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## Harry Wu to attend Senator-Elect Reverend Ruben Diaz's Inauguration

Monday, 13 January 2003

On Saturday, January 18, 2003, Harry Wu will attend New York State Senator-Elect Reverend Ruben Diaz's Inauguration Celebration in The Bronx. The event is scheduled for 3pm at IS 116 located on Westchester Avenue and Tiffany Street.

"Reverend Diaz's reputation on issues of religious freedom and human rights - particularly on China - has certainly been recognized by many leaders outside of his community," stated the Washington DC-based Harry Wu. "The current situation in China regarding Evangelical Christians and other people of faith is getting much worse. I look forward to meeting New York's newly elected State Senator Diaz - a forceful and principled advocate."

In 1999, Reverend Diaz joined with a coalition of laogai survivors, Tiananmen Square survivors and persecuted Christians. They opposed The Bronx Borough President's establishment of a sister-city relationship with China's Shenhe. Numerous organizations had raised concern when local Bronx officials agreed to establish ties despite a severe crackdown on human rights by China's local governmental leaders.

The Laogai Research Foundation and members of New York City's Chinese human rights community have maintained an ongoing dialogue with Reverend Diaz throughout the years and during his time as Member of the New York City Council.