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Chicago, IL (October 16, 2017)— The Puerto Rican Agenda and Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez will hold a press conference on Tuesday, October 17, 9:30 AM at the Urban Theater Company (2620 W. Division St.). Community leaders will provide an update on initiatives spurring from Chicago's Puerto Rican community to address basic needs in Puerto Rico due to the humanitarian crisis caused by Hurricane Maria. Due to the efforts of the Puerto Rican Agenda and Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez, the City of Chicago is at the forefront of becoming a welcoming center for the island's evacuees with the support of Alderman Roberto Maldonado transforming the 26th Ward into a hub for services to assist Puerto Rican evacuees.

Press Conference

WHO

Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez
Cristina Pacione-Zayas
Omar Torres Kortright
Alderman Roberto Maldonado
and leaders in the Chicago Puerto Rican Diaspora community

WHERE:

Urban Theater Company, 2620 W. Division St.

WHEN:

9:30 AM CT, Tuesday, October 17, 2017

BACKGROUND:

Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez will speak about his upcoming trip, on Wed., October 18, to distribute \$60,000 worth of food and other necessities to the towns of Loiza, the historical center of Puerto Rico's Afro- Puerto Rican heritage, and the mountainous municipality of Comerio, where 80% of homes have endured damage.

The Puerto Rican Agenda was the first organization of the Puerto Rican Diaspora to land an airplane filled with cargo to the island, and to have that same plane return with 300 people stranded in the airport on the island. This grassroots effort has been bolstered by the intervention of Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and United Airlines CEO Oscar Muñoz. Additionally, this coming week the delivery of \$30,000 in supplies will be made to the municipalities in the island's interior, Barranquitas and Aibonito.

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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.