



For Immediate Release
September 14, 2010

Contact: Jay Strell
Sunshine, Sachs and Associates
strell@sunshinesachs.com
212.691.2800 or Doug Forand
dougforand@gmail.com 917.733.2763

**STATEMENT BY BILL SAMUELS, FOUNDER, NEW ROOSEVELT
INITIATIVE ON RESULTS OF THE STATE SENATE DISTRICT 33
PRIMARY BETWEEN GUSTAVO RIVERA AND DISGRACED
INCUMBENT PEDRO ESPADA**

Bronx, NY – Today Bronx voters sent a clear message to Albany lawmakers with the defeat of disgraced incumbent State Senator Pedro Espada. Voters are fed up with the corrupt practices of Albany and want lawmakers to fundamentally change the way they conduct business on behalf of the people. That is why they elected New Roosevelt Initiative-endorsed candidate Gustavo Rivera. New Yorkers want to see real reform enacted immediately and are willing to send young, bright progressive-minded candidates to Albany who will get the job done.

Many said defeating Pedro Espada, the incumbent State Senator, would be an uphill battle. New Roosevelt was the first organization to endorse Rivera, in a crowded primary field, more than two months ago and saw him as the best shot to beat Espada and bring reform to Albany. New Roosevelt built from scratch a field organization totally devoted to Albany reform and executed a targeted field and mail operation directed at Bronx primary voters as well as polling and get out the vote efforts. We are proud to help make the defeat of Espada a reality.

With this victory we are sending a message to both Republicans and Democrats that if major reform measures are not enacted soon, they may face the same fate as Espada in 2012.

###