



MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release
August 27, 2009**

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FIERCE to Host First-ever District 3 City Council Candidates Forum to Address Concerns of LGBTQ Youth

Forum will include Q&A with candidates on topics such as the inclusion of a 24-hour LGBTQ Youth Center on Pier 40, homelessness amongst LGBTQ youth, and other critical issues

WHAT: FIERCE, a community-based organization dedicated to building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color in NYC, will host a forum for its members and District 3 City Council Candidates to discuss issues facing LGBTQ youth in the West Village and citywide.

A first-of-its-kind, the forum will provide a chance for candidates to talk directly to and hear from FIERCE's constituency. Forum topics include:

- Candidates' commitments to include facilities for LGBTQ youth in the redevelopment plans for Pier 40 in Hudson River Park
- Plans to address homelessness and safety concerns for LGBTQ youth, who make up at least 40% of the homeless youth population in New York City
- NYPD and LGBTQ community relations

WHO: Interview opportunities with the following confirmed participants:

- Yetta Kurland, City Council Candidate, 3rd District
- Maria Passannante-Derr, City Council Candidate, 3rd District
- Chris Baez, Active FIERCE Member, Forum Moderator
- Elegost Rosado, Active FIERCE Member, Forum Moderator
- Rickke Mananzala, Executive Director, FIERCE
- Desiree Marshall, Lead Organizer, FIERCE

* Note: An invitation was extended to City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

WHEN: Friday, August 28, 2009
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

WHERE: FIERCE
147 West 24th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY, 10010

WHY: For over 40 years, LGBTQ youth have called the West Village and the Christopher St. Pier (Pier 45) their home as a place to be who they are without the fear or threat of violence. Since FIERCE was founded in 2000, they have asserted that LGBTQ youth are important stakeholders in the West Village community. FIERCE is currently working on two campaigns to ensure that the needs and voices of LGBTQ youth are included as developments continue on the West Village waterfront. FIERCE's *Our S.P.O.T. (Safe Place to Organize Together) Campaign* seeks to establish a 24-hour LGBTQ Youth Center on Pier 40. For more information, visit www.fiercenyc.org.

Please RSVP to Ellen Vaz at 646-336-6789 ext. 209 or ellen@fiercenyc.org.