March 20, 2018

To the People of Puerto Rico:

We are citizens of New Orleans who suffered, persevered and progressed through the devastation caused by hurricane Katrina and the multiple failures of man-made infrastructure and administrative systems.

We know the despair Puerto Ricans continue to experience. And we know that while hope plays a critical role, it is not a plan. It is not enough.

Twelve years on from Katrina, we can testify that recovery is possible. We can testify that Puerto Rico can be better than it was before the storm. Puerto Rico can be the equitable, innovative, resilient, just, educated, safe and loving community that every Boricua we have met has expressed as their goal for the island’s renewal.

The path forward is long and arduous. There will be failure and there will be reversals. There will be victories and dramatic improvements.

Throughout it all, you must keep your eye on the prize: this is a historic opportunity to leave past divisions behind as you renew the civic culture, democratize administrative systems, exercise accountability, and build the right infrastructure for Puerto Rico.

We are citizens of New Orleans and we will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you, our hermanas y hermanos, as you raise your voice, exercise your rights, and take personal action for the betterment of Puerto Rico.

With love,

LaToya Cantrell
Mayor-Elect, City of New Orleans

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New Orleans City Councilperson District "C"
Former Executive Director
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