

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

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The Chicago Campaign to Normalize Relations with Cuba "9/1 Get It Done ! " calls on Chicago Alderman to join cities across the US

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Chicago, Il.

On Tuesday August 26, a letter calling on Chicago Alderman to support a resolution to normalize relations with Cuba was sent. Next week thousands of constituents will make followup calls to these Alderman in the " **9/1 GET IT DONE ! " DAY OF ACTION.**

This call to action is part of the broad-based and national campaign to add Chicago to the growing list of cities around the US that have called for the end of the US Blockade.

Locally launched a year ago in a mass meeting at Trinity UCC, the Chicago movement has galvanized broad support from clergy, educators, health care practitioners, the cultural sector, and families with relatives on the island.

To date, hundreds of Chicagoans have visited their Alderman in pre-COVID meetings resulting in more than a fifth of the council already expressing endorsement for the resolution. Since the pandemic, the face- to- face constituent visits have been difficult. Now, with new developments coming out of Cuba regarding a potential vaccine, and new aggressions emanating from the Trump White House, the call to action is urgent.

We believe that the health care advances and practices developed in Cuba will save lives here in Chicago.

The event on September 1, follows last month's Concert for Cuba (produced in Chicago), where millions tuned in to watch the first ever musical tribute honoring Cuba's role in combating COVID-19 in over 30 countries. The star-studded line-up of musical artists, activists, and political/civic leaders joined a chorus of voices calling for an end to the US blockade against our island

neighbor.

Representatives Danny Davis and Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (featured in the Concert for Cuba) and renowned human rights champion **Jesse Jackson, Sr.** put it plainly, "People are dying and Cuba is sending doctors and nurses. We thank for your support and your role in our pandemic. I look forward to the day we'll be working there with Cuba and we can travel to Cuba as we should travel. Never shall these ties be broken." Rev. Jackson is just one of a broad array of citizens, institutions, and organizations around the city in support of the Chicago Campaign to normalize relations between our nations.

The "**9/1 GET IT DONE**" campaign calls on the Chicago City Council to join cities from Sacramento to Cleveland who have passed a resolution to normalize relations. The outdated blockade deprives both Cuban and American citizens of trade opportunities, travel, and life-saving medicines. The primary talking points of the campaign include:

- Cuba's world-renowned medical research and biomedicine combats COVID, cancer, complications from diabetes, HIV transmissions, and more
- Expand trade and business markets for industrial and agricultural products
- Exchange of research, ideas, culture, and art
- Improved connections for over 21,000 Chicago residents with family ties to Cuba

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campaign poster designed by Chicagoan
Jaime Garza

Chicago Committee to Normalize Relations with Cuba