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## **With Strong & United Show of Support, Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr., Announces His Candidacy for Bronx Borough President**

*- State Legislator is Only Elected Official to Seek the Borough Presidency -*

Bronx, NY, March 9, 2009 -- Flanked by a broad coalition of elected officials and civic leaders on the steps of Bronx Borough Hall, Assembly Member Ruben Diaz, Jr. today announced his candidacy for the office of Bronx Borough President in the Special Election on April 21, 2009. The only elected official seeking the Borough Presidency . Diaz today released a list of endorsements that included a diverse range of labor unions, political organizations, community and civic leaders.

"I am seeking the office of Bronx Borough President to work for a brighter future and a better quality of life for all the residents of the Bronx," said Assembly Member Diaz in announcing his candidacy. "While there is no doubt that our nation, our state and our city are in the midst of an economic crisis, I see in that crisis lies opportunity.

"I see a day when The Bronx is a leader in job creation. I see a day when the Bronx is an engine of sensible green development that leads the way in driving the city's and state's recovery. I see a day when we can ensure our children a brighter future by investing in the resources they need to stay healthy and ensuring that every child has access to a world class education. I see a day when we can guarantee civil rights for all and when no communities or individuals are subject to discrimination, whether in the form of police harassment or environmental injustice in underserved neighborhoods.

"I see a day when the Bronx is again restored to greatness," said Assemblyman Diaz.

Last week, the campaign of Assembly Member Diaz filed more than 16,500 signatures of Bronx voters, far surpassing the 4,000 minimum signature requirement. The Borough Presidency was vacated when the previous incumbent, Adolfo Carrion, was named the White House Director of Urban Policy by President Barack Obama on February 19, 2009.

At today's announcement, at which the Chairman of the Bronx County Democratic Party, Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie, served as master of ceremonies, Assemblyman Diaz was introduced by former Bronx Borough President and mayoral nominee President Fernando Ferrer. "Ruben Diaz, Jr. will be an outstanding new leader for all the people of the Bronx," said Ferrer, who served as Borough President from until 2001. "He has the vision, energy, and ability to guide our great Borough through these difficult times and to see us through to a better, brighter future for ourselves and our families," said Ferrer.

"Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr.'s career has been characterized by commitment, compassion and competence. He will be bring these traits and his unparalleled leadership to the Borough President's office and to all the residents of the Bronx. I am proud to endorse him and look forward to our working together," said Comptroller William C. Thompson.

Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie, the Bronx Democratic County Leader, said, "Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr. is the personification of what the Bronx is, and what is to come. Intelligent and energetic, Ruben will take the office of Borough President to new heights."

"As the Bronx faces these challenging economic times, it is essential for our communities to come together and elect a Borough President with a vision, the compassion and the temperament to truly make a difference. This is why it is with such great enthusiasm that I join everyone today in supporting my friend and colleague from the State Assembly, Ruben Diaz, Jr. as he seeks the Office of Bronx Borough President. I have witnessed firsthand Ruben's leadership, his advocacy and commitment on behalf of the Bronx and his tireless efforts to improve the lives for all residents. It is with this in mind that I encourage everyone to vote on April 21, 2009 for Ruben Diaz, Jr.," said the dean of the Bronx delegation to the State Legislature, Assembly Member Aurelia Greene.

"Ruben Diaz, Jr .will be a great Bronx Borough President. He is a hardworking and extremely effective Assemblyman who has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to work with all groups and neighborhoods. He will bring new energy and innovation to the Office of Borough President. I proudly endorse him, I will campaign hard for him, and I look forward to a long and productive partnership with him for the benefit of the people of the Bronx," said Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, the Chairman of the Bronx Democratic County Committee.

"As I have gotten to know Ruben Diaz, Jr., I have become impressed with his energy, his enthusiasm, and his desire to work with all the communities of the Bronx. I know he will work hard to make the Bronx an even better place to live and work, and I look forward to working with him," said Congressman Eliot Engel (D/WFP-Bronx, Westchester & Rockland).

