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Contact: Bill Fischer
True North Communications
401.862.4652 Mobile
401.228.8016 Office
bfischer@tnorthcomm.com

Diossa launches mayoral campaign in Central Falls

Central Falls, RI – Central Falls Councilman James Diossa today formally launched his campaign to be the next mayor of Central Falls in front of his former elementary school, Veterans Memorial Elementary School.

Diossa was surrounded by his friends and supporters, including State Senator Elizabeth Crowley; Stephen Angell, president and CEO of Dexter Credit Union; John Laboissonniere, retired lieutenant of the Central Falls Police Department, who introduced Diossa; Ricardo Patino, former Central Falls Councilman; Providence Councilwoman Sabina Matos; State Senator Juan Pichardo; and RI Democratic Party chair Ed Pacheco, among other community stakeholders.

In his speech, Diossa described the challenges his native city has faced under receivership and said he intends to foster a new spirit of cooperation. “It’s time to build a new future for Central Falls... where we ensure transparency, efficiency and prudence in all budgetary matters,” he said. “This is a time of tremendous challenges and tremendous opportunities. I know that a new future awaits us, a brighter future that we will build together.”

Angell said at the event: “It’s truly refreshing to have a political leader who understands the challenge of doing business in this city. James made our decision to stay easier. He’s a good, honest young man with a vision and he understands what must be done now to ensure the city’s future.”

State Senator Elizabeth Crowley, who represents Central Falls, said in her remarks that Diossa is a “young and vital person, a person who can set a direction for a brighter future for Central Falls.”

She added: “The reason I support him, is during the whole time we have been in bankruptcy, we’ve always had a councilman there for us, looking out for the needs of the city. If I were in that council seat, I’d be doing the same thing. I think we need a young person to bring new and fresh ideas to the city.”

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Additionally, Providence Mayor Angel Tavares issued the following statement. “It will take honesty and courage to bring back the great city of Central Falls. That's why I support City Councilman James Diossa’s campaign for Mayor. He has the integrity, enthusiasm, ability and vision to be a great Mayor of our neighbor to the north. Throughout the struggles that Central Falls has faced, Councilman Diossa has been consistent voice of reason for Central Falls and its residents. I look forward to campaigning with Councilman Diossa and seeing him become Central Falls next mayor.”

Diossa graduated from Becker College in Worcester, Mass., with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. Concerned about the future of Central Falls, James ran for city council representing the Fourth Ward and was sworn in in 2010.

As a councilman, Diossa has made it easier for the public to participate in government. He demanded city government meetings take place in the evenings, so more residents could attend; he’s assisted small businesses navigate City Hall; he advocated for the needs of his constituents during the city’s receivership process; and fought for the city’s only post office and the Adams Library to remain open.

James currently works as a Parent Engagement Coordinator at College Crusade of Rhode Island and has volunteered as a youth soccer coach.