

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition – 8.11.20

---

### Rise and Resist Contact Information:

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](http://www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](http://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
  - Instagram: [www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/](http://www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/)
  - General email: [info@riseandresist.org](mailto:info@riseandresist.org)
  - Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
- 

**Participants:** 46 **Facilitators** Karin & Paul **Notes** Jackie O. **ASL Signer** Elizabeth

### REPORT BACKS

- Robert: **NYCAN held a memorial and press conference on August 6, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.** Held at the Municipal Building, with about 20 people (12 RaR folks), the press conference promoted City Council passage of disarmament legislation, including divesting the city's pension and finances from nuclear weapons production. Request that the City Council pass this on August 28 (you can view a livestream of the City Council meeting at 1:30 pm). The action gave a lot of momentum to the group, NYCAN, which had good media coverage in a number of outlets.
- Jenny: Weekly **Say Their Names action / ritual** held on Friday, August 7, to mark the lives of black and brown men and women murdered by police or vigilantes. About 25-30 people participated, people joined in, many stayed the whole time, we are becoming a 'known group.' Action takes place on the North corner of 96<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway every Friday at 5 pm.
- Cherie: **Biden / Blackrock action held on Mon., Aug 10**, together with other groups including NY Communities for Change, and 350.org. Blackrock CEO Larry Fink is being considered as a possible cabinet member in a Biden admin. Action opposes Fink and exposes that while there is a façade of 'green funds,' BlackRock is all about the fossil fuel industry, weapons, and deforestation. The action was intended as a photo-op -- tweeting began immediately and circulated widely.
- Jennifer: **Elevator Action Group teamed up with MTA on Thurs., Aug. 6** to demand that accessibility for people with disabilities be a priority for MTA funding. The \$12 billion ask for a transit budget needs to emphasize disability/accessibility. The action marked the opening of a new elevator (on the L line at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, at 14<sup>th</sup> St. and Ave A), and presented a public letter calling for the priority budgeting. MTA is talking the talk, and now needs to walk the walk.

## UPCOMING ACTIONS

- Donna: [Thurs., Aug 13, 5 pm at the Manhattan Bridge/Bowery & Canal](#): a repeat of previous successful action re: "COVID BEHIND BARS" to call attention to how folks in immigrant detention and prisons/jails are at greater risk of sickness and death from COVID. And to the fact there is no adequate PPE, sanitary supplies, or medical care. Thursday action will try to clarify the message that "... Behind Bars" includes detention centers. Banners displayed will also include "Close the Camps," "Seeking Asylum is Not a Crime," and "Free Detained Immigrants" (new banner). Plan is to maybe hold this action every other Thursday, alternating between targets (drivers and pedestrians) and between uptown and downtown locations.

Discussion of Instagram as a better platform for us than FB for announcing our events (Elka). Mary notes that Comms has access to Twitter, Instagram and FB and we should give Comms stuff and they will post ....

- Mark: [Beds Not Bodybags: Queens Needs Hospital Beds](#), a '**Vigil for Health Care Equity**' launching at **Elmhurst Hospital on Friday, Aug. 14, 6:45 pm**. Meet at the front entrance to the hospital. Health Care Action group's research and the campaign they have developed over the past several weeks, highlights the fact that the # of hospital beds in Queens (and other outer boroughs) per thousand people is dramatically less than the # of hospital beds in Manhattan per thousand people. In fact, Queens is the county in the US with the lowest # of hospital beds per person. The action raises the issue of health care equity, and the fact that state and city officials' policy decisions over the past decade have centralized health care in Manhattan, while low-income, of color, and immigrant neighborhoods have seen a decrease in resources and the closing of hospitals.

The Elmhurst Hospital action is a kick-off to a series of actions focusing on racial justice and health equity. The Health Care Action group has reached out to neighborhood groups and unions in Queens who have asked to be kept in the loop. The action is designed to be small and physically distanced. Bilingual leaflets will be handed out, wearing gloves and w/no physical contact.

Elka again suggests Instagram would be helpful here to announce the action to groups like Vocal, for whom health care is also a priority issue.

- Jamie: Update on developing action and new banner/issue, '**Democracy Dies in a Police State**': the banner is in process. Photos are being selected for signs. Date and location TBA.

## NEW ACTION PROPOSAL

- Robert C: **On Trump's nomination day, Thurs., August 27**, proposed action to manifest publicly the crimes and atrocities of his regime. Theme: '**No More Years!**' Location & Time: From 6 pm to sunset, meeting at Naumburg Bandshell @ Central Park. Processing to Bethesda Fountains (healing waters), with staging of the procession. Banners to include: Democracy Dies in a Police State; US Immigration Policy is a Crime;

Trump Lies People Die; Climate Emergency. Edited video and photos from the event. Request for \$400 for banners, posters, candles.

Heather: Guests welcome, there will be no FB event posted. Picturing different teams will carry different banners.

Jonathan: Imagining a dramatic effect – optics – with different staging areas and people/banners entering from different sides.

