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New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

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NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

JOSÉ PERALTA
13TH SENATE DISTRICT

WEB: peralta.nysenate.gov
EMAIL: jperalta@nysenate.gov

EAST ELMHURST OFFICE
32-37 Junction Boulevard
East Elmhurst, NY 11369
TEL: (718) 205-3881
FAX: (718) 205-4145

JACKSON HEIGHTS OFFICE
82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 706
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
TEL: (718) 396-0369
FAX: (718) 396-0343

ALBANY OFFICE
944 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
TEL: (518) 455-2529
FAX: (518) 426-6909

Dear Friend,

It has been an exciting 6 months representing the 13th Senate District in the New York State Senate. I worked closely with my colleagues in the Senate to pass a budget that controls spending, creates job opportunities, provides property tax relief, and protects our investment in health care and education.

As Chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee, I sponsored bills that will provide wide-ranging protections against fraud, unsafe products, and dishonest businesses and business practices. My legislation will also help future homebuyers navigate the mortgage process, protect car buyers from unscrupulous car dealers, and alert consumers if they are at risk of living in a house or an apartment that has bedbugs. Please take the time to review all of my legislative accomplishments, and I encourage you to contact my office if you have any issues that you would like me to address during the 2011 legislative session.

While I was extremely busy in Albany ensuring that New Yorkers have a fair and responsible budget, the needs and is-

suues of the 13th Senate District were still being addressed. Over 1,000 constituents were served by members of my staff, and we opened a second district office in June to ensure that everyone in the 13th District had access to the services of my office.

I am proud that the 13th District chose to send me to Albany. I have remained steadfast in my commitment to put the people first, to serve with honesty and integrity, and to be a Senator each and every one of you can be proud of.

As always, if I can assist you in any way or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. I look forward to seeing you throughout the 13th District in the coming months.

Sincerely

José Peralta



Hearing constituents' concerns is an important part of Senator Peralta's job.



Senator Peralta with former NY Knick John Starks at Elmcop Youth and Activities, Inc.



Senator Peralta (center) with Comptroller John Liu and Councilmember Julissa Ferreras



Marching in the Colombian Parade



Senator Peralta (center) joined Assemblymember Jeff Aubry and Senator Diane Savino at a rally in support of the rights of domestic workers.

In the Community

- ▶ In June, I held my first town hall meeting in LeFrak City, where I introduced myself to my new constituents.
- ▶ I also hosted a very successful blood drive in LeFrak this summer; over 40 residents came out and gave the gift of life.
- ▶ Providing family entertainment and cultural events to our neighborhoods is one of my priorities. This summer, I sponsored free “Movies Under the Stars” in Jackson Heights, Corona and LeFrak. These events were so popular, that I plan to sponsor free outdoor movies every summer. I also co-sponsored the Otherground Music Festival, bringing free concerts to Travers Park every Sunday throughout July and August.
- ▶ I was proud to support the opening of the 78th Street “Play Street” program. This summer, 78th Street between 34th Avenue and Northern Boulevard became a car-free zone open to all. The 78th Street “Play Street” served as a gathering space for neighborhood events and socializing, while providing more open space for our kids to play as well as better access to the local Greenmarket.
- ▶ New voting machines will be used in this year’s local, state and national elections. I am working closely with the Board

- of Elections to ensure that my constituents are aware of the changes in the way they will cast their votes. I’m also sponsoring demonstrations of the new paper ballots and optical scan machines so that residents in the 13th are familiar with how they work by Election Day.
- ▶ As the chair of the Consumer Protection Committee, I thought it was important to sponsor series of seminars on identity theft as well as a “Foreclosure Prevention Workshop.” These events were well attended and constituents learned valuable information. I will be hosting more consumer protection events in the coming months.
 - ▶ I look forward to partnering with community organizations like Elmcór Youth and Activities, Inc. I also look forward to working with Make the Road to make English and Spanish classes available so that our community can bridge the language barrier.
 - ▶ While we were facing tough budgetary decisions, I strongly objected to the proposed senior center cuts. I know senior citizens depend on such places for daily meals, community engagement and social services, and I will continue to fight to keep all centers open.



Celebrating the Ecuadorian Parade



Senator Peralta joins in the opening of “Play Street”



Senator Peralta hosted “Movies Under the Stars” in Jackson Heights, Corona and LeFrak

In Albany

One of my proudest moments as a State Senator was working closely with my colleague, Senator Diane Savino, to pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. Now, the housekeepers, nannies and caregivers who help care for our loved ones will receive the labor protection they so desperately need, and will no longer be exploited for their services.

I am also proud of the legislation that I passed while in Albany, legislation that protects consumers from unfair business practices.

Legislation that Senator José Peralta Passed in Albany

- ▶ **Bedbugs rental properties** (S.8130)
This legislation requires property owners or landlords within New York City to disclose infestation history to potential tenants prior to leasing. Bedbugs have been an increasing problem for nearly two decades after all but eradicating them in previous years. The resurgence of these pests warrants us to take action to provide New Yorkers with the option of choosing a clean environment in which to live in.

- ▶ **Requiring car dealers to pay balances in a timely manner** (S.7300-A)
The bill provides for better protection for consumers by requiring car dealers to pay off any prior credit or lease balance owing on a vehicle obtained in a trade in a timely manner. Before this legislation, many dealers were not paying the agreed balances, negatively impacting the credit ratings of their customers and oftentimes resulting in legal action against consumers.
- ▶ **Prevents unfairly charging for paper bills** (S.7296-A)
Protects consumers from the growing trend of companies attempting to charge an additional fee for receiving paper billing statements instead of electronic billing statements.
- ▶ **Magazine subscription expiration notices** (S.7319A)
Provides increased consumer protections for magazine subscribers relating to subscription expiration notice requirements for magazines. The bill will ensure that subscribers are able to locate and read subscription expiration dates by providing that such disclosures shall be understandable and readable, as well as, “clear and conspicuous,” as required under existing law.