

INBOXRise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 7.7.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
 - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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 - General email: info@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 - Heather **Facilitators** - Stu, Alexandra, Karin, and Jamie **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

RE-CAP OF BANNER ACTIONS

- Jamie shared photos of our “Take Your Knee Off His Neck” banner at 96th & Broadway on 7/5 for the reading of the names of those lost to police violence.
- The banner went to a rally for the Campaign for an Elected Civilian Review Board on 7/3 at Foley Square.
- Jamie also shared photos of Rise and Resist members at the Confronting July 4th march and rally in Brooklyn on 7/4.

FUTURE BANNER ACTIONS

- Jenny: We will continue to have our reading of the names vigil at **96th & Broadway**, at **5:00 pm each Friday**. This action continues to move people on an individual level. People come by to say thank you. It’s an action where people can come and feel safe protesting when they may not in other venues. This week we added 8 or 10 names since the previous reading. The action will take place at 5:00 each Friday unless it’s raining at 4:30. If it’s raining, just come out the next week.
- Members discussed holding this vigil in other places around the city simultaneously with the action at 96th and Broadway. Since we have two banners to anchor our space, we could do two at a time. Having the banner is important as it draws people’s attention and makes us look more organized. A group of people with handheld signs is less effective.

POST OFFICE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- Robert: RaR participated in National Day of Action on June 24, which was very much appreciated by the unions and retired postal workers.
- Up Next - our position on vote by mail is not to encourage vote-by-mail, but to let people know that it's an option. Robert shared an article about problems with vote by mail, especially that not all envelopes get a postmark and then they have to be discarded. <https://gothamist.com/news/heres-what-could-invalidate-your-absentee-ballot-and-its-beyond-your-control>
- A lot of the postal workers are not using PPE. We're looking to contact the unions and postmaster generals to see what we can do to make sure they have PPE and feel that they can encourage and enforce mask-wearing when people come into the post offices.
- We should support the HEROES ACT. Originated in the House, McConnell may not bring it up for a vote. It includes 25 billion for the post office to make up for lost revenue due to COVID-19. We will be doing daily social media blasts on this issue. We will be talking to the Legislative Directors in Senator Gillibrand's office to see if there are Senators we can pressure to vote for the HEROES ACT. This 25 billion will just be enough to keep the doors open at your post office.
- Lynne: Is our position on Vote By Mail unique to New York? Robert confirmed that it is for New York, that our state was clearly not ready for the number of people who wanted to Vote by Mail.

VOTING RIGHTS AND ISSUES

- Mary: people should look to Common Cause to learn what the pros and cons of Vote by Mail are in each state. <https://www.commoncause.org/>
- Jane: The NY Democratic Lawyers Council advocates for voting reforms in NY and this fall will be launching a very large voting protection program. If you would like to work on voter protection, this is a great way to get plugged in to volunteer in battleground states. <https://www.nydcl.org/>
- Jenny: back during the Bush era, she did work with the NYDLC and thought they were very well organized and she had a good experience.

CITY BUDGET UPDATE

- Mark: It's too early to know what the budget really means for our work. Oftentimes when these budget deals get done, we have only the broadest strokes at first and activists are still drilling down to see what is in there and what has been cut. We will know more at next week's meeting.
- Katrina: the NYPD has been relieved of the policing of the homeless. The Department of the Homeless will be taking over after a transition period. Coalition for the Homeless and other advocacy groups will be keeping an eye on this and let us know when we need to act again.

- Jennifer: The MTA hired a lot of police and they're over-policing the subway. Occupy City Hall created a situation where the City Hall elevator was made inoperable, which created a safety hazard for people getting off at that stop. Not necessarily VOCAL's fault, but it may have gotten out of hand, and the activists forgot about the disabled people who need the elevator. They didn't realize that the "art" on the elevator made it inoperable.

NEW ACTIONS

Bail Reform Action at the Queens Courthouse, Monday July 13, at 9:00 - 10:00am.

Donna: in partnership with JLUSA and Jails Leadership Coalition. This is the first action in a series in each county. The purpose is to pressure the DAs to not use bail. Melinda Katz, Queens DA, ran on a platform of no bail, but has backed away from that. RaR will bring the "Covid Behind Bars = Death" banner and the signs that we used at Rikers. We had to make a new sign for Walter Ance who died of COVID-19 at Rikers because the Queens DA refused to release him before trial. The address is 125-01 Queens Boulevard. Queens County Criminal Court - E/F to Kew Gardens/Union Turnpike

VOTE: should RaR be a co-sponsor of this action? Passed unanimously.

Defund the Police Action outside the Trump Hotel, Wednesday, July 15 5:00pm.

