

For Immediate Release:
March 5, 2009

Contact: Scott Levenson
917-833-3175

Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. files over 16,000 signatures for Bronx Borough President

*Campaign gathers signatures over three days during bone chilling
weather conditions*

Today, Thursday, March 5, 2009, Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. and his campaign filed over 16,000 signatures at the Manhattan Board of Elections.

Assemblyman Diaz' commitment to working for a brighter future for the Bronx is clearly supported by the many campaign workers carrying petitions in weather that kept many New Yorkers inside their homes. The large number of signatures, collected in three days, in the political off season is also a clear indication that the Bronx wants Assemblyman Diaz, Jr. to be in the running to be Bronx Borough President.

Chairman of the Bronx Democratic Party, Assemblyman Carl Heastie said, "This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Bronx Democratic organization and its leaders. In less than 72 hours, we were able to secure an overwhelming number of signatures for our candidate, Ruben Diaz, Jr." Heastie added, "This is the type of support the Bronx organization can mobilize for any candidate, and this is only the beginning. We will continue to expand the base of our party, involving more and more Bronxites in the process. The election of Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr. as our new Borough President will be the first of many successful campaigns by candidates supported by our organization."

The collection of such a high number of signatures was a result of the efforts of residents from all corners of the borough, from Riverdale to Soundview and from Wakefield to the South Bronx.

"Our organization collected 16,000 signatures through some of the coldest days of the year. We are proud of that achievement and want to thank everyone who helped," said Benny Catala, Campaign Manager for Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. has a proven track record with 13 years of experience as a New York State Assemblyman from the Bronx and an effective advocate for New York's working families.

###