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DYCD Commissioner Mullgrav Announces a Series of Events Focused on Runaway and Homeless Youth

Events Will Raise Awareness for a Vulnerable Population and Highlight the Challenges Faced by LGBTQ Youth

New York, NY – In commemoration of National Runaway Prevention Month, Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav today announced a series of events that will focus on raising public awareness of the challenges faced by runaway and homeless youth.

- On **November 3**, Commissioner Mullgrav, together with the cast and crew of Broadway's *Billy Eliot*, will host a "talk back" with participants from the agency's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program at the Imperial Theater.
- On **November 4**, the agency will take part in a lighting ceremony at the Empire State Building (ESB). Commissioner Mullgrav will be joined by artist and civil rights advocate Cyndi Lauper as they "flip the switch" and turn the Empire State Building green. Green lights have been designated by the National Runaway Switchboard as the national symbol for runaway awareness and prevention.
- Also on **November 4**, the agency will host the first in a series of forums designed to build support and understanding for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. The inaugural event will be held at the Staten Island LGBT Center. The forums are being cosponsored by all five Borough Presidents.

The forums stem from work by the NYC Commission on LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth, which released a report in June called "[All Our Children: Strategies to Prevent Homelessness, Strengthen Service and Build Support for LGBTQ Youth](#)" In particular, the [report](#) called for the implementation of a number of strategies, including the need to "combat homophobia and transphobia and promote acceptance of and support for LGBTQ youth and their families by launching a public education campaign..." DYCD is using National Runaway Prevention Month as an opportunity to call special attention to this vulnerable population, and the forums are designed to engage communities in a discussion on the issues facing LGBTQ young people.

"The best way we can help young runaways is to reach them before they find themselves on the streets," said **DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav**. "There is no one simple answer, but when we come together as a city – government, business, families,

religious and community leaders – we can make difference. I hope New Yorkers will use these forums as an opportunity to see what they can do to help us get in front of this crisis.”

The schedule for the forums is as follows:

- **Staten Island** – November 4, 2010 at 7:00 PM
SI LGBT Center – 25 Victory Boulevard
- **Queens** – November 16, 2010 at 6:00 PM
Queens Borough Hall – 120-55 Queens Boulevard
- **Brooklyn** – November 18, 2010 at 6:30 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall – 209 Joralemon Street
- **Bronx** – November 23, 2010 at 6:00 PM
Bronx Borough Hall – 851 Grand Concourse
- **Manhattan** – Dec 1, 2010 at 5:30 PM
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor

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