



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT: LAURIE R. GLENN
PHONE: 773.704.7246
EMAIL: lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com**

**NEWS RELEASE
U.S. REP. GUTIÉRREZ TO RETIRE FROM CONGRESS IN 2018
ENDORSES JESÚS 'CHUY' GARCIA AS SUCCESSOR**

CHICAGO - Congressman Luis Gutiérrez announced he will give up the seat he has held since 1993 after the current term and endorsed Cook County Commissioner and Chicago's progressive standard bearer Jesús "Chuy" Garcia to be his successor at a press conference on Tuesday.

The announcements came at a news conference where the two leaders, who both got their political starts as part of the Harold Washington administration in the 1980s, emphasized the importance of maintaining the district's role of giving immigrants a voice on a national platform.

"My candidacy builds on the legacy of Mayor Harold Washington, the foresight and energy that brought young people together for Sen. Bernie Sanders and the work of Rep. Gutiérrez," Garcia said. "Luis has fought tirelessly in Congress for our undocumented brothers and sisters, and for people everywhere, to keep our hearts and minds open to the free-flowing movement of ideas and democracy. We must never allow fear and oppression to guide our nation."

Gutiérrez, who has been a champion throughout his career for immigrant rights, veterans' access to health care, reproductive rights, civil rights of the Puerto Rican people, and workers' rights, made it clear that he believes Garcia will pick up where he left off and be a force for progressive policies and a clear voice in Congress on behalf of immigrants.

"It has never been more important for the future of America to have an immigrant voice at the table when national policies are being made," Gutiérrez said. "Chuy is the kind of leader our district needs to carry us into this uncertain future."

By electing a Mexican-American immigrant to represent them, Garcia said, 4th District voters will be sending a message to the forces who would divide the nation that they support Gutiérrez's persistent efforts to weave unity and progressive policies inextricably into the American fabric.

"We are grateful for the congressman's bold leadership on immigration reform," Garcia said. "We will build on his dynamic legacy that, with his signature firebrand oratory, has kept the issues front and center - whether it's advocating for undocumented people and other immigrants, or exposing the folly of building a multi-billion dollar boondoggle of a wall."

Garcia said he was looking forward to joining the new wave of progressive, national Democratic Party leaders, in the spirit of Bernie Sanders, for whom he worked during the 2016 primary election.

"Luis Gutiérrez and I share a common bond, as we carry forward the work of Chicago Mayor Harold Washington," Garcia said. "I believe in opportunity for all, including affordable health care, strong schools, protection for workers and support for our troops and veterans. I will be a relentless advocate in moving Puerto Rico's recovery efforts forward."

NOTE:	CAMPAIGN RALLY TONIGHT, 5:30 P.M. TUESDAY, NOV. 28 MIA TIERRA, 2528 S. KEDZIE AVE., CHICAGO, IL
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ABOUT JESÚS "CHUY" GARCIA

Jesús "Chuy" Garcia was born in Mexico and came to the United States as a permanent resident in 1965, when his family settled in the Pilsen and later the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago, where he still resides. He attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He was elected as Democratic Ward Committeeman in 1984 and to the Chicago City Council in 1986 with the strong support of then-Mayor Washington. He was then elected the first Illinois state senator of Mexican descent in 1992, where he served for six years. He founded the Little Village Community Development Corporation which became known as Enlace, and now has nearly 150 full- and part-time employees and an annual budget of \$5 million. He was elected to the Cook County Board in 2010 and still serves in that position. He ran against incumbent Mayor Rahm Emanuel in 2015 and forced the first-ever runoff in a Chicago mayor's race. He was a strong supporter and Chicago spokesman for Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Illinois presidential primary. For more information go to www.jesuschuygarcia.com.

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