city and a huge step forward in addressing the health challenges facing many Philadelphians.”

*Philadelphia FIGHT provides state of the art, culturally competent primary medical care, consumer education, advocacy, social services, outreach to adults and youth living with HIV and to those who are at high risk, and access to the most advanced clinical research. Each year FIGHT reaches over 8,000 individuals through its education and outreach efforts and treats over 1,500 people with HIV at the Jonathan Lax Treatment Center. FIGHT’s goal is to end the AIDS epidemic within the lifetime of those currently living with HIV.*

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