

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 11.9.2021

Rise and Resist Contact Information

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 - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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Facilitators: Jay and Alex **Notes:** Maryellen

Good News!

- Taxi Workers Alliance has all their demands met by NYC. [See celebration here.](#)
- Infrastructure Bill Passes in Congress

11/3 Taxi Workers Alliance Victory

- RAR participated in the hunger strike via daily solidarity fasts. Taxi Workers saw us as allies and supporters and appreciated the solidarity a lot.
- Strike was settled. When the head of union returned from mtg. with the mayor she announced that they received every single thing they asked for. Everybody was filled with joy – it was a great scene.
- Today was a party to celebrate, and three RAR people went. Drivers were in a huddle and danced to music played by a DJ. The whole experience was amazing for everyone who got involved with it.
- Really wonderful today. There was a lot of joy. Politicians were there including DeBlasio and Schumer declaring victory. People yelled to Schumer about voter rights and kill the filibuster. It was wonderful to be part of pure happiness about life being better. It meant a lot to the allies with the taxi drivers.
- It's an amazing union because they are so close and a family. Baravi is amazing. She's very political and radical. A lot of the union members are radical. They didn't fold and stayed to their demands to the end – that's exactly what they said they would do and that's what she did.
- Baravi was mentored by Leslie Cagan.
- Corey Johnson wasn't there.
- Question: Are any of the demands helping the drivers to keep going – not just about the debt?

Answer: There are all sorts of things people can talk about in terms of the settlement. The reality is that they are relieved and thrilled. WE can look at the specifics that one person said he owes \$1M. There was no way to dampen the joy. The essence of the celebration had to do with the money and not the sustainability of the situation.

- Yellow cabs are cheaper now than Uber. That might help.
- The taxi drivers were carrying debt up to \$500K and it was reduced to \$170K. One driver said he couldn't believe it...it is something he'll be able to manage.
- There was talk about restrictions being put on Uber and Lyft in terms of taxing them differently.

*Infrastructure Bill Passed in Congress

- A lot of really good aspects. It's been 10 years trying to pass a major infrastructure bill in Congress. Finally happened. A lot of money is coming into NY for various things.
- Related to this is that the House almost got the Build Back Better bill as well. All the procedural stuff was completed, so when they return next week all they have to do is debate it and then it's done.
- There were a handful of moderates that voted No. They would vote for it provided they had further analysis from the CBO. The joint statement said they would vote for the bill no later than the end of the week or 11/15th. At that time the House will vote on it and the moderates will vote for it.
- MTA and elevator access will be funded by the Infrastructure Bill.

Report Backs and discussion

11/5 Say Their Names- every Friday at 4:30PM at 96th St and Broadway

- The weather was good.
- The action continues.
- At the beginning there was one person/guy who said, "Haven't you ruined America enough already." There were some comments, but we held strong.
- Good attendance
- In addition to the few people who threw out negative comments, there were quite a few people who walked by and were very appreciative.

11/9 Truth Tuesdays at FOX - upcoming action 11/16 - 9AM 48th St. and 6th Ave.

- There were quite a few people there.
- There was a chalk artist there.
- A lot of attention from passersby, with chants and taking pictures.
- There were hoots and hollers from the tour bus.
- There are terrific, impactful signs.
- There is a Fox Lies Democracy Dies (20') banner.
- New banner (20') today: Fox Stop Hurting America
- Twitter account has been active.
- Began as a conversation about a 1 ½ ago. Facebook page went up one year ago.
- A lot of retweets.

- An activist in DC wants to coordinate something.
- Young news photographer and one from a European agency were there today.
- Next week's theme is healthcare focused. There is a new series of 18"x24" signs, and street theater: tomb stones and a coffin.
- There will be dates when people died by Covid in increments (e.g., 100k, 200k, etc.). Many are encouraged to attend since there will be lots of roles to play (20-25 ppl).
- Zeroing in on this action of Fox's role in lies about the pandemic and treatments.
- Won't be boisterous...more serious and somber.
- Medical representatives will be contacted via Facebook event to attend.
- At some point there will be an action about white supremacy.

Chase Bank surprise action

- RAR has encountered issues with Chase headquarters and POP spaces. There is an indoor lobby that's supposed to remain accessible. But when they get wind that people/protestors are heading over, they lock all the doors. Essentially they're breaking the law.
- Climate group connected with actions, did a letter campaign to Jumaane Williams. There was some work done and were identified as being in compliance. There was some back and forth.
- Decided to go there when they didn't know people were going. As soon as they saw people were going in, a horn went off, a gate dropped (dangerous), locked all the doors, but didn't eject people.
- Wanted to see what they would do if we just held the space and stayed longer than expected. Outnumbered 3:1. Wanted to have the police explain to Chase security that we had a right to be there. Blue shirts were unable to do that, but the white shirts could.
- Chase security was upset that RAR was able to get in. It was a very effective thing to spring on them for one hour. Well worth going there and doing that to let them know that we know what our rights are. And that we don't leave when the police arrive.
- Cops kept pressing to see how long we were going to stay, but we stayed as long as we wanted.
- Other ideas in development to see how the POP issue can be pressed.
- One member tried to access the space last week during a commute to use the tunnel, but the doors were locked.
- This was the first time a Chase employee spoke with a RAR member to talk about the issues. He was part of the ESG (environmental social governance) which lends money to wind farms, solar (but he wouldn't give his name). The executives consider it important to participate in ESG issues. But RAR members noted the greenwashing. Shows that the employees really notice we're there and we have an effect on them.
- Question: How would you gain beyond what you were able to do/what more do you want to do besides standing with signs? What is the goal being there, and trying to effect it?
Answer: We're going at Chase at a lot of different levels, with coalitions and also creative actions. But they would shut us out, even though it's the law to keep the space open. Wanted to experiment with how the space would be treated and employees would react. Want to hold them to simple rules, laws, and regs to ensure proper egress in and out of the space. We did engage

