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PUERTO RICAN HISPANIC TASK FORCE

Good afternoon.

It's great to be here; to celebrate renewal in the wake of devastation.

This grand re-opening is about resilience and community.

It's about a landlord turning down lucrative offers from national chains and insisting that Frank's Pharmacy accept the space, because he believed a family-owned business would be a better fit for this community.

We couldn't agree more.

I have nothing against Rite Aid or Duane Reade or the box stores. But Frank's Pharmacy is an institution in this neighborhood because it has provided the kind of personal, friendly service over these many years that is very nearly impossible to come by nowadays.

Simply put, nobody is a stranger at Frank's. It's the *Cheers* of pharmacies.

And so I want to thank that landlord, Eddie Kaminsky, on behalf of all us who call this wonderful neighborhood home.

More than anything else, though, this grand re-opening is about Frank Buonagurio, the Frank in Frank's Pharmacy.

On April 21st, a five-alarm fire at the Brunson Building completely destroyed Frank's Pharmacy. Frank lost many personal effects in the blaze.

After something like that, Frank could very easily have packed it in. And no one would have begrudged him for it.

Not after all the years of friendly service and his generosity and commitment to this community.

But instead Frank chose to rebuild, to renew. And we're all very happy that he did.

But more than a testament to his perseverance, this show of affection here today is a testament to how much Frank means to our community.

Thank you, Frank. Congratulations on your re-opening. It's my pleasure to officially proclaim today, October 25th, 2014, Frank's Pharmacy Day.

Welcome back, Frank.