Jamie: The police have barricaded the Hotel, including blocking off CPW and W 61st Street . They have closed off the public plaza on the Broadway side. At 60th Street and CPW there is a small opening in the barricades for one car to get in. A whole bunch of NYPD officers are acting as private security and personal doormen for everyone on these 2 blocks. This is the only piece of private property that the NYPD has secured this way. It's creating a private fortress and privatizing the streets of the city. We want to do a Defund the Police demonstration because this is a waste of city resources. Who are they protecting? And why? No other hotel has a police force surrounding it to make sure nobody is disturbed by a demonstration.

The proposal is to hold a press conference at 5:00 on Wednesday the 15th. Our banner will say "New York's Private Doormen" and we will have hand-held signs with a defund the police theme. Asking for \$300 for the banner and signs. The 15th is also tax day and this is a waste of tax dollars. We will have a small press conference that will be ourselves speaking and maybe VOCAL and maybe some other coalition friends. This will be a socially distanced action, so we still have to discuss in the Actions Working Group how we make this the appropriate size - large enough that we are a show of force but not so many people that we can't distance.

**VOTE: should we do this action and spend \$300? Action - passed unanimously.
Budget - passed unanimously**

Mary (via chat): Bike twitter and blogs have been up-in-arms about the NYPD blocking off streets to make little fortresses for themselves. You might want to specifically invite folks from

TransAlt and those blogs to cover this event. They don't normally get involved in social justice activism, but "NYPD Doormen" is an issue that would break through to them.

Elmhurst Hospital - Thursday, July 23 at 6:45 (the evening shift change).

Alex: This will be a protest for increased hospital beds in Queens. Mark H: we will have more information to share next week. Save the date! We're working on designing the banners and signs and getting in touch with the nurses' union.

SCOTUS Demo

Karin: if SCOTUS finds in favor of Trump for the cases involving his taxes, we will have a demo the next day at noon at Trump Tower. Jamie: so far the announcements have been on Mondays, one at a time, so we can guess it will be next Monday or the one following. It sounds like this may go in our favor, if Congress and the SDNY can see his taxes, we will be happy. Otherwise, we may be on the street before next week's meeting.

FINANCE UPDATE

- Susan: Our net worth is \$22,400, an increase of \$9,800. This includes a new \$10k gift from Broadway Cares/Tom Viola / Equity Fights AIDS. This is a result of Jackie sharing our body bags at Trump Tower action with Mr. Viola, who has been a long time supporter of RaR, and the body bags in front of Trump Tower reminded him to give us a check.
- Alex: if we were meeting in person, we would all sign a thank-you card. How should we do this now?
- Mary: every year she sends thank you cards to donors who gave over \$100, so she can help with this
- Jenny: perhaps the best way to thank him is to spend the money in a big way that resonates with us.
- Jackie: maybe we can send a framed photo of the body bags action.
- Susan: we can think a little larger now with our actions, now that we have money in the bank.
- Karin: the Broadway community is one of the decimated communities now. If people made an individual donation to BC/EFA, in honor of Tom's gift, this would be a small way to show appreciation.
- Robert: We could also focus on an action that supports funding for the arts.

NON-RaR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students for Justice - Claire U. and Sandy have started an internship program for college students whose summer plans fell through that focuses on voter suppression. There is so much

work to be done in voter outreach, so they have brought these two issues together. It launched on July 1. It has 64 interns from 33 colleges, with special emphasis on colleges that have a lot of first-generation college students. The students speak 5 different languages. Four RaR members have volunteered to be supervisors/mentors for the students. The centerpiece of the program is voter outreach. 12-14 interns are making a film about how to motivate young people to vote. The rest will participate in a workshop on how to write an effective Op-Ed. The hope is that the films and the op-eds will get out in September and October. If anyone has ideas for speakers for this program, who can talk on the topic of voting and/or voting + activism, let Sandy know.

<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/students-for-justice/>

How to donate: Youth Arts NY is raising money to create small stipends for these students. If you would like to contribute go to Youth Arts New York or contact Robert Croonquist via email.

<https://youthartsnewyork.org>

Sandy: There will most likely be another wave in September and October. If there are people who want to help out with the fall class, Sandy will let us know how to be involved.

Postcard Parties are starting up again over Zoom on Mondays at 8:00. If you're interested, get in touch with Mary. Meetings are focused on postcards to voters. Yesterday the group wrote 142 postcards to encourage Dems in Broward County to register to vote by mail.

World Wide Roll-Out to Roll Against Hate. July 11, Prospect Park at 10:00. Organized by the Roller Derby community.

RISE AND RESIST