

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

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...of second-class treatment of Blacks and Latinos at the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force /

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...of PATF spending priorities that devote only 5% of its half-million dollar budget to minority concerns--while 55% of people with AIDS in Philadelphia are Black or Latino

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...of PATF's refusal to develop any useful brochures or public information materials about AIDS directed at the minority community--while it concentrates on purveying the false image in its materials that AIDS is a white gay disease

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...of PATF pretending it has black involvement--while it refuses to allow any blacks in decisionmaking positions in its leadership

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...of PATF's attempts to blame its minority outreach coordinator, Ted Johnson, for its own failures, when PATF never provided him with the opportunity or the resources to do his job.

WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH!

...of standing by while PATF blames poor, Black and other minority people for its own insensitivity and lack of interest in our needs

More Blacks and Latinos are dying of AIDS than whites in Philadelphia--and how does PATF respond? By firing its only staff person dedicated to minority concerns.

IT'S TIME WE DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Two-thirds of PATF's money comes from City government. We demand an immediate investigation of PATF's racist operations by City Hall. We demand an end to City funding for PATF's ineffective, discriminatory programs. We demand that PATF immediately devote the majority of its financial resources to the majority of people in need of AIDS education and services--Philadelphia's Black, Latino and poor communities.

Because poor people are dying while PATF plays its public relations games to cover up its inaction and lack of concern.

AND WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF IT!

PROTEST! PROTEST! PROTEST! PROTEST! PROTEST! PROTEST! PROTEST!

DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 1987

TIME: 12:00 Noon sharp

PLACE: Outside PATF Offices
1216 Walnut Street

BE THERE! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

CITY & REGION

Unequal Treatment?

Gripes About Minority Outreach Program Got Me Fired, AIDS Unit Supervisor Says

By TYREE JOHNSON
Daily News Staff Writer

A supervisor for the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force says he was fired yesterday because he told a reporter that the agency was providing "unequal" services to minority communities, where the deadly virus has claimed more than half of its victims in the city.

"This organization is doing a fantastic job for whites . . . but provides unequal and uneven services to the black and Hispanic communities," said Theodore B. Johnson, who had been the task force's \$19,500-a-year director of minority outreach.

Johnson, 35, said he was fired after criticizing the agency during a two-hour interview on Tuesday with a reporter from the Gay News. He said the organization's executive director, Francis J. Stoffa, fired him because he had failed to get his permission to be interviewed.

Johnson said he was told last month, when Stoffa was named executive director, that his new boss "must approve everything I will be doing. I could not make any appointments and I was not to have any contact with the press without his approval."

But, Johnson contended, "the only reason I went to the press was because I was not getting any results from him [Stoffa]. He wasn't listening

to anything I said."

Stoffa denied that he fired Johnson because of the interview. He said Johnson's six-month probation was to end on Monday.

Stoffa declined further comment because, he said, "I don't want to discuss personnel issues or respond to complaints from a disgruntled employee."

Less than three hours after Johnson's firing, Stoffa announced that he had hired Wesley Anderson, a social worker from West Philadelphia, to replace Johnson. Johnson and Anderson both are black.

He added that it was the task force's goal to expand and to improve services concerning the deadly disease to all neighborhoods. AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, attacks the immune system and makes it difficult for the body to fight off diseases.

As of July, 56.6 percent of all AIDS cases in Philadelphia were among blacks and Hispanics, and the rate of growth of cases among non-whites is faster than among whites, according to the city Health Department. There have been 479 AIDS cases reported in Philadelphia since November 1981.

The task force, based at 1216 Walnut St., operates on a \$519,000 annual budget, \$400,000 of which comes from the city, Stoffa said.

The organization was formed in



Staff Photography by Bob Laramie
Theodore Johnson: muzzled

1980 by a group that wanted to help the Center City gay community, said David Fair, a founder of the task force and secretary-treasurer of District 1199C of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees.

Fair said the task force came under heavy criticism last year for aiming most of its services at the Center City gay community, which is mostly white. The task force hired Johnson to create an outreach program in the minority community.

But Fair, who severed his ties with the task force 13 months ago, said, "We'll never know how Johnson would have done because he was never given the tools to do his job."

9850-555
TWA 235-0786

Handwritten scribbles and signatures in the bottom left corner, including a large circular scribble and the name "T. Johnson" written vertically.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AIDS Task Force figure cites minority issue in his firing

The director of minority outreach for the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force said he was fired from his job yesterday because there was no support within the organization's leadership for his efforts to educate minorities about the deadly disease.

Theodore B. Johnson, 35, who had been hired in September for the post, contended that the AIDS Task Force was insensitive to the needs of

blacks and other minorities, preferring instead to focus its attention on "the white, gay middle-class person in Center City."

But Francis Stoffa, executive director of Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives, of which the AIDS Task Force is a component, said Johnson's dismissal was a personnel matter. "He was let go during his probationary period. . . . We obviously make those decisions based on performance," Stoffa said. He said Johnson would be replaced by Wesley Anderson, 36, of West Philadelphia, who, he said, is a candidate for a master's degree at West Chester University and has worked for the U.S. Public Health Service.