

CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNT VERNON  
SUPPORTS THE FAMILY OF  
AMADOU DIALLO

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this chamber a resolution adopted March 9, 2005 by the City Council of Mount Vernon, New York, supporting relief for the family of Amadou Diallo. The resolution calls on Congress to grant permanent resident status to the family of the young African immigrant who was shot 41 times by four plainclothes New York policemen.

The full text of the resolution of the Mount Vernon City Council follows:

Whereas, Amadou Diallo, a 24 year old immigrant from Guinea, was tragically gunned down in a hail of 41 bullets on February 4, 1999, by officers of the New York City Police Department as he attempted to enter his residence in the Bronx; and

Whereas, Amadou Diallo, an innocent man, was found to be unarmed at the time of his shooting; and

Whereas, the tragic story of Amadou Diallo garnered international attention, and an unprecedented outcry and weeks of demonstrations by New Yorkers who sympathized with his family;

Whereas, the Diallo family currently resides in the United States under "deferred action status" and are vulnerable to deportation in the upcoming months; and

Whereas, the Diallo family wishes to remain in the United States; and

Whereas, the Honorable United States Congressman Charles Rangel has proposed legislation, namely H.R. 677, which would grant permanent resident status to Amadou Diallo's family members: Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahima Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarela Diallo and Marliatou Bah; and

Whereas, granting permanent resident status to the Diallo family would be a proper and just recognition of the tragedy they have suffered, and it will allow the Diallo family to pursue the opportunities promised by the American Dream; and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon fully supports Congressman Rangel's proposed legislation and commends his efforts to keep the Diallo family in the United States; Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon, New York:

Hereby, fully supports Congressman Rangel's proposed legislation, H.R. 677, which would grant permanent resident status to Amadou Diallo's family members: Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahima Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarela Diallo and Marliatou Bah.

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon, New York, calls upon the United States Congress to support Congressman Charles Rangel's proposed legislation, H.R. 677, which would grant permanent resident status to Amadou Diallo's family members: Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahima Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarela Diallo and Marliatou Bah.

I extend my personal thanks to Mayor Ernest D. Davis, City Council President Karen Watts, City Councilman William R. Randolph,

and the rest of the Mount Vernon City Council for this resolution.

Surely, this Congress can heed the advice of the City Council and truly embrace the Diallo family for the loss of their son and brother.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL-  
MAN ED MIHALKANIN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ed Mihalkanin for his nine years of service to the people of San Marcos, Texas.

In addition to serving the City of San Marcos on the Council, Mr. Mihalkanin works at Texas State University as an Associate Professor of Political Science. He has been teaching at Texas State since 1990, and previously taught at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA.

He received a Master's Degree in 1985 and a Ph.D in 1991 from American University in Washington, DC. Mr. Mihalkanin is originally from Hanover Park, Illinois, and he received his undergraduate degree at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Mihalkanin was first elected to the Council in 1996, and currently represents the City Council on the Economic Development Council. He has served as Mayor Pro Tempore in 1999 and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem in 2003–2004.

Mr. Mihalkanin is a member of the Downtown Association, the Greater San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce, and many other organizations that help to better the San Marcos community as a whole.

Mr. Mihalkanin is a model of hard work and dedication to the city and to his students. By working as project director for the "Civitas Project," Mr. Mihalkanin helped to revive civic life in the communities of Lockhart, San Marcos, and Wimberley, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of San Marcos City Councilman Ed Mihalkanin.

DR. WILLIAM SCHWARTZ HONORED

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Schwartz as the co-founder of the Samaritan House Free Medical Clinic, as well as his dedication to the clinic since its inception in 1992. Dr. Schwartz was awarded the Jefferson Award for his work at the clinic that is located in San Mateo, California, in my district. His friends and colleagues have praised him for his selfless acts and hard work in trying to make our community a better place, and I hope the acknowledgment that comes from this award will inspire others to devote more of their time to helping those in need.

Thirteen years ago, Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Walter Gains started a free clinic for those

who could not afford health care. They treated patients in the conference room at Samaritan House one or two nights a week after spending the day at their own offices. The clinic provided free care through the generous contributions of lab work and x-rays by Mills Peninsula Hospital. Now open 6 days a week in two separate locations in San Mateo and Redwood City, the clinic serves 8,000 patients a year through donations that range from \$25 and \$50.

Mr. Speaker, small contributions and volunteers have kept this free clinic thriving. Ninety percent of the staff members donate their time after they leave their own jobs or after retirement. Dr. Schwartz worked as an internist in San Mateo for the 32 years in private practice and was preparing to retire when he got the idea to start the clinic. Now most of the doctors, nurses and translators running the clinic are retired. They include specialists in dentistry, gynecology, oncology, optometry, psychology, and orthopedics.

Dr. Schwartz has seen many free clinics disappear over time with people turning to more mainstream medical facilities, yet the number of needy people has risen. Most of the patients have extremely low incomes of less than thirty percent of median income. The Jefferson Award is bestowed by the American Institute of Public Service for making a difference in one's community. Dr. Schwartz has done just that. His clinic even has been able to relieve some of the stress on overcrowded emergency rooms that many poor people have come to rely on for many non-emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. William Schwartz for his contributions to my community. He has devoted his time to making a difference, beginning as a clinical professor at the University of California at San Francisco and now giving to the people of San Mateo and Redwood City medical attention. I rise today to congratulate him on winning the "Nobel Prize of Community Service." He and his wife, Florette, deserve a long vacation and the nation's thanks.

CONGRATULATING THE FALCONS  
ROBOTICS TEAM OF CARL HAY-  
DEN HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS  
ACHIEVEMENTS

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly draw your attention to the Falcons Robotics Team of Carl Hayden High School in my district. This talented group of students has succeeded in winning numerous robotics competitions, even beating the MIT team last year in a contest sponsored by NASA and the Office of Naval Research.

Teachers Allan Cameron, Fredi Lajvardi and Sam Alexander, with the help of other Carl Hayden faculty, wanted to create a club where students could engage in science, engineering, and math related activities that were educational as well as fun. Through the club, the students also had opportunities to meet professionals from science-oriented fields. The robotics team is small, made up of four students: Cristian Arcega, Lorenzo Santillan,