

Figueroa certain his new party will win in Ceiba, Rincón, Vieques, Culebra

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Rogelio Figueroa, president of Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico, is convinced the political party will win four municipal city halls in the November elections and possibly place members in other elected posts.

In a news conference at his party's headquarters in Santurce, Figueroa and party organizer Lorna Pérez Carreras, said it was essential for the government to start comprehensive planning and to move to preserve what remains of a green Puerto Rico.

"We must have true planning," Figueroa said, "something Gov. Calderón and [Planning Board Chairman] Angel David Rodríguez are not doing."

"About 20 percent of Puerto Rico is covered with concrete," Rodríguez said. "We have to develop a sane program that respects and

preserves the countryside against the development of more gated communities."

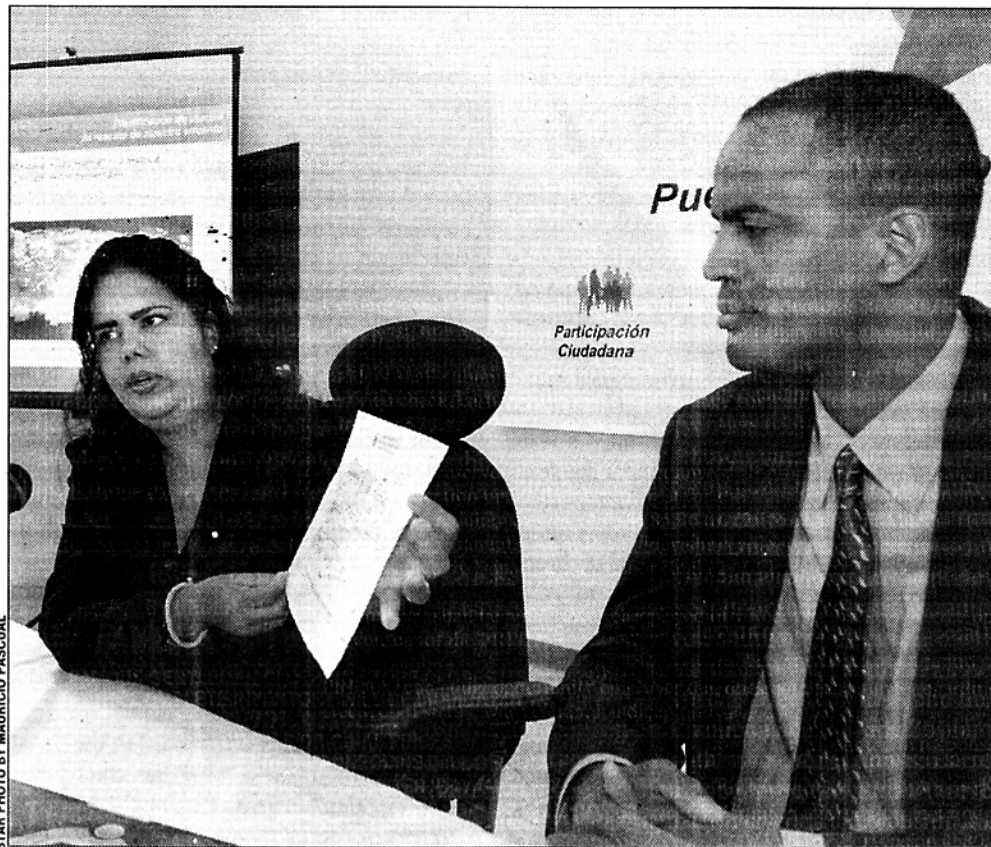
Rodríguez said he was certain the party will win two municipalities at opposite ends of the island, Rincón and Ceiba, as well as the off-shore municipalities, Vieques and Culebra.

He described Rincón as a surfers' paradise. "Hawaii has the best beaches for surfing in the world, after that there is Rincón, known as the 'Hawaii of the east.'"

"But what is happening to Rincón, the same as the rest of Puerto Rico, is its beaches are being locked in by home construction right up next to the water," he said.

Rodríguez said the environmental party is finding fertile ground with young people who are so fed up with the two major parties that they are not even bothering to register to vote.

"We are working closely with the young, we are the alternative," he said.



STAR PHOTO BY MAURICIO PASCUAL

Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico officials Rogelio Figueroa, right, and Lorna Pérez Carreras hold a news conference at the environmental-based political party's headquarters in Santurce on Monday.