If you want to be part of the planning group, **email Robert at rcroon@gmail.com**

**Vote passes unanimously to support this new action.**

**Vote passes to approve \$400 budget.**

**POST OFFICE WORKING GROUP** (See [Save the Post Office Action Group](#) page.)

- Elka: How to approach this issue now? We've contributed to making this issue visible, and now it is everywhere (E. Warren video just released, headlines, etc.). But we are frightened now to suggest people do vote-by-mail given the threat that mail-in votes are going to be discounted and suppressed. For now, the issue is on the back burner, "on watch," until something wakes us up with a need to do something more.

**STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE, SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM**

- Sandy: Claire and I created this summer internship program out of two intersecting issues: students losing summer internships due to COVID, and the urgent need to fight voter suppression. Program enrolled 64 interns, with 22 adult mentors including several RaR folks. The program/interns generated 50,000+ postcards (that registered 10,000 new voters); 40,000 phone calls; \$10,000 raised; and included videos, op-eds, etc.

We have been overwhelmed by the support and energy of the group this summer, and give public thanks to many RaR people including Robert C. (stipends), Jay W. (invited talk), Alex (marshal training), Susan L. (accounting guidance), and more! Rise and Resist was central to the project being launched, and to its success.

A major foundation has just awarded Sandy and Claire a grant to recruit 120 interns (with stipends) for a Fall internship program.

Final description of the mentorship role for the Fall program will be available (via Comms) on the RaR website this week.

**ELECTIONS – GET OUT THE VOTE**

Wroff: It's 12 weeks before the election. For people who want to be involved: <https://votefwd.org/>

Jamie: A reminder that this is information, not advocacy. Since RaR does not support candidates, advocacy would be inappropriate.

Cherie: There are many non-partisan forms of action to take, including postcards to voters in swing states. Email me if you are interested at [cherie.acierno@gmail.com](mailto:cherie.acierno@gmail.com)

Sandy: From mid-August there will be a flood of de-registered voters who have been purged from the rolls. Phone banking is happening through the end of September to help folks re-register. Email me if you are interested at [slradoff@gmail.com](mailto:slradoff@gmail.com)

Cherie: Phone banking is better this year – more people are at home, and are enthusiastic and positive about speaking to you. Check out [Reclaim Our Vote](#) phone banking.

### **DISCUSSION RE: NYPD/DHS PROTESTS – DERRICK INGRAM**

Jamie: Derrick Ingram, a NYC activist with Warriors in the Garden (a self-described non-violent direct action group), was [targeted at home last Friday](#) by SWAT arrest team, dozens of cops, helicopter, sharpshooters. NYPD claimed he used a megaphone to yell at a police officer, in an incident two months ago. Six hours of targeted assault—where the NYPD did not have an arrest warrant—ended in the NYPD withdrawing. Many activists showed up during the assault to support Derrick, who was livestreaming the attempt to arrest him. Derrick voluntarily went to the police the next day, his charges were dropped to a misdemeanor (not felony) assault, he was released on his own recognizance, and his court date is in November.

For activists, it is chilling to see how NYPD came for Derrick, on charges they searched for in video footage from months earlier.

Elka: This is the second example of NYPD reviewing footage from Occupy City Hall. After Derrick's charges were reduced, the president of the Police Benevolent Assoc publicly condemned the reduced charges, and the fact that the NYPD withdrew from Derrick's home. The coalition that showed up at his home was amazing.

Jona: Some college friends of mine helped start Warriors in the Garden, and I've worked with them before. It's great to see RaR talking about this.

Donna: This is outrageous. We should go to City Hall, pressure de Blasio.

Discussion of possible response – emphasis that RaR should support those already responding, and follow other's lead instead of taking the lead on our own.

Elka: We need to tend to Instagram. We can learn how to participate if we are serious about being out there. For those interested in building our Instagram platform or in joining me in attending actions that emerge quickly **please email me at [elka@elka.net](mailto:elka@elka.net)**

Martin: Yes to Instagram. Check this Instagram for NYC action postings: <https://www.instagram.com/justiceforgeorgencyc/> We need to tag others when we are doing an action ...

Jamie: Action committee will address this tomorrow – then work with Comms.

Other ideas discussed: Rapid Response Signal Group – more proactive? Develop a central resource beyond our minutes for action items? Consolidate Alerts?

**MARCH FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING – Friday, AUGUST 21, 6 pm**

Martin: RaR approved this action. The death and suffering from COVID have been largely pushed aside, this action will try to center it. Our sponsors so far include Indivisible, NYIC, Center for Popular Democracy. The route will be long, starting at Barclays in Brooklyn, heading across the Brooklyn Bridge, past Foley Square, down Broadway to Wall Street.

See [MarchForTheDead.org](https://www.facebook.com/events/2734173156899372/) FB event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2734173156899372/>

**NON-RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Elka: August 28 is the anniversary of the March on Washington—RaR can participate. Sharpton has said that something will happen in DC. In NYC, we can think along the lines of our banners for ‘Abolish ICE’ and ‘Take Your Knee Off His Neck.’ Will return to this discussion.

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