"As a father, I feel honored and extraordinarily proud to endorse Ruben Diaz, Jr. for Bronx Borough President. He is an honorable, effective and dedicated public servant and will work hard as a Borough President for all our diverse communities," said Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. (D/WFP-Bronx).

"Ruben Diaz, Jr. has the vision and proven experience to lead the great Borough of the Bronx and deliver real results for all its residents. Ruben knows we need safe schools, clean streets, open spaces, good transportation, and incentives to grow businesses and increase our local economy. As a lifelong resident of the Bronx, I can be confident that Ruben will fight for resources and put them to good use. I'm proud to call him my colleague and look forward to working together with him as the next Borough President of the Bronx!" said Senator Jeff Klein (D/WFP-Bronx), Deputy Majority Leader of the New York State Senate.

It gives me great pleasure to support Ruben Diaz Jr. for Bronx Borough president. As a public servant who has served the residents of the Bronx for over a decade, he has proven himself to be a committed and tireless advocate for our community . During these difficult economic times we need a Borough President who will provide strong leadership and will guide on the road to recovery. Having worked with Ruben Diaz Jr., I am confident he is the best person to do this job and he will be an outstanding Bronx Borough President "said Senator Schneiderman.

"Ruben Diaz, Jr. is the man the Bronx needs at this time of economic crisis and of high unemployment. He is the person the Bronx needs to put Bronxites back to work and unify this Borough," said Assembly Member Michael Benedetto (D/WFP-Bronx).

"I have tremendous confidence that Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. will be a fine and effective Borough President. Ruben is a great listener and I know that his leadership will benefit all of the Bronx's diverse communities," said Assembly Member Michael Benjamin (D/WFP-Bronx).

"As someone who has worked tirelessly with Ruben on issues facing our district, I have seen firsthand the type of commitment he has for residents in our district. Ruben has been a strong friend to residents in the Soundview Community and I am proud that once he is elected ,the entire Borough of the Bronx will be able to benefit from his wide array of talent. I endorse Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr. for Bronx Borough President because I am confident that when he enters borough hall, he will be ready to lead and unite the Bronx," said New York City Council Member Annabel Palma (D/WFP-Bronx).

"Ruben Diaz, Jr. has the energy and enthusiasm to be a strong advocate for our Borough and all of its neighborhoods. I am confident that he's up to the challenges that lie ahead in our Borough and in our City," said Council Member James Vacca (D/WFP-Bronx).

"I am pleased to endorse Assemblyman Ruben Diaz for Borough President. He has shown himself to be an effective, energetic legislator. He also has worked cooperatively and diligently with elected officials from all parts of the borough and all ethnic backgrounds. I know he will be a fine leader for the Bronx," said Council Member Oliver Koppell (D/WFP-Bronx).

"I believe that as Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. will unite the borough, heal old wounds and lead us proudly into the 21st Century. Ruben is a man of integrity. He is an honest and thoughtful leader. I believe that the partnership forged between him and our new Bronx County Leader Assemblyman Carl Heastie will mark a new day for Bronx County," said Council Member Helen Diane Foster (D/WFP-Bronx).

"During the years we served together in the State Assembly, I saw Ruben fight tirelessly for the needs of his constituents," said Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer.

"I know that as borough president, Ruben will serve all of the Bronx's residents with the same dedication and diligence."

Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat (D/WFP-Manhattan) said, "Ruben Diaz, Jr. will bring vision and energy needed to transform the Bronx into yet another great American city. His commitment has been exemplary over his last thirteen years of public service."

"Having worked with Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr. on issues crucial to the survival of working families, such as preserving affordable housing and fighting for tenants' rights, I know that he will be a superb borough president for the people of the Bronx," said Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal (D/WFP-Manhattan).