



THE ASSEMBLY
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ALBANY

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To whom it may concern:

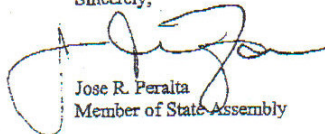
My relationship with the Guardian Angels has been one of friendship, cooperation and the will to make our communities a better place to live. Their 25 years experience dealing with crime and gang-related violence was the determining factor in bringing them to my community. My community had experienced recent increases in gang-activity and their experience and expertise was of the essence. The amount of work they perform and their dedication is only matched by their professionalism and capability of keeping calm under pressure. I have truly developed a great deal of respect for them because of the work they do every single day. We all know it is not easy to be in the streets and try to bring some sense to those who are headed in the wrong direction in life, but the Guardian Angels are always there; night and day, rain or shine, even under unusual weather conditions.

Mr. Curtis Sliwa, Founding President, and Arnaldo Salinas, Director, have proven themselves of being a true ally in the battle to recover our communities. Their insights have paved the way for many of my decision-making moments. I consider them an asset to my community and to my office. I am forever indebted to their cause because I am a true believer in the strategies they use to reduce crime and gang activity. This notion is best described by a phrase in the Guardian Angels *Role Model for a Real Life* handbook:

"They empower people to help themselves, build self-esteem and confidence,
and arm themselves with responsibility"

This, is the true essence of life.

Sincerely,



Jose R. Peralta
Member of State Assembly

JP/yl