

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES &
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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June 9, 2009
Start: 11:33am
Recess: 11:40am

HELD AT: Hearing Room
 250 Broadway, 16th Floor

B E F O R E: DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
 Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
James Vacca
David I. Weprin
Eric N. Gioia
Daniel R. Gardonick
Thomas White, Jr.
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You ready?

Okay. Everyone kindly find their seats. This is the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations. Good morning. Thank you for joining us today at the New York City Council. My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. And, I am the Chair of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations.

On May 26th, 2009, President Obama nominated Federal Appeals Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court to replace Justice Souter. Today, we will discuss Resolution Number 1982-A, a Resolution supporting the nomination of Judge Sotomayor and urging her prompt confirmation by the Senate.

On May 28th, 2009, the Committee on Cultural Affairs held a hearing on this Resolution and heard testimony from representatives from the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Hispanic Federation, the NAACP, the Dominican American National Roundtable, who support the nomination of Judge Sotomayor and acknowledge her outstanding qualifications and many contributions to New York.

Part of our role as the Cultural Affairs Committee is to celebrate multiple cultures and ethnicities while encouraging harmony among citizens and promoting the image of New York City. Judge Sotomayor's nomination to the Supreme Court embodies all of these goals. She's part of the Puerto Rican heritage that has helped to shape New York City and her confirmation to the United States Supreme Court would provide diversity and a broader understanding of the American people to the highest Court in the nation. However, we do not merely endorse Judge Sotomayor because she would be the first Hispanic appointed to the Supreme Court and only the third woman appointed, but as New Yorkers, we recognize her connection to our City and the work she has done for us.

Judge Sotomayor grew up in the Bronx, raised by a single mother in public housing, in Jimmy Vacca's district. She graduated from Cardinal Spellman High School in 1972. After graduating from Princeton University and Yale Law School, Judge Sotomayor began a career as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan. She then served as one of the founding members of the

1
2 New York City Campaign Finance Board. She then
3 became a Federal Judge in the Southern District of
4 New York before being appointed to the Second
5 Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals
6 covering matters in New York, Connecticut and
7 Vermont.

8 Judge Sotomayor has also played an
9 extensive role in the higher education of New
10 Yorkers, lecturing at both NYU and Columbia
11 University. In addition to her public service in
12 New York, Judge Sotomayor has more bench
13 experience than any of the current nine Supreme
14 Court Justices when they first began their tenure.

15 And, I would just like to thank all
16 my colleagues for voting aye for this Resolution.
17 Would anybody like to make any other comment? - -
18 this, then we'll call the roll. Council Member
19 Jimmy Vacca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote yes
21 and I thank the Chairman for bringing this to the
22 Council.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.
24 Council Member David Weprin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Council

Member Eric Gioia.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to vote yes on this Resolution. I'd also ask that my name be added as a prime sponsor. And, to all the young ladies in the room, this is a ripple of hope showing that what hard work, where that can bring you to be on the Supreme Court or maybe even the White House.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

And, add Council Member Gioia's name as a co-sponsor to this bill. Dan Garodnick, Council Member Dan Garodnick from Manhattan.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank

you. I vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Council

Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. from Brooklyn votes aye. And, we will keep the vote open. All right. Please sign - - . That concludes this hearing of the Cultural Affairs, Library and International Intergroup Relations. I'd like to thank my staff. [Pause] Keep it open for as long as possible. No. Keep it open for one hour. All right. We don't have to stay here. That's it. Okay. This

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meeting is adjourned.

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[END TAPE 1002]

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[START TAPE 1003]

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MALE VOICE: Council Member White.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye

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and ask that my name be affixed to the

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legislation.

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MALE VOICE: Yep. Thank you.

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Council Member Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I am proud

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to vote aye. I hope that her nomination campaign

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will be as quick as possible. And, we will do

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everything we can to highlight her career, attack

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her detractors to ensure that her nomination

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process will be as swift as possible so we can

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have Judge Sotomayor the next Supreme Court Judge

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representing the entire country from the Borough

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of Bronx and the State of New York. I proudly

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vote aye. Thank you.

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MALE VOICE: Current vote on the

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Committee now stands at seven in the affirmative,

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zero in the negative and no abstentions. Thank

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you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay. The

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES &
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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2 Cultural Affairs Committee hearing for June 9th
3 regarding Justice Sotomayor is now officially
4 closed. Thank you all for your attendance and
5 thank the staff for their prompt assembly of this
6 Resolution so that we could be proudly able to
7 vote for Justice Sotomayor. With that, I declare
8 the meeting closed.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DeeDee E. Tataseo 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 that reads "DeeDee E. Tataseo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

July 27, 2009