with some people and they were aware we were there. Important to know whether we have the right to access the space.

- Question: Are there now signs in there that read, "No protests".

Answer: This sign has been there already and notes that passages can't be blocked.

Upcoming Actions

Wednesday 11/10 COP26 Gathering In Global Solidarity at 5PM at 43rd St. and 1st Ave. (ERT)

- In coalition with Extinction Rebellion (XR) holding daily vigils.
- 26 years of the UN climate meetings, but we're still dealing with compromises.
- Holding space across from the UN (Ralph Bunche Park).
- Bringing signs and candles.
- Many people were walking north and south, well lit.
- RAR is taking one night.
- Friday: Climate catharsis circle, potluck, dance party
- Saturday: NY Renews March starting in Times Square (12-2pm)

- **Vote for ERT's decision to endorse action**

Decision: Passed

Thursday 11/11 Immigration Vigil in Oculus at 5PM

- Immigration has been silent in the news cycle.
- Republicans were using immigration/borders as a talking point, then started focusing on critical race theory.
- Returning to the Oculus, ground floor (in the middle)...haven't been there in almost two years.
- At actions meeting will discuss the props and banners (likely focusing on the rights of Haitian refugees to seek asylum in this country).

Saturday 11/13 We Demand Climate Justice 12 noon Times Sq.

- NY Renews is sponsoring a march and demo (starting at 44th and Broadway).
- It's about passing the CCI Act.
- <https://actionnetwork.org/events/nyc-demands-climate-action-november-13th-mobilization>
- Bunch of groups are elevating this action.
- Call for marshals (sign up via the link, or just show up).

Wednesday 11/17 Elevator Actions MTA Board Mtg. 2 Broadway 9AM

- Good news: last week a letter was sent to Hochul requesting a meeting about accessibility and the MTA. Heard back from a rep from her office. Putting in touch with new representative (<https://riverdalepress.com/stories/hochul-appoints-dot-commish-nivardo-lopez-to-state-transportation-post.76456>)
- Will not be rallying this month. But will hold one in December because we'll have a lot more information about Hochul's plans with the MTA.
- Feeling very optimistic about the reaction from Hochul's office.

- Elevator action group has done remarkable work. When started no one was really aware of all the issues. Have been very effective – and not just with conversations but also with obtaining funding.
- Work with many groups, many people involved in the movement. What's most satisfying is the coalition building. It's a victory with so many people's input and collaboration.

Follow up on NYYRC December 4 Dinner

- Using social media to question and needle the NYYRC.
 - Having a gala on December 4th but posting about it all over social media
 - There are three congressional reps they're featuring during the gala that are especially hostile and
 - New York Young Republican Club - Tweeting back at the @NYYRC about their "Gala"
- Also comment on Instagram @nyyrc and Facebook (New York Young Republicans)

Gosar's "animated video" attacking AOC and Biden
 Boebert and Gaetz joking about blowing up the metal detectors in congress.
 Gaetz is accused of sleeping with a minor and transporting her across state lines.

Some other people they can invite:

Jacob Chansley (QAnon Shaman)
 Jenna Ellis - Trump Lawyer
 Sldney Powell - Trump Lawyer
 Louie Gohmert - (TX01)
 Marjorie Taylor Greene - (GA14)
 Steve Bannon
 Stephen Miller
 Mike Flynn....

- There are a lot of ways to comment on this action throughout the social media activity
- Gala location has not been announced.
- Don't get into arguing with people on social media (e.g., when people call "you" a snowflake, reply with, "no it's a blizzard")

3 Upcoming Decarceration Actions + request for time for a teach-in

- Rikers continues to be unbearable, judges continue to require bail that people cannot pay, people are still in solitary confinement
- Executive order to put a prisoner in solitary for as long as they choose. He reversed his previous plan that was slated to go into effect on September 1st. The result is sure to lead to more suicides at Rikers.
- As people in the decarceration movement are demanding the end of solitary and closing of Rikers, they're also looking to reduce the number of prisons: RAPPs campaign to push the two parole bills when they're passed and enacted upon thousands of people will be able to go

home. There is a new clemency campaign in Hochul being Gov. Break from Cuomo to use her clemency powers – launch was today at governor’s office. RAR members were at that event.

