



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 15, 2020

**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

**MAYOR LORI LIGHTFOOT INTRODUCES RESOLUTION HONORING PUERTO RICO RESIDENTS**

CHICAGO— Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today introduced a resolution recognizing and expressing condolences to the people of Puerto Rico who have experienced devastating earthquakes since December 2019. Mayor Lightfoot and members of the City Council commended the resiliency and courage of the people who keep rebuilding their Island and offer support to the communities that have been devastated.

"The hearts of every Chicagoan are with our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico following the devastating earthquakes that recently hit the island," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Our great city is blessed to be the home of a proud and vibrant Puerto Rican community, and we must reaffirm our support for Puerto Ricans as they begin to rebuild once again after another natural disaster."

Following a magnitude 4.7 earthquake on December 28, 2019 the Island of Puerto Rico has been repeatedly rocked by earthquakes, over 500 of which have been a magnitude 2.0 or greater and 30 of which have been at a magnitude of more than 4.0. Following the multitude of earthquakes over the past couple weeks, Puerto Rico experienced the strongest earthquake in more than a century near Guayanilla, a city on the Island's southwest coast, which left one dead and several others injured.

More than 1,200 tremors of varying magnitude have shaken the already vulnerable region over the past three weeks leaving thousands without homes and exposed to the elements. The residents of Guayanilla, Guanica, Yauco and Ponce have been hardest hit, with five of the six municipalities estimating debts totals over \$460 million. These earthquakes come in the wake of recovery efforts from Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which battered the Island over a span of two weeks in September 2017.

The United States Geological Survey has warned that residents of Puerto Rico should prepare for more aftershocks in the coming days and has not ruled out the possibility of another high magnitude earthquake hitting the Island.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



The devastation and destruction experienced by Puerto Rico has touched Chicagoans in a profound, heartfelt way. Chicago is home to more than 100,000 residents of Puerto Rican descent, and this population contributes greatly to the City's vibrancy especially through celebrations of their culture. Additionally, Paseo Boricua is the only officially recognized Puerto Rican neighborhood in the Country.

The Clerk and the City of Chicago have been directed to deliver a suitable copy of the resolution to the Honorable Wanda Vazquez Garced, Governor of Puerto Rico as a sign of empathy and good wishes.

###