



James Diossa's Victory Speech
12/11/12
La Casona Restaurant, Central Falls

We did it. Lo logramos!
We did it. Lo logramos!

The one thing I learned on the soccer field is that there is no "I" in team. We won this race and we made history TOGETHER!

Si algo aprendi del futbol es que el triunfo depende de un equipo completo. Ganamos esta eleccion e hicimos historia JUNTOS!

Tonight, we made history. We knocked on more doors, called more voters, and endured more cold than any other campaign in Central Falls history.

Esta noche hicimos historia. Tocamos mas puertas, llamamos a mas votantes y aguantamos mas frio que cualquier otra campanya en la historia de Central Falls.

This is not my victory - this is OUR victory. You worked hard to convince your neighbors that we can change our city. And we did it. Together. Thank you.

Thank you to each and every one of you who knocked on doors or made phone calls or turned out your neighbors to vote.

Este triunfo no es mio – es nuestro triunfo. Ustedes trabajaron fuertemente para convencer a sus vecinos de que SI PODEMOS cambiar nuestra ciudad.... Y lo logramos juntos! Gracias.

Gracias a cada uno de ustedes, por tocar puertas, por hacer llamadas y por sacar a votar a sus vecinos para que votaran.

You made a difference today. WE made a difference today. *Nosotros hicimos la diferencia hoy!*

To my incredible team, thank you! So many people to thank, so many people who made this possible through hard work and dedication... You know who you are.

A mi equipo extraordinario, gracias! Tantas personas a quien agradecer, tantas personas que lograron esto gracias a su trabajo y dedicacion... ustedes saben quienes son.

But I particularly want to thank my campaign manager, Joshua Giraldo, and my field director, Luis Estrada. To Stephanie, Lissette, Stephen and so many others who spent countless hours at our headquarters, sacrificing your nights and weekends for this project... THANK YOU! To our volunteers, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Yet tonight I especially want to thank the young people of Central Falls. Politicians and the media say that you don't care. Well, today you showed that you do care. Young people have passion and vision and a desire to change the world. Thank you!

During this election there is one young woman who embodied that passion and vision: Michelle Arias Santabay. Michelle is a brilliant, talented senior at Central Falls High School who has spent countless evenings and weekends making calls, organizing lists at the headquarters and mobilizing voters. Michelle, you are an inspiration to me and I thank you, on behalf of the people of Central Falls, for your love and dedication to our great city.

Quiero felicitar a los jovenes de Central Falls. Los politicos y los medios decian que los jovenes eran indiferentes. Pero ustedes demostraron que si quieren participar, que si se preocupan, que tienen pasion y una vision hacia el futuro. Gracias.

En especial quiero darle las gracias a Michelle Arias Santabay, una joven estudiante de Central Falls High School que representa esa pasion y vision juvenil en esta eleccion. Gracias, Michelle!!!

I would also like to acknowledge all of my opponents who had the courage to put their name out there and run for Mayor. Let's give them a round of applause.

Tambien quiero reconocer a mis contrincantes, personas que tuvieron la valentia de lanzar una candidatura a la alcaldia. Vamos a darles un fuerte aplauso.

I would also like to thank some important people who saw hope in our campaign and endorsed us and supported us.

The first two people who came out of the box and supported me were Senator Betty Crowley and Providence Mayor Angel Taveras. Thank you.

Senator Crowley is in Taiwan right now but I know that she is celebrating this moment. Thank you Senator Crowley for believing in my vision to move Central Falls forward...

Mayor Taveras is here tonight. Thank you Mayor!!!

Also, Representative Gus Silva. Thank you!

RILPAC. Where is RILPAC? Thank you!

Congressman David Cicilline, who even took time to make calls from our headquarters today and is on a plane to DC right now, THANK YOU!

Former Congressman Patrick Kennedy, THANK YOU!

Senator Jack Reed. Thank you!

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. Thank you!

Pawtucket Mayor Don Grebien. Thank you!

Cumberland Mayor Dan McKee. Thank you!

Representative Grace Diaz. Thank you!

Senator Juan Pichardo. Thank you!

Councilwoman Sabina Matos and Councilwoman Carmen Castillo. Thank you!

Pawtucket School Committeewoman-elect Sandra Cano. Thank you!

The support of these great men and women was truly humbling for me, and I am grateful for your vote of confidence. The most important endorsement in this race, however, was from the voters.

El apoyo de estas figuras respetadas ha sido un gran honor para mi, y estoy profundamente agradecido. SIN EMBARGO, El ENDOSO mas importante en esta contienda fue el de los votantes.

Tonight, the voters ENDORSED our vision for moving Central Falls Forward -- with a city government that works for ALL of the people and not just the select few.

Hoy los votantes ENDOSARON nuestra vision para impulsar a Central Falls hacia adelante – con un gobierno municipal que funciona para todos, no solamente para unos cuantos.

Voters ENDORSED our vision for turning the page on a corrupt and bankrupt past and moving towards an open, honest and ethical city government.

Los votantes ENDOSARON nuestra vision para cerrar un capitulo de la corrupcion y bancarrota y seguir adelante hacia un gobierno

Voters ENDORSED our vision for creating jobs and growing the economy.

Los votantes ENDOSARON nuestra vision para crear empleos y crecer la economia.

Voters ENDORSED our vision for strengthening our schools and improving public education.

Los votantes ENDOSARON nuestra vision para fortalecer las escuelas y mejorar la educacion publica.

This election – and this win – means a lot to me. I think of the generations that paved the way to make this night possible. The men and women whose hard work allowed me to stand here tonight. Specifically, two men coincidentally named Bernardo...

I think of my father, Bernardo Diossa, who has worked nights at Osram Sylvania for three decades so that his sons could achieve the American Dream – and who had to take a vacation day from work to be here tonight... Thank you dad.

And I think of my dear friend and advisor Bernardo Chamorro, a wise man and a poet who arrived in Central Falls nearly a half century ago and who loves this city more than anywhere else in the world.

Bernardo always dreamed about a future when the children of his children would lead this city to new heights. That future is today, Bernardo, and I am honored that you are here to witness it – and to celebrate with us.

To my father and to Bernardo, and to the people of Central Falls, I say I WILL WORK DAY AND NIGHT to move our city forward and MAKE YOU PROUD.

But first, I need to ask each and every one of you a favor now. Not one of those “old-school” Central Falls kind of favors. But a new kind of favor.

Will you stay involved? Will you join with me in clean-ups throughout our city? In mentoring our students? In making contacts to bring new businesses to our city? In coming to city council meetings? Will you stay involved and make this truly a government of the people again? Will you?????

OK. Good. Because we are a team now. And together we will fulfill the promise of the Central Falls motto: a city with a bright future.

De este momento en adelante nos consolidamos como equipo. Y juntos vamos a cumplir la promesa del slogan de Central Falls: Una ciudad con un future brillante.

Thank You. Thank You. Thank You.