

# Transcript: Mayor Eric Adams Hosts and Delivers Remarks at Reception for Puerto Rican Community

June 9, 2022

**Adolfo Carrión, Commissioner, Department of Housing Preservation and**

**Development:** Mi gente. Mi nombre Adolfo, Adolfo Carrión. When was the last time you heard an HPD, a Puerto Rican HPD commissioner do this with the crowd? You got to come back at me though. You got to come back at me. Que bonita bandera. Que bonita bandera. Que bonita bandera, es la puertorriqueña. Que bonita bandera. Let me hear you. Que bonita bandera. Que bonita bandera, es la puertorriqueña. Que viva Puerto Rico. Usually, you say, "Are there Boricuas in the house?" But the question today is, "Are there Boricuas in the mansion?"

**Commissioner Carrión:** Mr. Mayor, we are so delighted as a community to be here in La Casa Del Pueblo, in La Casa Del Alcalde, and we want to thank you for inviting our community. Let me tell you something, familia. My parents, like so many of yours, came to New York City in the 1950s, the 1940s, the early-'60s. They came because they had to. They came because they wanted to. They came because they had dreams and aspirations in the big city, in New York City.

**Commissioner Carrión:** This city invested in people like us so I could stand before you today as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. This city elected a mayor from Brooklyn, from the hood, who understood and understands the realities that we face as families in this great city. This city elected a mayor who then came to our community and said, "I want you all to be partners with me in building a better city of opportunity, a safe city for all New Yorkers," but he says, "I can't do it alone. I need the Puerto Rican community. I need Boricuas in my administration."

**Commissioner Carrión:** Ladies and gentlemen, mi familia, when I call the names of these leaders out that Mayor Eric Adams appointed to this administration, I want you to

show them Boricua love. These are Puerto Rican, Boricua commissioners appointed by Mayor Eric Adams. Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner, Department of the Aging. Commissioner, Department of Probation, Ana María Bermúdez de Puerto Rico. Commissioner, I see him right in front of me, of the Department of Corrections, Louis Molina. Good to see you, brother.

**Commissioner Carrión:** The Chief Procurement Officer and Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Lisa Flores. Que se escuchó para Lisa. The first ever First Deputy Commissioner for the New York Police Department, Edward "Eddie" Caban. The Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Human Rights Commission Annabel Palma is here. And the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga.

**Commissioner Carrión:** Mi familia, on Sunday, we're all going to march down 5th Avenue. It's been happening for a long time. El grande fila puertorriqueño. You all need to be there. The mayor is going to be there. He's going to show us some love, but tonight he's going to welcome us to his house. We have a lot of work to do in this great city, and we are partners with this mayor to build a better, stronger, fairer, safer, richer city of opportunity for everyone, so I want you to show big Boricua love for the mayor of the City of New York, Mayor Eric Adams. Wepa.

**Mayor Eric Adams:** Hola, mi gente. Boy, listen, I am so ready for Sunday, man, oh, man. I just want to take a pause because I want to always acknowledge my partners that are here and just ask them just to say hello, because we can't get nothing done if we are divided. We get things done if we are united. I want to start off with my great DA in Brooklyn, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez.

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** My man, Council Member Francisco Moya.

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** My good friend, Council Member Christopher Marte.

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** Thank you, and my brother from the BX, Council Member Rafael Salamanca with his son

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** My girl from the BX also, Council Member Marjorie Velázquez.

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** Okay. We're almost there. Almost there. Oh, my man, come on up, Luis, Luis Sepúlveda, the state senator.

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** I don't know if Ruben is still here, but he may have left. Now, just one question. One question, is Ms. Maria Ortiz here? Is she here in the crowd? Come on. Come on up here for a moment.

**Maria Ortiz:** Oh, my God.

**Mayor Adams:** Now, why am I calling her? Because everyone knows that I'm a momma's boy. I love my mommy. Today is her birthday, and this is the daughter of Carlina Rivera. On behalf of all of us, we want to say happy birthday to you.

**Maria Ortiz:** Oh, thank you.

**Mayor Adams:** Because mothers like you paved the way and made it possible. Happy birthday to you.

**Maria Ortiz:** Thank you.

**Mayor Adams:** I want to bring up your daughter, Councilwoman Rivera.

[...]

**Mayor Adams:** Another first, New York City Sheriff, I know he's in the house, Anthony Miranda. You know, some good stuff.

**Mayor Adams:** Listen, I just want to personally say thank you. When I was 13 points back in the polls, when everyone stated it was impossible, when everyone was talking about how we couldn't win it, they were listening to the noise, but I was in Sunset Park, the Bronx, I was in Washington Heights, in Corona, in Flushing and on the ground, everyday folks from the Latino community in general, but specifically the Puerto Rican community, they made it clear, "We don't care what they're saying. Eric, you are our mayor."

**Mayor Adams:** You came out in record numbers. You go look at the map. Look at where my votes came from. It came from Boricua. You just supported me with a level of consistency that I cannot ever thank you for, and only one thing I could promise you. I will not disappoint you. I will not disappoint you.

**Mayor Adams:** It doesn't matter if I'm up in the Bronx with my brother at his cafe, if I'm down in Sunset Park or if I am in South Jamaica or Flushing. I take your spirit with me. This is a community that built New York City and, far too often, you have not benefited from the success and prosperity of this city.

**Mayor Adams:** I know, when I sit down and talk to my nephews, Stephen Victor Cruz and Sean Cruz, and I hear from them on how they feel as though this city is leaving them behind, I am connected to this community. You are here at Gracie Mansion because I believe in all my heart Mi casa, su casa. What's mine is yours.

**Mayor Adams:** When I see my friends like Brother Jimmy from up in the Bronx and being harassed every time he tries to run a business or your nightlife establishments not able to function correctly or one of the people who planted the seeds of my running, Mike Nieves, who has been a leader and a silent voice for far too many, this is our moment. This is our opportunity. We have four years to turn this city around and make sure that we don't leave anyone behind.

**Mayor Adams:** Many people say they want to get out of COVID and go back to the way it was, but I don't know about you. I don't want to go back to the way it was because the way it was left us out of it. It is time to go to a new New York where we are included in every area of this city, and that is what we're going back to. That's what I learned from

my friend Carmen Cruz who were on the ground and make this happen, but I also want to thank EmblemHealth and George Hulse for continuously supporting our communities and doing the right thing in a time of need.

**Mayor Adams:** Thank you, EmblemHealth for understanding the power of the relationship with our community, and all of my dignitaries from the Latino community and the Puerto Rican community, those who are here from Puerto Rico to march in the parade and come and support us. I want to extend a special welcome to the delegation of elected officials from Puerto Rico. Give it up for them. These are our real heroes, and a special welcome to the mayor of Cidra, Ángel González Concepción, a real hero being honored this time.

**Mayor Adams:** We have tonight brought West Side Story to the East Side where our story here is at Gracie Mansion. On Sunday, we're going to show the city and the country how you move up 5th Avenue. How do we see the marches in Sunset Park? How do we enjoy the rich spirit of this amazing community, a community of 700,000 strong. That's a lot of power, and you're going to exercise that power.

**Mayor Adams:** From my days of being borough president to my days of being the mayor, you have been there for me, and I'm going to be there for you. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you have done for me throughout my journey. I'm going to be the mayor that you want me to be. I'm not only your mayor. I'm your brother and, because I'm your brother, I am going to be that Puerto Rican that's in city hall as the mayor. Thank you. Mucho gracias.

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