

Liza M. Levitt
North Main Street School
215 North Main Street
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

State of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
CN-001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Whitman,

I am a teacher of third grade at the North Main Street School in Pleasantville, which is one of the special needs districts in the state. I would like to call your attention to a program called Future Leaders Foundation. It is run by Master Don Straga at his Tang Soo Do Karate Academy. Master Straga is teaching karate to the second and third grades at our school. I have the pleasure of training right alongside my students.

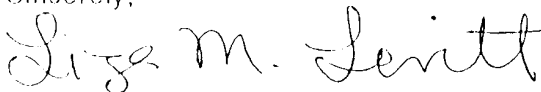
Master Straga stresses the importance of focus, respect, and self-control as tools in both Karate and all aspects of life. In my experience as a teacher, it is the students deficiency in these qualities that is the largest obstacle in both my teaching and their learning. Mastery of these skills would greatly benefit our students for the rest of their lives. I have seen improvement in my students in the short time they have been in the program and look forward to seeing their potential increase as they continue.

Master Straga also fulfills the role of a positive male figure for our students. Many of the children in our school are being raised by mothers or grandmothers and desperately need a male role model in their life. Master Straga is a model not only of the values that he teaches but also of the American Dream of working for yourself while at the same time doing something that you love. He is most certainly someone to be admired and emulated.

Master Straga is dedicated to helping our children through the use of his art. Support of any kind that you could lend to his endeavor would be whole-heartedly appreciated and well deserved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liza M. Levitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liza M. Levitt