



Homes for Veterans - Alongside Member of Congress Joseph Crowley, and Councilmember Costa Constantinides, we gathered at the Astoria waterfront to show support of the Marine Terrace renovation. The project includes the construction of 53 units that will be reserved for veterans. The 440-unit complex will remain Section 8 affordable housing for 30 additional years.



Back to School - Alongside local organizations and volunteers, this year we held our 7th annual Back to School Giveaway in Lefrak, and distributed backpacks and school supplies to students. We handed out more than 3,000 backpacks filled with school tools. The backpacks were given to the children on a first-come, first-serve basis, and they contained classroom necessities, such as notebooks, pens, calculators, rulers and markers.



Newsstand Opposition - In response to community opposition to a newsstand installed in a busy thoroughfare in Jackson Heights, specifically on 37th Avenue, I proposed legislation intended to remedy the injustices occurring under City law. Currently, if the applicant for a newsstand meets the proper requirements, the City approves the application regardless of community opposition. Under my bill, the newsstand application process will mirror the process sidewalk cafés comply with, allowing the New York City Council to have the power to approve or deny the petition following community board input for the community district where the installation of the newsstand is proposed.



Constituents Services - I set up my constituent services team in my office in 2011, and since then, we opened more than 7,000 individual cases regarding a wide range of issues, from housing and quality of life, and employment to immigration, street safety and housing. My office offers one-on-one guidance to help people solve their problems with State agencies and make referrals to City and Federal agencies when necessary.



LaGuardia Airport Modernization - Modernization is finally landing at LaGuardia Airport, which is located in the District. The multi-billion 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 ensure 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.



Rezoning Corona - I joined Member of Congress Joseph Crowley, Assemblymember Francisco Moya and Community Board 4 urging Mayor Bill de Blasio's Administration to downgrade the zoning codes in South Corona to, among other things, alleviate school overcrowding.



Turkey Drive - In cooperation with Woodside on the Move and several co-sponsors, we donated more than 1,000 turkeys to community and faith-based organizations, senior and day care centers, and schools in time for the Thanksgiving Day celebration. This was our 6th annual Turkey Drive in an effort to provide a meal to families in need living in the District. The holiday season is a time to give thanks and reflect, and the objective of this initiative was to give back to the community, to help those who are struggling.



Job Fair at Queens Center - About 1,000 jobs-seekers 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 to make ends meet.



Business Walks - I toured small shops, restaurants and other establishments in the District to listen to the concerns of small business owners. I also took down notes to see what their main suggestions were to improve our local economy.



Hero teachers - I presented a proclamation to the educators at the Louis Armstrong Middle School in East Elmhurst who saved a six-grader's life after she had a seizure and stopped breathing. Teacher Amy Spears (second from right), saw how the girl collapsed and started doing CPR.



DashCam Legislation
I, alongside Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, unveiled legislation that would provide an automobile insurance premium discount for non-commercial vehicles that have an operating

dashboard camera installed. These devices capture relative footage of the road, and the visual evidence recorded can provide protection for drivers in case of accidents. In addition, hit-and-run accidents, which have been a widespread problem in the City, may be caught on tape by other vehicles near the scene of the crime.



Inside City Hall - I was a guest recently at Inside City Hall to discuss the historic victory of my friend Adriano Espaillat, as he was the first Dominican-American elected to the United States House of Representatives. Jeff Sessions, President-elect Donald Trump's appointment for Attorney General, disqualified all Dominicans with racists, hateful remarks, and I am sure Adriano Espaillat will have his day in court not only to rebuke him, but to lay out the contributions Dominicans and Dominican-Americans have made to our City and our Nation.



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 others 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 businesses operators and community leaders to further the discussion and to analyze best ways to help small shops thrive.



Homeless Shelters - Here, I am discussing the crisis on the steps of City Hall with colleagues State Senator Joseph Addabbo, NYC Councilmembers Elizabeth Crowley and Barry Grodenchik. We are facing a homeless crisis, but unfortunately, City Hall has failed to address the problem properly. Everyone is a paycheck away from being homeless, but I expressed my opposition to the way this administration and the Department of Homeless Services are dealing with the issue, especially when they are transforming motels into homeless shelters. Warehousing people in shelters is not a solution. In our District, they converted a few of these motels without any notification or input from the community. Rest assured that I will continue to oppose these failed policies, as warehousing homeless people is not a solution.



School Safety - I introduced a bill with the goal of tackling drivers who speed in school zones to reduce traffic accidents around schools. Under my proposal, drivers convicted of three or more speeding violations in school zones during school days within an 18-month period would lose their licenses for 60-days. According to the New York City's Department of Transportation, in 2013 at least three in every four drivers exceeded limits within a quarter mile of one hundred school buildings surveyed.



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 govern 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 to a rally in which City Council members moved to modernize the industry after decades of inaction.



New York Power Authority in Astoria - I visited the installation that the New York Power Authority operates in Astoria. I had the opportunity to tour the facility, which the New York Power Authority says is one of the cleanest, most-efficient power plants in the City's history.



Movies in the Park - This past 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.



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.



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.'



Senior Centers - As I do every year, I visited the Senior Centers in the District to spend some time with our most vulnerable constituents. Last month, I participated in several Thanksgiving celebrations with our senior citizens.



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.

Happy Holidays



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Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, it is a pleasure to share with you some of the work that I have been involved with since the summer. We have worked together on many issues, and remember that my accomplishments are your accomplishments. Some of the initiatives we put in place included a successful Turkey Drive and an amazing Back to School Giveaway, as well as the introduction of legislation to clean up Roosevelt Avenue, and improve road and street safety. My work does not stop here, as we gear for another intense legislative session coming up next month in Albany. It is a great privilege to represent each and every one of you, and I will continue to do my best to improve the quality of life of our communities. Happy Holidays and have a prosperous New Year.

A handwritten signature of Senator Jose Peralta in white ink. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

Senator Jose Peralta
13th Senate District