

## SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**RICARDO MONTANO**  
County Legislator, 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Ways & Means Committee, Chair



Courthouse Corporate Center  
320 Carleton Avenue, Suite 4300  
Central Islip, New York 11722  
Phone: (631) 853-3700  
Fax: 631-853-3568

**CONTACT: ROBERT MARTINEZ**

[Robert.martinez@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Robert.martinez@suffolkcountyny.gov)

### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

December 20, 2011

# **MONTANO RETURNS FROM WEEK- LONG SEMINAR IN ISRAEL**

*PARTICIPATES IN PRODUCTIVE AND INFORMATIVE SESSIONS THAT RENDER  
INSIGHT INTO ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF ADDRESSING DIFFERENT ISSUES*

**CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.** – Suffolk County Legislator Ricardo Montano (D-Brentwood) recently returned from Israel after participating in a week-long seminar and meetings with officials and distinguished personalities. He was invited by Project Interchange, an institute that is part of the American Jewish Committee. The focus of the seminar, which took place from December 5th through the 12th, was on economic development, high tech innovation, and immigrant absorption and integration.

The bipartisan delegation of officials who participated in this seminar alongside Legislator Montano were NY State Senator Eric Adams, Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown, NY State Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow, Ohio State House Representative Connie Pillich, Hawaii State House Representative Marcus Oshiro, and Mr. Wallace Nunn, Board Member of the Pennsylvania State Employee Retirement System.

The seminar, which is funded entirely by Project Interchange and not taxpayers, is especially tailored to provide the officials with a deeper understanding of Israel, including its political, historical, cultural, technological, strategic and religious dimensions. The officials participated in discussions with Palestinian and Israel Arab leaders, including Palestinian Prime Minister Dr. Salaam Fayyad and Jan Levin, Deputy Political Advisor at the US Embassy among others, which offered them additional insight into the complex issues affecting Israel and the surrounding region.

“I have developed a deeper understanding of the intricate issues affecting that region. My exposure to alternative ways of handling difficult situations will be an asset as I continue to work as an elected official,” said Montano. “I thank all of the Project Interchange staff here and in Israel, who made this an outstanding learning experience,” Montano added.

\*\*\*\*\*



Pictured: Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown, Pennsylvania State Employee Retirement System Board Member, Wallace Nunn, Hawaii State House Representative, Marcus Oshiro, NYS Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow, Legis. Ricardo Montano, NYS Senator Eric Adams, and Ohio State House Representative, Connie Pillich