



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ  
MAYOR  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

January 28, 2016

MSNBC Corporate Office Headquarters  
Attn: Chris Matthews  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112

Dear Mr. Matthews:

As a proud Cuban-American and the Mayor of a county with the largest population of Cuban-Americans in the United States, I was deeply offended by your distasteful remarks about tonight's Republican debate. Your comments displayed bigotry and ignorance about nationality and what it means to be an American in the 21st century.

Politics aside, Senators Cruz and Rubio are both highly qualified Presidential candidates. They are Americans. Period. And your questioning of their heritage (American, Hispanic or otherwise) is unbecoming and frankly unacceptable in this day and age – especially of someone in your position.

Who will be watching tonight's debate "between the two Cuban guys?" Every single American who has a vested interest in the future of our great nation.

Perhaps our definition of "American" differs, but let me assure you that despite being born in Cuba to Cuban parents, I am every bit as American as you. And so are Senators Rubio and Cruz.

I don't expect you to retract your commentary or apologize, but I hope that my words have at least made you reconsider your antiquated and appalling remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", is written in a cursive style.