

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Chicago, IL (December 20, 2017)— The effects of Hurricane Maria’s devastation to Puerto Rico continue to plague the island prompting many to flee and seek temporary or permanent residency in the mainland. Nearly 1,500 Puerto Ricans have received services at the Hurricane Resource Center located in the Humboldt Park Field House. Today we officially welcome them to the heart and soul of Chicago’s Puerto Rican Community with a holiday luncheon.

The Puerto Rican Agenda has been involved in the planning and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to provide Puerto Rican evacuees support and services in their new home. Under the leadership of the City of Chicago, Alderman Roberto Maldonado, the Chicago Park District, and a robust network of community-based organizations countless resources and hours have been donated to ensure a smoother transition and access to basic resources.

WHO: Puerto Rican Agenda Hurricane Relief Task Force
Alderman Roberto Maldonado

WHERE: Humboldt Park Field House
1400 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL 60622

WHEN: 12:00 PM Wednesday, December 20, 2017

BACKGROUND: 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. Since the passing of Hurricane Maria, the Puerto Rican Agenda has raised nearly \$250,000 and directed funds for aid and micro-grants to 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, and United Airlines CEO Oscar Muñoz.

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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.