



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 8, 2017

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**MONDAY: FIRST LADY MCCRAY TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON MENTAL
HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

NEW YORK—On Monday, First Lady Chirlane McCray will host a press conference at the Tweed Courthouse where she will make an announcement about promoting mental health literacy in the black community – building on the progress of the City’s signature mental health initiative [ThriveNYC](http://ThriveNYC.org). The First Lady will deliver remarks alongside Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Dr. L. Toni Lewis and the representatives of six historically black, women-led service organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and the Eastern Area of The Links, Incorporated.

Immediately following the press conference, 30 minutes will be allocated for pull aside interviews with the First Lady and representatives of the participating service organizations. Shortly after, attendees will participate in an eight-hour training of Mental Health First Aid. Through ThriveNYC, any New Yorker can sign up to take the free Mental Health First Aid course at <https://mhfa.cityofnewyork.us/>.

Members of the media interested in an interview with the First Lady and other participants should email requests to firstladyrsvp@cityhall.nyc.gov.

WHO: **Ms. Chirlane McCray**, First Lady of NYC
Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Representing the 9th District of New York
Dr. L. Toni Lewis, Immediate Past Chair of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare
Ms. Meredith Henderson, North Atlantic Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Ms. Beverly E. Smith, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Ms. Mary Breaux Wright, International President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Ms. Deborah Catchings-Smith, International President of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Ms. Danielle Brown, National Vice President of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Ms. Mekeshia Bates, Chair of Mental Health, Eastern Area of The Links,
Incorporated
Approximately 130 women representatives of the participating service organizations
and members of the public

WHEN: Monday, December 11, 2017
10:00 AM

WHERE: Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10027