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For Immediate Release

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**STATEMENT FROM THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION AND STATE OFFICIALS ON FBI INVESTIGATION AND  
MAYOR'S COMMENTS IN EAST HAVEN**

Hartford, CT January 26, 2012 – The Latino community is upset and deeply wounded in what should have been a day of redemption for them. We are extremely upset with the offensive comments articulated by the East Haven Mayor only hours after four of his police officers were arrested for serious allegations of criminal behavior and civil rights violations against various members of the East Haven Latino community – his comments were unprofessional and given in poor taste considering the climate of what is taking place in East Haven. The fact that he rehired Gallo to be his chief while still in the midst of a Federal investigation coupled with the Mayor's inappropriate comments demonstrates that he is either entirely oblivious to the abuses engaged in by his police department or through his inaction complicit in them. Under either scenario he should resign immediately.

*“The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission would like to express our gratitude to the U.S. Justice Department and the United States Attorney’s Office for taking the time to thoroughly investigate the allegations of racial profiling against Latinos in East Haven. We are relieved that the investigation has shed some light on the serious claims that, until recently, were not addressed in the manner necessary to effectuate justice.” --* Isaias T. Diaz., Esq., Chairman of the LPRAC

Rep. Roldán (D-Hartford) stated, “The arrest of four East Haven police officers today by the FBI for civil rights violations is deeply disturbing and shows a pattern of serious discrimination against Latino residents. As legislators stated on January 4, the state needs to move quickly and forcefully to fully implement our decade old law against racial profiling. I applaud the work of the U.S. Justice Department Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney David B. Fein for taking on this important investigation. Now we as a state have to step up and make sure in no other community the police are illegally targeting residents based on race.”

"I am encouraged to see the U.S. Justice Department acting swiftly to deal with this critical issue in East Haven," Rep. Ayala (D-Bridgeport) said. "We will continue to push for the state to provide the necessary funds to hold our cities and towns accountable in complying with existing statute against any type of racial profiling."

LPRAC is a nonpartisan policy agency within the Legislative branch of government created in 1994 by an Act of the Connecticut Legislature. Under Public Act 09-07, the LPRAC consists of 21 appointed volunteers who are mandated to advise the General Assembly and the Governor on policies that foster progress in the Puerto Rican and Latino communities residing in Connecticut.