



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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May 3, 2006

Hon. Sheldon Silver  
Speaker NYS Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
Suite 932  
Albany, NY 12248

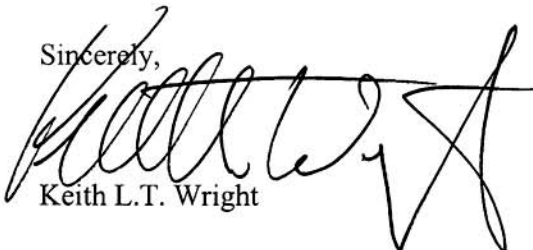
Dear Speaker Silver:

It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Frank Minaya y Willmore, the founder and Chairman of the Trustees of Samana College and Training Center in the Dominican Republic, to the Amistad Commission. I met with Mr. Minaya y Willmore recently and we had a lively discussion on the rich history and affinity of the Black Diaspora both in the United States and in the Caribbean. Mr. Minaya y Willmore has created in collaboration with scholars, global conglomerates, and private and public foundations the Samana College and Training Center whose primary focus is to educate students studying abroad through an all-encompassing program that includes history, culture and language so that upon graduation these students can compete in a global economy as well as better serve the greater international community.

Mr. Frank Minaya y Willmore, not only is an excellent candidate due to his scholastic venture and as a retired professor but he can speak from personal experience as a direct descendant of freed slaves who emigrated from Philadelphia to the Hispañola, (Dominican Republic) in 1824. He has donated 10 acres of his own property in Samana towards the college campus with the hopes that this institution becomes a clearinghouse for traditionally historic black colleges and universities that would also attract and pool resources for organizing programs that will increase the number of students of color studying abroad. He would like to incorporate the history of the transatlantic slave trade along with the African Diaspora in South America and the Caribbean.

I have no reservations in recommending Mr. Frank Minaya y Willmore as a member of the Amistad Commission he would be an invaluable asset to this monumental task force. Should you wish to further discuss Mr. Minaya's candidacy for the Commission, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Keith L.T. Wright

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Election Law

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Subcommittee on Public Housing

CHAIRMAN  
Subcommittee on Equal Economic  
Opportunity and Human Rights

MEMBER  
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