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January 29, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We write to request your administration's urgent action in support of the people of Puerto Rico.

Over the past few years, Puerto Rico has faced multiple natural disasters. In many ways the island has not yet recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017. Disaster has struck the island again, having been rocked by a series of earthquakes over the past month including one that has reached a magnitude of 6.4. Thousands have been left without shelter, forced to sleep outside as the island deals with more than 2,000 tremors that continue to shake its people to their core.

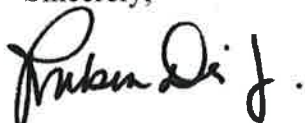
New York City enjoys a close relationship with Puerto Rico, thanks to the 176,417 people born in Puerto Rico that currently call New York City home. Considering the immense trauma that the island's residents have suffered from these natural disasters, it is time that we as a city once again rise to the occasion and help the Puerto Rican people during this crisis. Our city should recommit to helping those Puerto Ricans who are forced to leave their homes to seek refuge in New York City following these earthquakes, just as we did after Hurricane Maria.

We must make it easier for Puerto Ricans coming for refuge in New York City to attain the services that they need to recover and to thrive after these devastating disasters. The people of Puerto Rico are filled with anxiety and fearful of what lies ahead for their island. Their relocation process should be streamlined to provide them with the emotional, spiritual and mental health care that they need as well as the basic resources that are needed to live in our city.


Time is of the essence. We must move quickly, especially in light of the Trump administration dragging its feet, to help the more than three million Americans that call Puerto Rico their home. We ask that all city agencies join in this effort to ensure that we ease the difficult transition for those Puerto Ricans relocating to New York City in the wake of this disaster. We must help those seeking refuge set up new roots in our great city after going through this great suffering.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



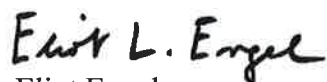
Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Bronx Borough President



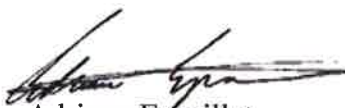
Mark Gjonaj  
NYC Council Member



Carl E. Heastie  
NYS Assembly Speaker



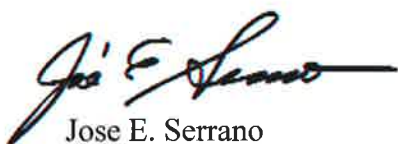
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U.S. Congress Member



Adriano Espaillat  
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
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