

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 7.14.20

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
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  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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**Notes** – Jackie O. **Facilitators** – Jennifer, Paul, Kellen **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

### GOOD NEWS

Trump lost the Vance case in the Supreme Court this week, so his tax records will be made public (bad news: not any time soon; plus Roger Stone's commutation).

### ACTIONS THIS PAST WEEK

Jamie: July 13 at **Queens County Courthouse**, action to pressure District Attorney Melinda Katz to release people due to COVID-19 risk, also to push her on broken promise re: stopping cash bail. 6-7 Rise and Resist folks attended w / "Covid Behind Bars = Death" banner. Organized by JustLeadershipUSA, Vocal-NY and others. Good speakers, action about 40 minutes.

### UPCOMING ACTIONS

- Jenny: **Friday, July 17, 5 pm, at 96<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway**; weekly "Say Their Names" action to publicly read names of black lives murdered by police.
- Jamie: Wed., **July 15, 5 pm at Trump Hotel** – NYPD Tax Day protest. Meet at Central Park West and 59<sup>th</sup> Street at police barricades. Trump Hotel has become a 'gated' community created by NYPD barriers, closing space to the public. This is 1) a misuse of NYPD; 2) violation of 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment free speech rights in the barricaded space; and 3) a huge waste of \$\$ during a health and economic crisis. New banner, "NYPD – New York's Private Doormen," and also new signs by Mary, including "Defund NYPD." Will hold a small press conference, do not yet have confirmed speakers.

Heather: I've been bothering NYC Council about this. Got msg back from a council person saying the NYPD barricades are because of "anticipated protest." Well, this is week 7 of "anticipated protest"! I guess we are the anticipated protest so let's go. This closure has not been approved by the NY Dept of Transportation.

Jonathan: This is all such b.s. I can speak at the action, as a member of my block association.

### **SAVE THE POST OFFICE ACTION GROUP**

Elka: This Thursday, when the Senate returns, we want calls to make sure the \$25 billion in HEROES Act for UPS comes through. Social media campaign launches this Thursday, to amplify this demand. See RaR [Save the Post Office Action Group](#) page for info. There is concern over attempts to “implode the post office from within,” to make it appear dysfunctional as an excuse to privatize. Cuts to postal workers’ overtime are happening, which will create delays in service and create that sense of dysfunction ...

### **COVID BEHIND BARS ACTION GROUP**

Donna: Several of us just came from the Justice & Decarceration action, happening now at Union Sq, marching to Cuomo’s office to demand passage of NY state bills supporting decarceration.

Next, JustLeadership folks will be meeting w/multiple DAs about bail reform.

Thurs., **July 30 at 5 pm** Rise and Resist will organize action focusing on immigrants and detention centers, site(s) TBA.

Lynne: Keep our eyes on this Friday, July 17, when separation of immigrant children from parents being detained may again take place.

Jenny: Watch today’s [Democracy Now show](#) about Friday’s deadline; 500 children at risk of being separated.

### **ELMHURST HOSPITAL DEMO / HEALTH CARE ACTION GROUP**

Mark: We are delaying the launch date (originally scheduled for July 23) of Elmhurst Hospital demo in order to be in touch with local groups in Queens. This is organizing work that will in the long-run be helpful; and we need to respect the local work being done there. Plan is to hold ongoing actions across several boroughs. Connecting with health care workers unions who have expressed interest.

### **NEW ACTIONS**

- Jennifer (working w/Jonathan and Karin): Movement to support artists and cultural institutions that are in free fall due to economic crisis. Want to take the footprint of Postal Action group and send 1000 postcards to 100 Senators to demand ‘Fund the Arts!’. Hope to send by early next week. 4.5% of US GDP comes from the Arts, \$877 billion annually in value-added in the U.S., and yet artists / designers / musicians / performers / dancers are in a devastating situation right now. By the end of July, thousands could lose their apartments, income, health care.

