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SENATOR JOSE R. PERALTA
13TH DISTRICT

**MINORITY WHIP
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
ON LABOR**

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MEMBER:
NYS BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC & ASIAN CAUCUS

August 27, 2013

Honorable Helen Marshall
Queens Borough President
120-55 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York 11424

Thomas W. Galante, President and CEO
Queens Library
811 Merrick Boulevard
Jamaica, New York 11432

Re: Queens Library

Dear Borough President Marshall and Mr. Galante:

I write to you today to express my serious concern over recent hiring practices at the Queens Library, specifically, the replacement of unionized custodial employees with contract workers. Queens Library has a long and proud tradition of providing our borough's diverse population with opportunities to improve their lives through access to a broad spectrum of knowledge and information, as well as assistance in everything from learning a language to homework assignments. However, I believe that supplanting union jobs that have long-provided an honest day's pay for an honest day's work and a path to the middle-class with insecure contract jobs is antithetical to the Library's core mission.

I understand that New York City Libraries have experienced serious funding crises in recent years, and I have joined you in the fight to get more resources. Nevertheless, the raises given out to non-union administrative staff and hiring of additional managerial employees make it clear that hiring union custodial workers was far from a fiscal impossibility. Additionally, it has been demonstrated time-and-again that hiring private contractors to fill traditionally public roles is an inefficient use of resources that ends up costing taxpayers more in the long run; not to mention the fact that it is not clear how much money is actually making it into the pockets of these contract workers.

I urge you to reconsider this course of action, to give the Queens Library the level of staffing it needs to provide patrons with the services they deserve, and to stop de-unionizing and destabilizing what should be decent working-class jobs.

Thank you for your time and your consideration, I look forward to working with you to resolve this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jose Peralta', written in a cursive style.

Jose Peralta
New York State Senator, District 13