

Dear Friends,

As a public servant, working for you and bringing results to the community, it motivates me to continue fighting injustices even harder. Representing you in the New York State Senate is an amazing privilege. Together we have made a lot of progress, but there is a lot of work to be done to achieve economic and social justice for all, particularly now, in the midst of a cruel anti-immigrant political climate. In response to this, I have declared my district a Sanctuary District, and as part of the efforts to protect our immigrant communities, I have established an emergency hotline to provide assistance to anyone who may need help (1-800-213-6385).

Sincerely,

Senator Jose Peralta SD #13





Senior Centers: I often visit senior centers in the District to spend time with seniors and hear their concerns regarding the different agencies that provide services

to them, as well as about issues involving the community.

years, my office distributed about 4,000 toys.

Toy Drive: As part of the traditional initiative, in 2016 Senator Peralta and partnering organizations collected and distributed about 2,000 toys to schools, family shelters and local groups. In the last four



Constituent Services: I set up my constituent services team in my office in 2011, and since then, we have opened more than 7,000 individual cases regarding a wide range of issues, from housing and quality of life, to immigration, street safety and employment. My office offers one-on-one guidance in an effort to solve problems with State agencies, and

make the proper referrals to City and Federal agencies.

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LaGuardia Airport Modernization:

Modernization is finally landing at LaGuardia Airport, which is located in the District. The multibillion dollar project to revamp the airport will bring it into the 21st Century, and it will provide thousands of much-needed jobs to hard-working families, as well as increase economic activity and boost tourism. Governor Andrew Cuomo unveiled the project, stressing the need to support businesses owned by women and minorities (MWBEs); that is why it is vital that these businesses get MWBE certified and apply for the State's contracts.



New Schools: I was able to secure tens of millions of dollars of State funding for the construction of new schools in the City with the goal of alleviating school overcrowding, which has been a problem in the District for years. Rundown school trailers and packed classrooms are no place for kids to learn. Since 2010, the School Construction Authority built 9 new schools in the District, providing about 4,693 new seats. And by 2020, 4 new schools with 2,871 seats are slated to be in place.



Workers' Rights: Every year, I proudly participate in rallies organized by unions and workers, the true economic and social engines of our society. Be it with airport workers at LaGuardia Airport or with construction workers in downtown Manhattan, I keep fighting to demand better salaries, benefits and working conditions for all hard-working people.



College Affordability/Dream Act: My top priority is providing college financial assistance to students regardless of their immigration status. For far too long, New York State has punished undocumented college students, treating them like second-class citizens. This unfair policy has to cease. That is why the Independent Democratic Conference proposed to raise the Tuition Assistance Program income eligibility for families earning up to \$125,000 annually, including for undocumented students.



New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame: I inducted Andrew P. Jackson, also known as Sekou Molefi Baako, into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame. Mr. Jackson's gallantry in the U.S. Armed Forces has been complemented by his service to the community. The Veterans' Hall of Fame was established to honor and identify outstanding veterans who have distinguished themselves in both military and civilian life.



Movies in the Park: During the summer, I kicked off "Movies in the Park." As part of the program, and cooperating with our sponsors, we were able to screen two free movies. The first film was "Minions," which was featured in East Elmhurst Playground. The second flick was "Zootopia," which was screened in Travers Park in Jackson Heights.

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Subway Stops: During the summer months, I greeted commuters at subway stations all over the District. I took the opportunity to speak with constituents, hear about their concerns, and provided them with information regarding the work my team and I do to improve the quality of life for all of our communities.





Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul Visits the District:
Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, chairperson of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council, and I toured several small businesses along Roosevelt Avenue, Jackson Heights and other parts of the District to listen to the main challenges the owners face in their daily operations. At the end of the tour, we hosted a roundtable discussion with several small business operators and community leaders to further the discussion and to analyze best ways to help small shops thrive.



Job Fair at Queens Center: About 1,000 jobseekers turned out to the 6th annual Job Fair that I sponsored with the collaboration of the Queens Center Mall and Woodside on the Move. The companies and organizations that took part in the event interviewed hundreds of participants, and in addition, they arranged more interviews with candidates to be conducted at later dates. Even though the unemployment rate continues to decline and the economy improves, a lot of families in the District and surrounding areas have a very difficult time making ends meet.



Hate crime in Astoria: An Astoria store owner was attacked by a man who yelled racist remarks at him, indicating that he wanted to "kill Muslims." As soon as I heard of the incident, I joined the community to denounce the attack.



NYPD Meeting: I went to One Police Plaza for a meet and greet with the new Police Commissioner of the New York Police Department, James P. O'Neill, and the new Chief of Department, Carlos M. Gómez.



Business Walks: Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and this is part of the reason why I toured small shops and restaurants in the District. During the visits, I listened to the concerns and suggestions given by small business owners to improve the industry and boost the local economy.



Street Vendors: I consider that coexistence between street vendors and brick-and-mortar retailers is critical to the social and economic development of our neighborhoods and communities. To this end, I introduced a bill calling for the creation of a street vendor policy commission to modernize the regulation that governs street vending. There is a clear need for a revamped Street Vendor Review Panel that includes all stakeholders to study the problems and provide recommendations. I don't think anyone is happy with the current system. Local residents complain, street vendors complain, small retailers complain. I was invited to participate in a rally in which City Council members moved to modernize the industry after decades of inaction.



Protect Restaurant Owners: Alongside
Assemblymember Ron Kim, I unveiled legislation
aimed at protecting restaurant owners from unjust
health inspectors. The proposal will allow for
restaurateurs and employees to file anonymous
complaints against inspectors who abuse their powers.
This legislation, in addition, requires the creation of
an oversight body, which will publish an annual report
detailing the complaints received. I believe that we will
be able to protect restaurant owners and customers.



Back to School: Alongside local organizations and volunteers, I held my 7th annual Back to School Giveaway near Lefrak City, in Corona, and distributed backpacks and school supplies to students. We handed out more than 3,000 backpacks. The backpacks were given to the children on a first-come, first-served basis, and they contained classroom necessities, such as notebooks, pens, calculators, rulers and markers.



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITHIN THE 13TH SENATE DISTRICT

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Roosevelt Avenue: In a multifaceted approach to clean up Roosevelt Avenue, I proposed legislation to create a Commission on Roosevelt Avenue to tackle criminal activity along the commercial strip. I also called upon the New York State Liquor Authority to stop granting on-premises liquor licenses for new nightclubs along the Avenue, and urged the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to increase enforcement of the cabaret license laws. As part of the efforts to modernize the corridor, I also introduced legislation authorizing Consumer Affairs to impose fines of up to \$10,000 for violations of cabaret licensing rules. The Commission on Roosevelt Avenue will release a report within a year of its creation, establishing a roadmap to turn around the thoroughfare and revive the economic



engine of its surrounding communities because, sadly, Roosevelt Avenue has become the new 'old Times Square.'