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Latino Commission on AIDS

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80 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 1501, NEW YORK, NY 10011 • TEL: 212-675-3288 • FAX: 212-675-3466

March 1, 2000

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director, National AIDS Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2000. At the Latino Commission on AIDS we give thanks to friends and supporters such as yourself that have helped us work towards our mission. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, I am joined by our Board of Directors and staff as we call yet again upon your generosity and kindness to help to raise the funds that are so necessary to fulfill our commitment to the community touched by HIV and AIDS. We are specifically asking that you join our benefit committee to help promote our fund raising effort.

As you will appreciate, we are at a crossroads in addressing HIV/AIDS in the Latino community. Recently public attention is shifting away from HIV in the mistaken impression that there is a cure or that most people living with HIV infection are doing well. But AIDS persists. More than ever, Latinos are becoming infected with HIV and AIDS remains one of the leading causes of deaths among our young. At the Latino Commission we deal with this reality everyday. Our workload has been increasing as greater demand is placed on our staff, as more and more people seek advice and information on prevention and treatment.

Our annual fundraising gala *Cielo Latino: At the Crossroads*, will serve to mark our tenth year and to underscore this critical point in time. Returning to the Copacabana we will recognize the following leaders who have contributed to improving the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS: Guillermo Santos, D.O., M.P.H.; Julio Bellber; Bernard Salick, M.D.; Michelle López; actor Edward James Olmos; and Congressman Ciro Rodríguez. In order to reach our financial goals to satisfy this year's budget, I invite you to join our benefit committee. As a benefit committee member your responsibilities will consist of the following: supporting our efforts by attending the event, selling an additional two tickets, and reaching out to your friends and colleagues as potential sponsors and table hosts.

Prior to the event we invite you to the Commission's office to come learn more about our mission and vision, to meet our awesome staff, and to get to know our organization further. Please join us as we inaugurate our *Cielo Latino 2000* fund raising campaign on **Thursday, March 16, 2000 from 6:00-8:00 pm**. The reception will be held at Arcos Communications, located at 114 West 26th Street, Suite 1003, between 6th and 7th Avenues. Please call Esther M. Carela at (212) 807-1337 to confirm your attendance. We look forward to your continued support as we commemorate a landmark year for the Latino Commission on AIDS.

Sincerely,

Dennis deLeón
President