

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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Chicago, IL (September 29, 2017)—The Puerto Rican Agenda calls on the Federal Government to act with urgency as the humanitarian crisis grows exponentially in Puerto Rico. On Friday September 29, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin met with elected officials, community leaders, and first responders to discuss the current and future needs of Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican Agenda agrees with Senator Durbin's message on Friday that the United States was not prepared to help Puerto Rico.

Despite the unacceptably slow pace of directing and delivering federal aid, Chicago's Puerto Rican Community and its allies, including business owners, are mobilizing resources. Many private businesses including Epstein and ESD Global, took interest in helping by directing employees to support the **Pallets and Planes** campaign. In addition, The Franchise Consulting Company will be donating 100% of net proceeds from The Franchise Seminar they will host on Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center.

In a period of one week the members of the Puerto Rican Agenda raised nearly \$120,000, to provide immediate relief to those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico through the **Pallets and Planes** campaign. Funds have been used to purchase pallets of emergency supplies and generators that have been delivered directly to San Juan Mayor, Carmen Yulín Cruz. These two cargo airplanes, underwritten by United Airlines, were sent in less than one week from when the category 4 hurricane decimated the island. One of the flights turned around and transported 300 evacuees from Puerto Rico effectively multiplying the impact of the **Pallets and Planes** campaign.

Fundraising continues with the goal of filling a third airplane with critical resources. Fueled completely by volunteers, the grassroots effort has been bolstered by the support of civic leaders including Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Governor Bruce Rauner, and Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz. Join the Puerto Rican Agenda's **Pallets to Planes** campaign by contributing to the Hurricane Relief Fund here: [www.puertoricanchicago.org](http://www.puertoricanchicago.org)

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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.*