



**SENATOR
JOSE
PERALTA**



**FALL
NEWSLETTER**
FOR SENATE DISTRICT 13

There is not a more important issue than the state of the economy and the large number of unemployed and underemployed. Many people literally cannot afford to wait for things to get better. They need a job now, not next year.

Not surprisingly, when I sponsored a job fair recently in conjunction with Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities, Inc., more than 1,400 job seekers came out to the Elmcor Recreation Center at 107th Street and Northern Blvd.

Some 70 employers and career services organizations were on hand, including Time Warner Cable, Con Edison, the Transit Authority, the Council for Airport Opportunities, AFLAC, the United States Postal Service, Coca Cola and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, as well as several unions with apprenticeship opportunities available.

The mortgage crisis is another major obstacle on the road to economic recovery and it has hit Corona, East Elmhurst and Jackson Heights especially hard. According to a study recently published by the New York Federal Reserve Bank, nearly 20 percent of homeowners in Corona are currently delinquent 90 days or more on their mortgage or are in foreclosure. The rate is 15 percent in East Elmhurst and 10 percent in Jackson Heights.

In light of the alarmingly high rates of seriously delinquent mortgages in our area, I hosted a forum at the Queens Museum of Art for struggling homeowners in conjunction with State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and local non-profit agencies working on foreclosure prevention.

The attorney general's office and community-based organizations, such as Queens Legal Services and Neighborhood Housing Services of Northern Queens, provided advice and hands-on assistance to homeowners.

I am also asking Governor Andrew Cuomo to continue funding a program that provides homeowners with counseling, legal assistance and help negotiating with banks. Funding for the state's \$25 million Foreclosure Prevention Services Program expires at the end of the year.

Investing in foreclosure prevention saves money. Direct services for homeowners are proven to be successful at keeping families in their homes and the impact on communities of foreclosed and abandoned homes can be devastating. Studies show that violent crime increases on blocks where a house goes into foreclosure. Other devastating secondary effects of foreclosed and abandoned homes include lost tax

revenues and declining home values.

I am also working on a longer-term economic development effort that that will help create jobs in Northwest Queens and bolster the economy, namely the cleaning up of Roosevelt Avenue.

My goal is to help turn Roosevelt Avenue into a modern, thriving, commercial and cultural district. Millions already travel through the area every year on their way to and from Mets games, the U.S. Open and concerts, festivals and other activities in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. With the extensive and far-reaching transportation infrastructure already in place, the potential is enormous. And we could certainly use the jobs.

Getting Roosevelt Avenue cleaned up will require an enormous amount of work, resources and commitment. To that end, I'm enlisting the advice, guidance and support of city and state government officials, as well as respected leaders in business and the arts.

Your input would be greatly appreciated as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jose Peralta'.

Jose Peralta



Staff at work at 103rd Street and Roosevelt Avenue as part of Operation Community Outreach, a mobile constituent services initiative of Senator Peralta.



Hundreds of livery drivers and base operators turned out for Senator Peralta's town hall meeting with the city Tax and Limousine Commission.



Treasurer of the United States Roise Rios (center), visited the area to meet with local business leaders and elected officials.



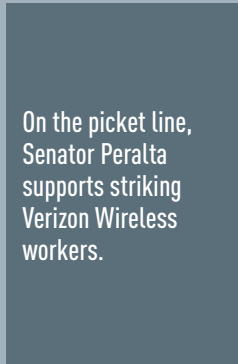
Senator Peralta at the Empire State Pride Agenda's 20th annual gala with ESPA Executive Director Ross Levi.



Senator Peralta tuning in to a guitar class at Newtown High School.



Senator Peralta and Council Member Dromm helped distribute supplies to young students at the Asian Community United Society's Back-To-School Fair.



On the picket line, Senator Peralta supports striking Verizon Wireless workers.



Melinda Murray, president of Dominic A. Murray 21 Memorial Foundation, demonstrates CPR technique to Senator Peralta at East Elmhurst Family Day.



More than 1,400 job seekers attended the job fair sponsored by Senator Peralta and Elmcour Youth and Adult Activities, Inc.



Senator Peralta addresses Diwali Mela revelers in Jackson Heights.

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