



Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2020

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**FORWARD LATINO URGES QUESTION ON HATE IN THE DEMOCRATIC DEBATE.
NATIONAL PRESIDENT TRAVELING TO DES MOINES, IA TO MEET WITH U.S. ATTORNEY
AFTER BRUTAL HATE CRIME AGAINST 14-YEAR-OLD!**

Franklin, Wis.- Following the act of hate in Iowa in which a 14-year-old girl was run over for “being Mexican,” the acid attack against Mahud Villalaz in Wisconsin, the Hanukkah attack in New York, and the dramatic increase in attacks against minority communities over the last three years, Forward Latino is calling for a question on hate and hate crimes to be asked during the January 14, 2020 Democratic Presidential Debate in Des Moines, Iowa. To underscore the importance of this issue, Forward Latino National President Darryl Morin will be traveling to Des Moines, and on the day of the debate in Des Moines, will, along with allies, be meeting with the U.S. Attorney the Southern District of Iowa. During the meeting they will urge the U.S. Attorney to file hate crime charges against the 14-year-old girl’s alleged attacker Ms. Nicole Marie Poole Franklin who has admitted to the crime and her motivation, which falls under the federal hate crime statute.

Forward Latino has and continues to provide technical assistance through our committed members in Iowa and was the first to request the U.S. Attorney file hate crime charges against Ms. Franklin. Forward Latino has also provided assistance to the family of Mr. Mahud Villalaz, victim of an acid attack in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as well as to the family of Mr. Jesus Manso-Perez. Mr. Manso-Perez was murdered in front of his son for speaking Spanish in his West Allis apartment building.

Requests for Interviews with Mr. Morin on January 14, 2019 in Des Moines, IA should be submitted to:

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About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream. Forward Latino fulfills its mission through advocacy, civic engagement, education and service delivery. Forward Latino currently has members in 28 states including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Learn more at www.forwardlatino.org.

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