Want to use the Rise and Resist template to join union actions and build movement. See [Be An Arts Hero](#) social media campaign, to pressure for immediate relief by August 1 for artists.

**Vote passes to endorse action and approve \$450 for postcards & stamps.**

- Heather: Have an idea for taking “Trump Lies People Die” banner to Yankee Stadium for one of the baseball games to be played to an empty stadium. Hopefully there will be news cameras there, to get visual coverage. Possible dates: July 19, 7 pm, exhibition game between Mets/Yankees; or July 29, 7 pm, season home opener for the Yankees.

Discussion of dates & logistics. Decision: 5-6 folks will meet for the July 19 exhibition game w/banner. If it goes well, may return for July 29 as well.

**Vote passes to endorse action.**

### **CITY BUDGET / DEFUND THE POLICE**

Elka: I was at Occupy City Hall. After the vote on July 1, organizers left and it became Abolition Plaza. The \$1 billion “defunding” was just moving money around and not a real cut.

Sharing a [resource document](#) we put together (w/Jody and others) that connects Defund the Police to immigration politics, ICE, etc. Document includes link to excellent webinar by Jumaane Williams explaining Defund the Police and linked issues. [Vocal NY](#), a key group, has returned to communities to address ongoing issues of eviction, immigration, etc.

### **ERT ENDORSEMENTS**

Emergency response team (ERT) voted to endorse two actions since our last meeting:

- 1) Donna: RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) action which is happening now, July 14, 5 pm in Union Square marching to Cuomo’s office. Aimed at state-level bills to get elders out of prison now; change parole system; abolish solitary confinement.

**Vote passes to ratify ERT endorsement.**

- 2) Ann R: Make the Road, with Make Billionaires Pay coalition, is having a Thurs-Friday, July 16-17 action. It starts as a [Fast to #FundExcludedWorkers](#) at noon on Thursday in Madison Square Park. Day laborers, farmworkers, vendors, clergy, and elected will all be participating in the fast. Aim: to get billionaires to fund undocumented communities excluded from federal stimulus aid, or the CARES act. Then there will be a [March on Billionaires](#) starting Friday at 10:30 a.m. from Madison Sq Park to Cuomo’s office.

Jamie: MtRoad, with JREJ [also DRUM, Street Vendors Project, and others] aren’t really looking for people at the park. They want folks, including RaR, to join in the Friday March on Billionaires, which will include people who have been fasting in the park. There will be a teach-in component to the March. Rise and Resist will bring our RaR banner.

**Vote passes to ratify ERT endorsement.**

### **FINANCE**

Susan: We have \$21,500 ... that’s \$500 less than last week ... We’re going down quickly, which is great...

### **NON-RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Elka: Have been supporting, with others, Angie Kearse, widow of Andrew Kearse who died in the back of a police car in Schenectady, NY, in May 2017. The Andrew Kearse Act was passed

in NY state, making it a crime for cops to deny medical care to people in custody and Elizabeth Warren is now pushing for it to be a federal law. Mark Weekes was the officer involved in Andrew's death. This week, police in Schenectady kneeled on a man's neck, and Weekes was one of the officer's called to the scene (he was supposed to have been fired).

Angie Kearse: I love you guys. I support you. I'm getting folks on board for a **proposed action, July 26, in Schenectady**. A march from the place where this latest incident happened, to the precinct. There's a lot of people getting killed and hurt upstate, including native people. Looking for Rise and Resist support.

We will have an update about how this action is shaping up at next Tuesday's meeting.

[[from Livvie, added after meeting: NYC school funding's been cut by \$1 billion so far. Schools are supposedly re--opening, but how can that happen safely with even less money to pay for necessary precautions. Families, teachers, and school workers aren't being given info or a voice and they're sick of it. Rally with them **Friday at 2:00 at Occupy City Hall** as they demand a voice in the planning that's life and death for them:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/629665017647498/> ]]

**### RISE AND RESIST ###**