



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NALEO Mourns Loss of Former Miami Mayor Maurice Ferré**

*Ferré was the first Puerto Rican-born mayor in the United States and the first Latino mayor of Miami*

**Washington, D.C.** - The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today issued the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on the passing of Former Miami Mayor Maurice Ferré:

"NALEO joins the nation and the city of Miami in mourning the loss of political trailblazer Maurice Ferré.

"Often referred to as the 'Father of modern-day Miami', Ferré is credited with helping to turn it from a quiet city in south Florida into one of the biggest and most visited cities in the world. As the first Puerto Rican-born mayor in the United States and first Latino mayor in Miami's history, he presided over a time when Latinos went from 3 percent of the electorate in the city to over 40 percent when he left office.

"Ferré championed causes beneficial to the Latino community throughout his career while using his platform to fight against discriminatory actions. In 1981, he publicly denounced the U.S. policy of detaining hundreds of Haitian immigrants at the border, characterizing it as inhumane, and was a supporter of the interests of Puerto Rico.

"Ferré was an important part of NALEO's history as well, serving as a past founding member and helping to establish the organization in Florida during a time of massive Latino population growth in the state. Our hearts and thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time."

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### **About NALEO**

*The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,600 Latino elected and appointed officials.*