



Legislation Text

File #: LM-2020-0415, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS GRIEVING THE LOSS AND HONORING THE LIFE OF JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

WHEREAS: Justice Ginsburg was a trailblazing advocate for women's rights and social justice, and an intellectual giant with an incredible work ethic; and

WHEREAS: As an advocate before and a member of the Supreme Court, and by her own lived example, Justice Ginsburg did so much to advance women's rights and to realize greater equality of all people before the law; and

WHEREAS: Her intellect, her eloquence, and her tenacity made her a role model for many; and

WHEREAS: Despite being graduating first in her class, she could not get a job at a New York law firm, because of the "three strikes" against her: she was Jewish, a woman, and a mother; and

WHEREAS: She went on in 1993 to become just the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court - after having advocated before that Court in the 1970s, strategically chipping away at the legal wall of gender discrimination; and

WHEREAS: She won five of six cases before the Court, establishing that the constitutional guarantee of equal protection applied to women; and

WHEREAS: When asked when she would be satisfied with the number of women on the Court, she would reply, "When there are nine." And

WHEREAS: Although often in the minority, Justice Ginsburg was a fierce advocate for social justice through dissents, on issues ranging from voting rights to the right to choose, serving as a reminder to never give up on just causes; and

WHEREAS: Her trenchant dissent decrying the repeal of key sections of the Voting Rights Act earned her the nickname "Notorious RBG," and sparked a late life folk following; and

WHEREAS: Justice Ginsburg's strength in facing personal illness is inspiring: though she struggled with four bouts of cancer, she never missed a day of the court's public schedule; and

WHEREAS: She was determined to stay in her role for as long as possible to protect social justice and equality in our nation; and

WHEREAS: In ruminating on the immortal words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice," Justice Ginsburg added but "only if there is a steadfast commitment to see the task through to completion." And

WHEREAS: we are so grateful to Justice Ginsburg, for her lifetime of hard work and unwavering

commitment to the causes she believed in; and

WHEREAS: To honor her legacy, we must continue to fight for equality and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Alders that the City of New Haven grieves the loss, celebrates the life, and honors the legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by recommitting to fight for equality and justice for all.