

## LAW &amp; JUSTICE

## Sotomayor Revisits School, Projects

## Newest justice recalls formative years

(AP)—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor returned to the New York City housing project where she spent part of her childhood Friday, recalling how an unlikely encounter there with Robert F. Kennedy ignited her passion for public service.

The Bronx native fought back tears at the ceremony renaming the Bronxdale Houses after Sotomayor.

In an emotional speech, Sotomayor said she lived in the project during the most formative years of her life. On a spring afternoon in 1958, she looked out of her second-story window and saw a famous face.

"Robert Kennedy was coming to visit our projects. I had never before looked down on red hair that bright," she said, adding that she went to the

library to look him up. "I was captivated by his career. Through this chance encounter above the old community center, my interest in public service was awakened."

With many residents of the complex listening in the audience, and her mother wiping away tears in the front row, Sotomayor reflected on a childhood that was spent surrounded by family. Her cousins, also from the projects, would join her at the local fast food joint for hamburger-eating competitions, she said.

"I do remember each time I drive by that White Castle, the hours and hours of laughter that my cousins and I had as we roamed the grounds of this housing project, and played in the playgrounds, and screamed and fought and laughed and lived,"



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor reacts as she speaks during a naming ceremony in her honor Friday. The Bronxdale Houses, a city housing development where Sotomayor lived as a child, was renamed Justice Sonia Sotomayor House following a petition drive by residents to honor her. (AP photo)

she said.

After speaking, she danced on stage with the choir from her alma mater, Cardinal Spellman High School.

Darryl Moore, a 42-year-old resident walking nearby with his 4-year-old daughter, said he hoped the new name—the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses and Community Center—would be a reminder to his children that they could go far in life no matter where they grew up.

"It's good to know somebody that came from housing and went on to be successful. Hopefully with her name here some better things will happen," he said.

Sotomayor assured the children that she was once a kid just like them. In those days, she aspired to be a lawyer, but never dreamed she'd get to the Supreme Court.

## Donations Support 'Z Man' Scholarships

## Honoring officer, community hero

The Portland Police Bureau partnered with local businesses and community leaders to raise more than \$100,000 during the Z-Man Scholarship Foundation's first annual benefit auction.

Last month's event attracted well over 300 guests, who bid for more than 160 donated items ranging from autographed shoes from Portland

Trail Blazer LaMarcus Aldridge to vacation travel packages, fine jewelry, an enormous Victorian doll house, and Oregon wines.

The foundation awards high school scholarships to students residing in the Portland community, based financial need, academic achievement, a commitment to public service and leadership potential.

The scholarship fund was established in memory of Portland Police Officer Mark "Z-Man" Zylawy, who patrolled northeast Portland for

more than 17 years. The highly regarded officer was killed on Jan. 27, 2008, in a tragic highway accident.

During his career, he earned the respect of community members and his fellow officers for his hard work, dedication, integrity and positive attitude. Officer Zylawy was publicly recognized for his superior police service, receiving 30 commendations, two unit citations, and the Bureau's Medal of Valor.

The Z-Man scholarship program strives to inspire the young people of Portland to utilize their educa-

tional opportunities and to give back to their community—in the spirit of Officer Zylawy.

## Crisis Center Wins Support

A proposed 16-bed crisis center has won the support of the Portland Development Commission which has allocated \$2 million for its creation on the second floor of

Multnomah County's Hooper Detoxification Center at 20 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The taxpayer monies will come from the Central Eastside Urban

Renewal Area budget. The funds were originally projected to be provided to the county in two years; however recent events demonstrated a pressing need to augment public mental health services now, officials said.

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