

## **PRESS RELEASE**



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Clark Williams  
408.293.3040  
Interim Executive Director  
The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center

### **County Supervisor Jim Beall Calls for Permanent HIV Testing Site at the DeFrank Center**

(San Jose, December 9, 2005). In public comments and in a recent press release, Santa Clara County Supervisor Jim Beall announced his commitment to obtain funding for a permanent HIV counseling and testing program at the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center. Beall also called upon his colleagues and the Public Health Department to take immediate action to implement new rapid HIV testing technology.

“County Supervisor Jim Beall’s recent statement of support for better access to HIV testing is very encouraging and exciting,” said Clark Williams, the DeFrank Center’s interim executive director. “The rise of HIV infections in vulnerable communities throughout Santa Clara County is alarming and the DeFrank Center would be honored to provide the community with another source for anonymous and confidential HIV test counseling services.”

During a public address commemorating World AIDS Day on December 1, 2005, Supervisor Beall surprised an assembled crowd of AIDS activists, community leaders, and elected officials with his concerns about insufficient HIV testing.

“We must demand much more,” Beall stated. “HIV and AIDS have been spreading in our community and throughout the world for over two decades.”

In Santa Clara County, Supervisor Beall estimates that “a few thousand” residents who have HIV are currently unaware they have contracted the virus. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in three persons infected with HIV are unaware of their infection.

The DeFrank Center will continue to work with Supervisor Beall and the Santa Clara Public Health Department to secure the funding and appropriate staffing to provide Santa Clara County with a permanent HIV testing and counseling center.

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**About The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center:**

Founded in 1981, the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center addresses the needs and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people of all ages and backgrounds in Silicon Valley. The DeFrank Center provides a broad range of wellness, social and recreational activities, and emotional support services to approximately 400 visitors each week. The DeFrank Center is a 501(c)3, federally registered, tax-exempt organization, and receives over 21,000 contacts and requests for service a year (either in-person, via phone or on-line). To learn more, visit [www.defrank.org](http://www.defrank.org).

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