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Houston Mayor Bill White Announces his support of the Houston Juneteenth Multicultural Health Festival at Press Conference

HOUSTON, TX (May 30, 2008) - During a press conference today at the Houston City Hall, Mayor Bill White announced his support of the 2nd Annual Houston Juneteenth Multicultural Health Festival (HJMHF) along with State Representative Al Edwards taking place from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Houston's premier downtown park attraction – Discovery Green. The HJMHF family health and entertainment event is FREE to the public.

Presented by UnitedHealth Group, the multicultural health event seeks to promote the importance of living an active, healthy lifestyle among minorities by offering FREE health screenings, a health conference, a parade, the Real Men Cook fathers day event, Guinness World Record Couples Dance event, fitness demonstrations, live entertainment and a list of many, many other family activities.

During the Press Conference, State Representative Al Edwards, who is known as the "Father of the Juneteenth Holiday" in Texas, has endorsed the 2nd Annual Houston Juneteenth Multicultural Health Festival as an officially sanctioned event of Al Edwards' Juneteenth USA.

The festival, which drew more than 10,000 in its inaugural year at Tom Bass Park, is expected to attract more than 15,000 to its new centralized location. The health event is FREE and open to the public. It will highlight health issues related to African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans.

"I launched the Mayor's Wellness Council and one of the key outgrowths of this effort has been the formation of the Houston Wellness Association, whose mission is to advance the health and well-being of our community," said Houston Mayor Bill White. The Houston Juneteenth Multicultural Health Festival is one of the many projects born from this council.

"The HJMHF goal is to help get Houston off the "Fattest Cities in America" list and to increase awareness of the importance of prevention as part of the solution to the healthcare crisis," said Francis Page, Jr., Chairman of the African-American Wellness Committee of the Houston Wellness Association and event producer. Themed "Remembering the Past, for a Healthier Future," the HJMHF will bring awareness to the top 10 leading causes of death among African Americans and other ethnic groups such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, chronic lower respiratory disease, sudden infant death syndrome, stroke, diabetes, obesity, homicide, and kidney and heart disease.

For additional information and media downloads regarding the event visit <http://www.houstonhealthfestival.com/>.

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