

**HIRAM MONSERRATE**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 21<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

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July 16, 2003

Douglas N. Daft  
Chairman & CEO  
The Coca Cola Company  
One Coca Cola Plaza  
Atlanta, GA 30313

## Appendix A

Dear Mr. Daft;

As you know, Latinos are the fastest growing population in the United States. Just this year, the Census reported that Latinos have officially become the largest minority in the country as well as in New York City. This growth is no where more evident than on the streets of Queens, which is one of the most diverse communities in the world. Jackson Heights, in particular, which I represent in the 21<sup>st</sup> Council District, is home to the largest Colombian community in the United States.

As the first Latino elected in the Borough of Queens, I serve as the Chair of the Council's Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, a coalition of 24 members in the 51-member legislative body. I write to request a meeting with you and a diverse coalition of community leaders to express my deepest concern regarding reports of violence and harassment of workers in Coca Cola plants in Colombia and other Latin American countries.

City-wide, Latino communities are becoming increasingly concerned at the news coming out of Colombia. Specifically, I am referring to reports of direct cooperation between rogue paramilitary groups and management at Coca Cola's chief bottler in Colombia, Panamco. This includes reports that paramilitary leaders freely admitted to NPR reporter Steven Dudley that they maintain bases at all of the Coca Cola bottling facilities in Colombia and are actively making public threats against workers engaged in union organizing.

I'm sure you would agree that any reports of violence are a serious concern. I hope we can meet to resolve these issues as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hiram Monserrate  
New York Council Member  
21<sup>st</sup> District, Queens