

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 3, 2009

Dr. Larry Ridley
Executive Director
African American Jazz Caucus, Inc.
3 Stuyvesant Oval Suite 9B
New York, NY 10009

Dear Dr. Ridley:

Thank you for inviting me to the June 1st Press Conference held by the African American Jazz Caucus, Inc. (AAJC) in coordination with the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters (NAJJP). Regretfully, I was unable to attend this past Monday due to a longstanding personal commitment. I extend my gratitude to AAJC and NAJJP for bringing attention to Black Music Month, and appreciate their focus on commemorating Juneteenth.

I commend the African American Jazz Caucus for its commitment to promoting music education. Your organization's efforts to preserve the historical and cultural legacy of the Jazz art form are of great consequence to this community, and I applaud the members of AJCC on their dedication to teaching constituents about this important aspect of their heritage. Your press conference will hopefully lead to a greater awareness of this month's significance. It is especially important that we as a community give the day of Juneteenth its proper attention and respect.

I thank you again for the invitation. Please know that you can continue to count on my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles B. Rangel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means

CBR/sm

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