

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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April 8, 2013
Start: 1:16 p.m.
Recess: 1:28 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Rm, 14th Fl

B E F O R E:
Daniel Dromm
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Charles Barron
Mathieu Eugene
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Jumaane D. Williams

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good afternoon.

My name is Daniel Dromm and I'm Chair of the New York City Council of the Committee on Immigration. Before going any further I would like to introduce Council Ydanis Rodriguez from Manhattan who is with us and Council member Jumaane Williams from Brooklyn.

Today I am happy to say that the Immigration Committee will vote on a pre-considered resolution calling on Congress to pass and President Obama to sign a comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2013. During the committee's hearing on this resolution heard testimony from immigrant advocates and legal immigration practitioners in support of the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill and calling for the introduction of a bill to be truly inclusive.

The testimony that we heard highlighted problems with current immigration law, described their impact on immigrant New Yorkers and gave suggestions for how these problems could be addressed in a comprehensive immigration bill.

The resolution that the committee

1
2 will vote on today describes challenges that
3 undocumented immigrants face and the ways in which
4 passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill
5 could address those challenges. It summarizes the
6 various legislative efforts to address the needs
7 of immigrants including the most recent proposals
8 for comprehensive immigration reform and mentions
9 components that certain advocates feel need to be
10 included in a comprehensive immigration reform
11 bill in order for it to be truly inclusive and
12 effective.

13 With New York State being home to
14 the second largest immigrant population in the
15 nation it is crucial that New York City Council
16 support the passage of a comprehensive immigration
17 reform bill in order to protect immigrants in New
18 York and throughout the nation. I would like to
19 encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of
20 this important pre-considered resolution so we can
21 send a strong message to the federal government
22 that now is the time for comprehensive immigration
23 reform. And with that I would like to proceed
24 with the vote.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,

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2 committee clerk, roll call on the Committee on
3 Immigration. Council member Dromm?

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes,
7 with permission I would like to explain my vote?

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: As we
10 say in the last era and I am very grateful and
11 thankful that our Chairman has been a leader with
12 the support of Speaker Christine Quinn and other
13 colleague in this particular incident. It has
14 been so unfortunately that the State did not
15 approve the DREAM Act. However, now that we are
16 days before we are expected to hear from D.C. on
17 the agreement on a comprehensive immigration
18 reform. I am calling still on to all our religion
19 leaders and elected officials and community
20 activists to keep calling the city to be sure that
21 what they hear is that we also take care of the
22 details of any possible immigration reform so that
23 all particular groups should benefit if an
24 agreement is presented in the next couple of days
25 and if we are able to get Congress to pass on this

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immigration reform.

So we can, I am so happy that the conversation is moving forward, expecting that we will see immigration reform and this is an important resolution since we are sending a message to D.C. that enough is enough. That it is time to work with millions of working class and middle class that have been contributing with billions of dollars to our finance. So today's a special, it's a great day by passing this resolution and I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you to the Chair for his leadership and the Speaker. Of course, then I don't think anybody who really believes what America says that it is supposed to be, can vote against this bill. Without immigrants in this country from the beginning to now, it would not be where it is. For some reason we try to pretend like immigrants are not the ones that are making this country run and that most of us aren't from somewhere else anyway. So, I proudly vote aye on this resolution. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Long
3 overdue. I hope this puts pressure on this
4 country to do the right thing. Some of our
5 greatest resources I believe in this nation, the
6 cultural capital and intellectual capital and the
7 financial capital that immigrants contribute to
8 this nation is just priceless so I proudly vote
9 aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in
11 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
12 abstentions. The item has been adopted. Members
13 please sign the committee report.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And I would
15 like to ask to leave the vote open for a half hour
16 so that the last committee member can vote if he
17 so chooses. Okay. Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

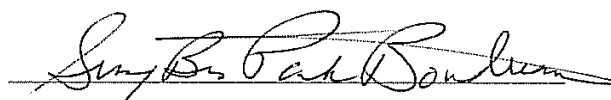
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the
21 Committee on Immigration. 5 in the affirmative.
22 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you
24 very much. This meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Sung Bin Park certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sung Bin Park", written over a horizontal line.

Date __April 13, 2013