

A RESOLUTION
OF THE D.C. LATINO CAUCUS
Washington, DC

TO PROPOSE RECONSIDERATION OF THE NOMINATION OF DR. XIMENA HARTSOCK IN LIGHT OF THE FLAWED PROCESS CONDUCTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia did not approve the nomination of Dr. Ximena Hartsock as Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation by a vote taken on October 6, 2009;

WHEREAS, at a public hearing prior to the Council vote, official comments were made of the nominee that related to her inability to appreciate athletic programs as an agency head because of her gender;

WHEREAS official comments were made of the nominee's inability to appreciate African-American culture to head the agency because the nominee was not African-American;

WHEREAS direct questions and comments were made of the nominee's citizenship status and ethnic background, unrelated to her ability to perform her job duties;

WHEREAS Washington, D.C. is a diverse city made up of many people who come from many ethnic backgrounds;

WHEREAS many people and institutions, including the Washington Post editorial page, have shown their disapproval of the bias and unfair interrogation of the nominee by the Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation;

WHEREAS this irregular and unfair practice could set a precedent that adversely affects potential future nominees of diverse backgrounds, including Latino nominees;

WHEREAS the image of the Council of the District of Columbia may be severely damaged and its credibility called into question in future hearings involving Latino and other nominees;

BE IT RESOLVED, this twelfth day of October, 2009, that:

1. The D.C. Latino Caucus calls on the Council of the District of Columbia to reconsider Department of Parks and Recreation Director nominee Dr. Ximena Hartsock through a process that is free of bias based on gender, ethnicity, or immigration status;
2. The Council of the District of Columbia issue an apology to those in the Latino community, to women, immigrants and others who were offended by the derogatory questions and comments made concerning Dr. Hartsock.