

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

December 4, 2018

Professor Daniel Hershkowitz
Civil Service Commissioner
Eliezer Kaplan St. 3, Jerusalem
By e-mail

Dear Professor Hershkowitz,

Mazal tov to you on your appointment as Civil Service Commissioner. May you enjoy only success leading and inspiring Israel's civil service.

Public faith in the civil service is a cornerstone of all thriving democracies and is earned and justified through tireless insistence on the highest standards of performance and service. It is to this end that The Wexner Foundation has invested in Israel's best and brightest public-sector leaders for more than three decades. In that time, we have meaningfully funded and developed 425 public service leaders from all walks of life in Israel. We have provided them with the finest leadership training available through the Foundation and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Thank you for taking the time, as your term unfolded, to meet with Ra'anana Avital, Director General of The Wexner Foundation's Israel office and Maj. General (ret.) Ido Nahushtan, Chairman of our Israel Advisory Committee. You have heard from them in detail about the Foundation's strong relationship and ongoing partnership with the Civil Service Commission, including ongoing and meaningful collaboration in selecting Fellowship and Senior Leader participants. I look forward to the next decades of cooperation, in the spirit of the Wexner family's unwavering support for Israel.

It is my understanding that suggestions have been made to you and have appeared in the press that the Foundation may have some political affiliations in Israel. I assure you unequivocally that this is not the case. A review of our Fellowship alumni will make it clear that a pillar of our work is diversity. We believe that selecting leaders from all perspectives is essential to our organization. We are steadfast in this approach. The Wexner Foundation's Israel programs are purely professional, devoid of any political agenda and indifferent to the political leanings, if any, of candidates applying to our programs. This can be attested to by hundreds of public sector employees who have participated in the programs over the past 30 years.




Let me also take this opportunity to remark on the other story the press has seized upon regarding payments made to Ehud Barak many years ago. These were independent from and unrelated to the Foundations' programs for Israel's public sector and were completely consistent with the Wexner philanthropies' core mission of leadership development through investing in programs, people and institutions, a mission which began in the 1980's and which has amounted to a cumulative investment of hundreds of millions of dollars. Much of this philanthropic legacy is proudly described on The Wexner Foundation website.

I would be delighted to meet with you in person at the earliest opportunity and am at your service in all matters of professional development for Israel's public sector.

Wishing you a Hanukkah Sameach.

Sincerely,



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