- Amazing event with excitement and energy. Many speakers
- CCA is launching a campaign to address long sentences until people are in prison until they die. Wednesday, November 10th at 6pm, join the virtual launch of the campaign.

- **Vote for RAR to join campaign Community Not Cages coalition (overhauling the sentencing laws in NY State (which includes multiple events)**
Decision: Passed

- Turn on the Tap Campaign (TTC): restore college tuition assistance to people in prison. There is a zoom on November 14th, 3-5pm. Way to get more focused on the program.

- **Vote for a future teach-in during an RAR meeting, about the issues surrounding solitary confinement and Rikers (date tbd)**
Decision: Passed

Request for teach in on Home Health Care Workers strike

- Labor organizer has been very involved with a group that’s been conducting strikes, up to four days a week.
- Home Health care Workers have been hired by NGOs to work 24 hours a day, but get paid 13 hours because they can supposedly sleep over night. But of course, healthcare workers cannot sleep overnight.
- This is oppressive...many people are Asian.

- **Vote for a future teach-in with Students for Justice about this topic during an RAR meeting (date tbd)**
Decision: Passed

New Actions

Action at Schumer’s Home. (Sunday) November 14th at noon.

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/402472027912388>

- Action to protect our healthcare in the BBB bill, in collaboration with Heroes for Healthcare, and CPD.
- Particularly about the expansion of Medicare in the direction of Medicare for All.
- A way to communicate to Schumer that we need him to do something to ensure
- Reaching out to senators across the country at the same time.

- **Vote to endorse action by Heroes for Healthcare and CPD.**
Decision: Passed

NYC SHOUT (Supportive Housing Organized and United Tenants)

- https://twitter.com/NYC_SHOUT

- No action at the current time, but will reach out to RAR for help developing actions
- Tabled until City Council meets next week

Endorse/Support December 1 Strike For Choice

- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strike-for-choice-tickets-202560272227>

- <https://www.strikeforchoice.org>

- Call for mass action on December 1st (when the SC has announced it'll hear oral arguments in MS case designed to overturn Roe v Wade)
- The Mississippi case is scary because people involved with reproductive justice over the years have basically given up (e.g., SC will overturn Roe and then have to fight state by state). Very frightening because SC has six fundamentalists. They have the power to say whatever they want and when outraged say "they're not partisan hacks". 3/6 were young lawyers on GWB's Florida recount (e.g., John Roberts – awarded with Chief Justice position, Kavanaugh, and Barrett).
- The other three are known as more extremist (Alito – obscene language about Queer rights, Gorsuch – constantly interrupts women when they're arguing cases in front of him; Thomas – was the original Kavanaugh)
- The SC has always ruled with popular opinion in cases when there is popular outrage regarding a ruling. If there is a mass unrest, it'll really matter that we show them our outrage.
- The 12/1st plan originated last year as a plan to defeat the coup that was coming from Trump.
- We cannot get any popular legislation passed; the SC is in a position to strike it down (strike down anything they want). We have six unelected rulers who are in charge of the country.
- Why a strike? There are a lot of people interested in a cause vs. the number of people willing to hit the streets. We need to have public impact and what actually works is economic impact. Historically labor strikes have had some success, but for women's rights the US has not risen up for a strike.
- Need to move on from the Saturday protests.
- December 1st the House and Senate are in session. It's a workday. There will be significant direct actions. And throughout the country we have to call attention to this.
- Strike is to have people not go to work; students stay home; hunger strike; and/or no purchases.
- There is an option for people to donate money to subsidize a person who cannot take a day off from work.
- Action at noon, pick a local Whole Foods and ATT (ATT is the biggest donor to the legislatures who wrote the ban). Need 5-10 people to go to the stores. Sign up on the Eventbrite form.

- **Vote to endorse the campaign**

Decision: Passed (five abstentions)

Letter to Central Park Conservancy

- Last Thursday RAR climate group approved this for transmission to tonight's general meeting to vote on having RAR endorse. Extinction Rebellion members are presenting it for XR

endorsement and we hope to get support from other organizations as well, before sending it to the Conservancy.

- Letter explains why CPC should not sponsor events by fossil fuel supporters (e.g., Citibank)
- Latest version of letter drafted jointly w/XR member to Central Park Conservancy telling them that they should stop hosting events sponsored by fossil fuel-supporting entities, especially events that purport to protest climate change, and requesting a meeting with them to discuss it: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EXb8KkiZVSrLIKw0cdCIkiMCtmyWOkYQP4rYNnAPqUU/edit>

Finance Update

- \$18,128 in finance
- Request for people to join the finance group

Discussion

What is our role in the next year leading up to the midterm elections? What kind of involvement do we want to have (e.g. pushing democrats vs. holding onto/gaining seats).

- Postponed to next week

Non Rise and Resist announcements

*Occupy Pfizer Die-in

- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/occupy-pfizer-tickets-194518649517>

Act Up - Working on passing a decarceration bill: A7928. More information will be shared at a future RAR meeting.

RISE AND RESIST