



HON. CARL E. HEASTIE
ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

NYS ASSEMBLY
PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC
TASK FORCE



HON. MARITZA DAVILA
CHAIRWOMAN

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Hon. Carmen E. Arroyo
Hon. Catalina Cruz
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa
Hon. Erik Martín Dilan
Hon. Nathalia Fernandez
Hon. Monica Martinez
Hon. Felix W. Ortiz
Hon. Victor Pichardo
Hon. Jessica Ramos
Hon. Philip R. Ramos
Hon. Karines Reyes
Hon. Gustavo. Rivera
Hon. José R. Rivera
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez
Hon. Nily D. Rozic
Hon. Julia Salazar
Hon. Luis Sepulveda
Hon. Jose. M. Serrano
Hon. David I. Weprin

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Hon. Jeffrion L. Aubry
Hon. Brian Barnwell
Hon. Didi Barrett
Hon. Michael R. Benedetto
Hon. Michael Blake
Hon. David Buchwald
Hon. Vivian E. Cook
Hon. Michael G. DenDekker
Hon. Inez E. Dickens
Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz
Hon. Aileen M. Gunther
Hon. Latoya Joyner
Hon. Ronald T. Kim
Hon. Michael G. Miller
Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Hon. Walter T. Mosley
Hon. Catherine T. Nolan
Hon. Daniel J. O'Donnell
Hon. Steven Otis
Hon. Amy Paulin
Hon. J. Gary Pretlow
Hon. Sean Ryan
Hon. Rebecca Seawright
Hon. Aravella Simotas
Hon. Michelle Solages
Hon. Al Taylor
Hon. Latrice Walker
Hon. Jamie Williams

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided”- JK Rowling

As we are in the middle of Hispanic Heritage Month, I think it is important to remind everyone that collectively as Latinos we need to work together amongst ourselves and with other minority communities to assure that all communities have both the access and resources needed to achieve the American Dream. The Puerto Rican/Hispanic does not condone any rhetoric from any elected official directed towards any demographic. Our country was built by immigrants, we need to embrace them, not suggest that they are to be blamed for what we have and what we don't. We cannot fight for our fair share of resources when we're fighting with each other, we cannot let others put us in a position that will divide our communities. When we work together, we can achieve a lot, passage of a **Green Light Law**, voting reforms, additional access to higher education for undocumented individuals through the **Jose Peralta Dream Act** and meaningful bail and police reforms.

Our community must make sure everyone is counted and therefore empowered through the 2020 Census. Latino voters will make up the second largest ethnic group of voters in the country for the first time in November's election, despite being the group with the lowest proportion of eligible voters. We need to stress the importance of having our voices heard by registering to vote and casting our ballots. This month needs to be not just about appreciating our Hispanic Heritage, but collectively working together to empower our communities so that next year at this time we can celebrate our victories as well.

###