

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
VOTE*

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Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Start: 10:20 a.m.

Recess: 10:24 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Dr. Nantasha Williams, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rita C. Joseph
Christopher Marte,
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Kevin C. Riley

Other Council Members Attending: Farías

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SERGEANT WALKER: This is a microphone
check for the Committee on Civil and Human Rights.
Today is June 11, 2025. We are located in the
Committee Room— recorded by Shaquilla Walker.

(PAUSE)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and
welcome to today's City Council vote for the
Committee on Civil and Human Rights. At this time, we
ask that you please do not approach the dais, and
please silence all electronic devices.

Chair Williams, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: [GAVEL]

Good morning, everyone. My name is
Nantasha Williams, and I serve as the Chair of the
Committee on Civil and Human Rights.

I would like to start by first thanking
everyone for joining us for today's vote. I would
also like to thank the Committee staff and my
colleagues for joining us today, as well as Majority
Leader Farías, for sponsoring this Resolution.

Resolution 520 recognizes July 2 annually
as Thurgood Marshall Day in the City of New York to
promote his contributions and legacy as a pillar of
the Civil Rights movement.

Born into humble beginnings, Thurgood Marshall attended Howard University School of Law and, upon graduating, worked for the NAACP and litigated against racial inequalities. He then went on to start the Legal Defense Fund, which continues to advocate for the civil rights of African Americans throughout the country. He argued before the Supreme Court in the landmark Brown versus Board of Education case and prevailed on his argument that separate but equal schooling was unconstitutional.

After many years in New York City, he was nominated by President Johnson in 1965 to be his US Solicitor General, where he used his position to eliminate injustices like the poll tax.

President Johnson then nominated him to the Supreme Court in 1967, where he would be confirmed as the nation's first African American Supreme Court Justice.

Thurgood Marshall's legacy as a pioneer in the civil rights movement continues to influence and benefit our communities today.

I'll now ask — Oh, nope, before we do that, I'll turn it over to the Majority Leader for her remarks on her bills.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chair Williams.

I am proud to speak in support of Resolution 520, which would recognize July 2nd as Thurgood Marshall Day in New York City.

Thurgood Marshall was one of the great individuals who stands in the pantheon of American heroes, is an American legend who set momentous milestones, broke down barriers, and helped to end the system of racial segregation that plagued the United States and oppressed many.

Not only should we celebrate Justice Marshall every July 2nd, his birthday, but we should also uphold his achievements and draw inspiration from them— inspiration to not only live up to and match Justice Marshall's zeal and achievements, but also to exceed them in his memory so that we can build a better world for all Americans.

Thurgood Marshall's role in the systemic dismantling of segregation, which he himself was a victim of, was his greatest and most lasting achievement, one that deserves the utmost respect of all New Yorkers and Americans.

I thank Chair Williams for bringing this forward, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Justice Marshall's legacy by ensuring his vision for justice lives on in the policies we fight for every day, particularly in the moments we face in this nation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you. Yes, this is really exciting. When they asked kids what they wanted to do when they grew up, I used to say 'Thurgood Marshal'. So, this is really nice to do. And I am excited to vote on this, so I will now ask the Clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Resolution 520.

Chair Williams?

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Can I make a statement for my vote?

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you. I vote aye.

Justice Thurgood Marshall transformed America through the law. His victories in Brown versus Board opened school doors to education. His 24 years on the Supreme Court opened the doors for justice for all Americans.

Marshall showed us that one person's dedication can bend the arc of history towards justice. This resolution will honor that legacy every July 2nd, not just to remember the past, but to inspire our future. Thank you. I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions, the item has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you so much, colleagues. This Committee vote is closed. [GAVEL]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 17, 2025