

LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
4TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
2266 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8203
(202) 225-7810 Fax

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2201 WEST NORTH AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60647
(773) 342-0774
(773) 342-0776 Fax

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1304

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
CONSUMER CREDIT
CHAIRMAN
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY
AND TRADE
JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES,
BORDER SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

June 4, 2010

Madelyn Lugo
Chair
National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc
Via Fax 718-292-2305

Dear Ms. Lugo:

I want to express to you again my appreciation for being selected by the National Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee to be the States Marshall. This parade is an important way to honor our community and heritage and I am humbled that you selected me to serve. I have been looking forward to celebrating this day of pride with my family.

However, since accepting this honor, I have been made aware that among the honorees of the parade this year is Mr. Osvaldo Ríos. I am informed that Mr. Rios was convicted in 2003 of domestic abuse in an incident involving his then live-in girlfriend.

Given the importance of demonstrating to our community, and every community, that violent crimes against women are unacceptable, with all due respect to this esteemed committee, I must now decline your invitation.

The Puerto Rican parade has a distinguished history of creating national awareness of Puerto Rican culture and of the many contributions of Puerto Ricans to the United States. This parade showcases the best of the Puerto Rican community. I do not believe that honoring an individual who has committed such a serious crime is in keeping with the spirit of our parade or the principles of our community. I believe we must send a message of zero tolerance for violence against women. In addition, Puerto Ricans are famous for excellence in the arts, sciences, business, sports and all areas of society. Our community is filled with candidates to be honored. It should be easy to find an excellent person to represent Puerto Ricans as Padrino Internacional.

I thank you again for your work, and respect your leadership for the people of New York. In this instance, I respectfully suggest that a more suitable individual be honored. I believe this would send an important message to all Puerto Ricans and all people.

Thank you for considering my concerns. If you would like to discuss this any further, I am of course available and you can reach me at (202) 225-8203.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress