

**ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS**  
*Legislator - 1st District*

**MEMBER:**

Government Affairs Committee  
Finance & Management Committee  
Health & Human Services Committee



☐ 427 William Street  
Buffalo, New York 14204  
716/842-0490  
FAX: 716/854-5722

**Christel Peacock**  
*Legislative Assistant*

☐ 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
716/858-8825  
FAX: 716/858-8818

July 29, 2014

Erie County Legislature  
Attn: Mr. Scott Kroll, Clerk  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Mr. Kroll:

Attached for Clock-In to the public record of the Erie County Legislature, please find a letter written to County Executive Mark Poloncarz from Hispanic Federation and others expressing support for Hispanics United of Buffalo's efforts to open a methadone clinic.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Miller-Williams  
Erie County Legislator  
District 1

***"We are here to serve the Community"***

Comm. 17E-18

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65 Exchange Place, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
T. 212 233 8955 F. 212 233 8966

175 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06108  
T. 860 527 0858 Ext 254 F. 860 724 0437

1133 19<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Suite 1038  
Washington, DC 20038  
T. 202 687 4977 F. 202 823 6135  
[www.hispanicfederation.org](http://www.hispanicfederation.org)

July 28, 2014

Honorable Mark C. Poloncarz  
Erie County Executive  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear County Executive Poloncarz:

Hispanic Federation and the undersigned organizations are writing to express support for Hispanics United of Buffalo (HUB) in their effort to open a much needed methadone program in their new clinic aimed at serving Buffalo's Latino community. We were extremely disappointed to learn that Erie County's previously-approved methadone clinic permit for HUB was revoked in response to complaints from a small, vocal group of competing organizations.

Hispanic United of Buffalo has a long track record of serving the city's vibrant Latino community. Despite being dormant in recent years, this grassroots organization has made incredible strides in the last two years to regain its financial stability and diversify funding streams through service expansion and housing development. They are well equipped and ready to serve our community.

Meanwhile, the Latino community has been devastated by several years of neglect many local institutions. Most nonprofit providers in Buffalo are not Latino led, do not have Latino representation on their boards, and fail to offer culturally competent and linguistically appropriate social services.

The health disparities for the Latino community are well documented and there is a major need for increased social and behavioral health services. The harm reduction treatment that would be provided by HUB will reduce crime, save lives, turn vulnerable community members into productive citizens, and ultimately improve the quality of life for the entire Buffalo community.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your recent decision to revoke HUB's permit to operate a needed methadone clinic. The health and progress of the city's Latino community and its Latino-led institutions is at stake and must be a priority.

Sincerely,

Jose Calderon  
President  
Hispanic Federation

Heriberto Sanchez-Soto  
Executive Director  
Hispanic AIDS Forum

**Milagros Baez O'Toole**  
President  
100 Hispanic Women

**Miriam M.E. Garcia**  
Executive Director  
Adelante of Suffolk County, Inc

**Joel Magallan**  
Executive Director  
Asociacion Tepeyac de New York

**Santos Rivera Jr.**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Betances Health Center

**Jose Davila**  
President & CAO  
Boom!Health

**Sarah Calderon**  
Executive Director  
Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education

**Gil Bernardino**  
Executive Director  
Ciruculo de la Hispanidad

**Denise Rosario**  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

**Dr. Rosa M. Gil**  
President & CEO  
Comunilife, Inc.

**Soledad Hiciano**  
Executive Director  
Community Association of Progressive Dominicans (ACDP)

**Maria Elisa Cuadra-Fernandez**  
CEO  
COPAY Inc.

**Rosita M. Romero**  
Executive Director  
Dominican Women's Development Center

**Jose Tejada**  
Executive Director  
Dominico American Society

**Raul Rodriguez**  
Executive Director  
East Harlem Council on Economic Improvement

**Jorge Daniel Veneciano**  
Executive Director  
El Museo del Barrio

**Frances Lucerna**  
Executive Director  
El Puente

**Dr. Maria Muñoz Kantha**  
CEO  
Hispanic Counseling Center

**Suleika Cabrera-Drinane**  
President & CEO  
Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly

**Lucia Gomez**  
Executive Director  
La Fuente

**Guillermo Chacon**  
Executive Director  
Latino Commission on AIDS

**Ernesto Loperena**  
Executive Director  
New York Council on Adoptable Children

**Sandra Garcia-Betancourt**  
Executive Director & CEO  
Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance

**Angela Fernandez**  
Executive Director  
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

**Rosalba Rolon**  
Founder & Artistic Director  
Pregones Theater

**Taking Hispanic causes to heart**

**Maria Elena Girone**  
**President & CEO**  
**Puerto Rican Family Institute**

**Dr. Anderson Torres**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Regional Aid for Interim Needs, Inc. (RAIN)**

**Richard Marino**  
**Managing Director**  
**Society of the Educational Arts, Inc.**

**Ramon Peguero**  
**Executive Director**  
**Southside United Housing Development Fund Corp. (Los Sures)**

**Lisette Sosa-Dickson**  
**Executive Director**  
**Spanish Speaking Elderly Council - RAICES**

**Joyce Rivera**  
**Founder & Executive Director**  
**St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction**

**Jose Cheo Oliveras**  
**Artistic Director**  
**Teatro Circulo**

**Paloma Izquierdo-Hernandez**  
**President & Chief Executive Officer**  
**Urban Health Plan, Inc.**

**Cecilia Gaston**  
**Executive Director**  
**Violence Intervention Program**

**Cc:**

**Honorable Ellery Reaves, New York State Commissioner of Mental Health**  
**Honorable Byron W. Brown, Mayor of Buffalo**  
**Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy, New York State Senator**  
**Honorable Sean Ryan, New York State Assembly Member**  
**Honorable Barbara Miller Williams, Erie County Legislator**  
**Honorable David A. Franczyk, Fillmore District Common Council Member**  
**Honorable Darius G. Pridgen, Council President, Ellicott District Common Council**  
**Robert Kent, General Counsel, New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services**

**Taking Hispanic causes to heart**