



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
Ruben Diaz

Statement from Senator Rubén Díaz Regarding the Resignation of Director Michael Burgess

RUBEN DIAZ October 19, 2010

| ISSUE: **AGING**

| COMMITTEE: **AGING**

October 19, 2010

For Immediate Release

Statement from Senator Rubén Díaz Regarding the Resignation of Director Michael Burgess

October 19, 2010 - State Senator Rubén Díaz, Chairman of the New York State Senate Committee on Aging, issued the following statement regarding the resignation of Michael Burgess, Director of the New York State Office for the Aging.

“I was deeply saddened, when I found out that Michael Burgess, had submitted his resignation today as Director of the New York State Office for the Aging to Governor Paterson. Mr. Burgess’ resignation is effective October 29, 2010.

“While I know that it is customary for appointed officials to resign their positions when a new administration is about to take office, I am saddened for several reasons.

“First, The New York State Senate Committee on Aging and the Aging Community, are losing the most knowledgeable, dedicated, and committed Director and advocate for older New Yorkers that I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I shall miss him immensely.

“Secondly, while I am saddened with Director Burgess’ departure, I am concerned with the lack of support, resources and tools, that he, and other Commissioners of Aging throughout New York State have been afforded by the current Administration. It seems to me that senior citizens are only prized for their votes come election day.

“Thirdly, I hope that Director Burgess is not resigning due to this lack of support. I wish him well in his future endeavors and I look forward to working closely with his successor in order to provide the services and programs that older New Yorkers need and deserve.

“Finally, after watching the gubernatorial debate on Monday night, I am more concerned and dismayed than ever about the very future of senior services and programs in New York State. Not one of the candidates from any of the parties, major or minor, gave his or her commitment to protect the programs that keep seniors nourished, safe and living in their own homes.”

###