

MEDIA ADVISORY

For donation inquiries contact: 773-698-6003
Media Inquiries contact: Cristina Pacione-Zayas
Co-Chair, Puerto Rican Agenda
Phone: 773-418-5528
Email: pragendachgo@gmail.com



Chicago, IL (June 13, 2018)— Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago presents \$40,000 donation to Comerío Mayor Josian Santiago to develop Hurricane-resistant Community Oasis during Mayor Exchange sponsored by Open Society Foundation in Chicago

On the heels of a Sustainability Summit coordinated by The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago (Agenda) in Puerto Rico, The Agenda will hold a press conference on Thursday, June 14, 9:15 AM at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture (3015 W. Division St.) to present the Honorable Josian Santiago, Mayor of Comerío \$40,000.

The donation represents a down payment to retrofit an existing community center into a hurricane-resistant oasis with capacity to serve 700 people and fueled by renewable energy. Additionally, through a partnership with Thermasteel, The Agenda will collaborate to build a model home with energy efficient materials that could withstand 200 mph winds. The donation to Comerío comes from a grant awarded to The Agenda by The Chicago Community Trust in recognition for its signature strategy of mobilizing resources and local relationships to provide Puerto Rico with a meaningful and immediate response to needs as a result of Hurricane Maria.

Mayor Santiago will be joining Mayor Rahm Emanuel to continue discussions on rebuilding Puerto Rico through leveraging renewable energy and sustainable resources while visiting Chicago for the Mayor Exchange facilitated by Open Society Foundation.

Comerío is a mountainous town with thousands of families still living without electricity since Hurricane Maria. Agenda leadership will provide an update on the 3 Rs for Puerto Rico campaign: Rescue, Relief, Rebuild specifically focusing on the Adaptemos un Pueblo initiative and a response to the Harvard Study citing at least 4,645 deaths as a result of Hurricane Maria.

Press Conference

WHO: Honorable Josian Santiago
Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Co-Chair, Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
Richard Santiago, Co-Chair, Arts and Culture Committee
Paul Marinescu, Principal, Thermasteel
Wilfredo Benitez, Champion Boxer

WHERE: National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St.

WHEN: 9:15 AM CT, Thursday, June 14, 2018

The Puerto Rican Agenda is non-profit organization of local Puerto Rican leaders that influences policy for the advancement of the Puerto Rican community in Chicago. Over the past two decades, the Agenda continues to develop and execute a community-driven vision for the Humboldt Park Area, where most Puerto Ricans in Chicago live, and Paseo Boricua, a business and entertainment district on Division Street between California and Western.

MEDIA ADVISORY

For donation inquiries contact: 773-698-6003
Media Inquiries contact: Cristina Pacione-Zayas
Co-Chair, Puerto Rican Agenda
Phone: 773-418-5528
Email: pragendachgo@gmail.com



BACKGROUND:

Members of The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago (The Agenda), returned from a summit in Puerto Rico during the week of May 15– 23, 2018. The delegation included a team of housing manufacturers, developers, planners, scholars, engineers and community economic development professionals. Participants joined a Strategy Summit, planned and coordinated by The Agenda and the Municipality of Comerío, with the goal of exploring opportunities to identify partnerships for building the most energy efficient and hurricane proof model homes as part of The Agenda's Relief, Rescue, and Rebuild Puerto Rico campaign (3R's4PR); as well as identifying critical needs for the upcoming hurricane season.

The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago was the first organization of the Puerto Rican Diaspora to land an airplane filled with emergency cargo to the island, and to have that same plane return with 300 people stranded in the airport on the island. Since Hurricane Maria, the Puerto Rican Agenda has raised over \$400,000 and directed funds for aid and micro-grants to over 35 municipalities and organizations in Puerto Rico. This grassroots all-volunteer effort has been bolstered by the intervention of Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, United Airlines CEO Oscar Muñoz, and Governor Bruce Rauner.

Additionally, the Agenda has worked closely with the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communication and 26th Ward Alderman Roberto Maldonado to establish the first full-service Hurricane Resource Center in Humboldt Park through May 1, 2018. To date over 2,000 evacuees from Puerto Rico have been connected to local, state, and federal resources.

For over 100 years, The Chicago Community Trust, our region's community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. Since 1915, the Trust has awarded over \$2 billion in grant funding to more than 11,000 local nonprofit organizations- including more than \$236 million in 2016. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to protecting the safety net for those hardest hit by the recession, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at www.cct.org.

###

The Puerto Rican Agenda is non-profit organization of local Puerto Rican leaders that influences policy for the advancement of the Puerto Rican community in Chicago. Over the past two decades, the Agenda continues to develop and execute a community-driven vision for the Humboldt Park Area, where most Puerto Ricans in Chicago live, and Paseo Boricua, a business and entertainment district on Division Street between California and Western.