

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 1, 2020
Steven Arroyo, Communications Manager
sarroyo@latinopolicyforum.org



THE LATINO POLICY FORUM PLEDGES SOLIDARITY WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY

The Latino Policy Forum and the undersigned respectfully pledge solidarity and allyship with the Black community at this watershed moment. To our Black brothers and sisters: Your pain is our pain, and your struggle is our struggle.

Black lives matter. The Forum grieves for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and for all the lost lives and destruction caused by structural racism.

At this moment, a valve is being opened. What's being released is hundreds of years of pain, frustration, and anger resulting from stolen Black lives. It's pent-up rage that has festered over the course of our nation's history, a history marred by systemic inequality and the marginalization of Black people.

We must not lose focus on the source of this anger, which in recent days has manifested in both peaceful protesting and violence. Peaceful protest is essential to democracy, and the criminalization of such protesters is yet another form of oppression.

The solutions to structural racism and systemic inequality are complex. We need real solutions aimed at the roots of this illness. It cannot be healed by further militarizing society or with more punishment. We must invest in equitable resources for every individual and community if we are ever to make true progress towards peace and reconciliation, to build a sustainable path to a healed and strengthened world.

The Latino Policy Forum pledges to continue building a foundation of trust alongside our Black brothers and sisters in our collective work towards a compassionate, just, rebuilt society.



Artwork by Veronica Giraldo-Puente

Sincerely,

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Latino Policy Forum	
Michael D. Rodriguez	22nd Ward Alderman
Carlos Ramirez-Rosa	35th Ward Alderman
Michelle Garcia	Access Living
Alex Garza	AGG Consulting
Oscar Chacon	Alianza Americas
Luis Roman	Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA)
Xavier Nogueras	BOCA Media Group
Bela Mote	Carole Robertson Center
Rodolfo De Jesus	Center for Changing Lives
Javier Garibay	Central States SER
Paul Callejas	Chicago Center for Arts & Technology
Edgar Ramirez	Chicago Commons
Esther Sciammarella	Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Sonica C. Ruiz	Chicago Park District
Elida Ortiz	Cicero Community Collaborative
Mariana Osoria	Cicero Community Collaborative, Family Focus
Delia Barajas	Cicero Community Member
Zoryda Avila Toledo	Colectivo de Mujeres Transnacionales
Jesús "Chuy" García	Congressman, Illinois' 4th District
Rey Gonzalez	El Valor
Katya Nuques	Enlace Chicago
Kirstin Chernawsky	Erie Neighborhood House
Manuel Tamponi	Family Focus
Michelle Ramirez	Family Focus
Alexandra Sossa	Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
Maricela Garcia	Gads Hill Center
Rosa I. Rubio	Gads Hill Center
Patricia Mota	HACE
Marco E. Jacome	Healthcare Alternative Systems
Mireya Vera	Holy Cross Hospital
Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez, MD	Illinois Unidos, Cook County Health CORE Center
Melissa A. Simon, MD, MPH	Illinois Unidos, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Aida L. Giachello	Illinois Unidos, The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
Marina Del Rios, MD, MS	Illinois Unidos, The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
Cesar Rolon	Imagen Consultants
Jose M. Muñoz	La Casa Norte
Maria Valle Coto	Latino Medical Student Association, UIC
Analia Rodríguez	Latino Union of Chicago
Luis Gutierrez	Latinos Progresando
Angelica Rivera	Lincoln Methodist Church Member
Blanca R. Soto	Little Village 26th Street Area Chamber of Commerce
Megan McKenna	Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
Dulce Ortiz	Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
Geraldine Luna, MD, MPH	Medical Organization for Latino Advancement
Pilar Ortega, MD	Medical Organization for Latino Advancement

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Amy Diaz	Multicultural Leadership Academy Alumna
Paloma Z. Arroyo	Multicultural Leadership Academy Alumna
Luis Narvaez	Multicultural Leadership Academy Alumnus
Linda Xochitl Tortolero	Mujeres Latinas en Acción
Patricia Aguado	Northeastern Illinois University
James Rudyk	Northwest Side Housing Center
Jose R. Sanchez	Norwegian American Hospital
Michael Tafolla	Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, Heart of Chicago
Eddy Borrayo	Rincon Family Services
Ruben D. Feliciano	Rincon Family Services
Maria D. Ramos Cuaya	Self-Help Federal Credit Union
Raúl García	Sinai Health System
Karina Villa	State Representative, 49th District
Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez	State Representative, 24th District
Celina Villanueva	State Senator, 11th District
Cristina Castro	State Senator, 22nd District
Cristina Pacione-Zayas	The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
Dalila Torres	The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
Jessie Fuentes	The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
Raul Raymundo	The Resurrection Project
Eira Corral Sepúlveda	Village Clerk, Village of Hanover Park
Angela Sedeño	
Cecilia Mendoza	
Ernesto Saldivar, Jr.	
Jorge Valdivia	
Luis Roman	
Luisiana Menendez, PhD	
Omar Diaz	
Valerie E. Coffman	