



NEWS From

Assemblyman José R. Peralta



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PRESS ADVISORY

ASSEMBLYMAN JOSE R. PERALTA AND THE QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY PROVIDE GANG AWARENESS WORKSHOP TO PARENTS AT LOCAL SCHOOL

Recent increases in gang activity in the area have prompted tougher legislation, more policing and now, gang awareness workshops to concerned parents

Elmhurst (05/31/06) – Reports of increase gang violence prompts Assemblyman Jose Peralta and the Queens District Attorney, Richard A. Brown, to educate concerned parents about what to look out for if a child is being recruited or is part of a gang. Assemblyman Peralta stated, “The reality of the situation is that gang activity has been on the rise, especially in this community. The gang issue is multi-faceted and must be addressed from many different perspectives. We must also join forces to combat this issue with our legislators, police, community and parents. Today, I am joined by Richard Brown to avail parents the tools needed to help them educate and protect their children.”

Assemblyman Peralta has led the way in bringing protection and safety to the community through more policing, tougher gang legislation, and the introduction of the Guardian Angels. Now, Assemblyman Jose Peralta and District Attorney Richard Brown introduce a new chapter in these series of anti-gang initiatives by educating parents and the community about gang activity among their children.

District Attorney Brown stated, “While the overall crime rate has dropped dramatically here in Queens and across the entire New York metropolitan area, gang-related violence and criminal activity continues to plague our communities –particularly in our schools. Although we have met with considerable success in fighting gang related crime, it is clear that if we are to continue to enjoy that success and make further inroads into the problem, we must share our knowledge, our experience and our expertise with parents, teachers and community activists.”

On April 16, Mayor Bloomberg announced a new “Impact School” initiative at John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx and Newtown High School in Queens. These schools were selected based on a thorough analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data from the NYPD and DOE. These schools represent less than 0.2% of the total number of public schools yet account for 3% of major crime, 2% of violent crime and 2% of total crime. Compared to last year, total crime at these schools through April 2nd had increased 50%, violent crime had increased 185% and major crime had increased 167%. Assemblyman Peralta concluded, “At the heart of any community is the family. With these education initiatives, we are empowering the parents to take control of their children’s future. The family structure in this community will serve as the frontline in our fight against gang activities and our struggle to improve our quality of life.”

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