

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 9.14.2021

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: Jennifer and Alex **Notes:** Maryellen

REPORT BACKS AND DISCUSSION

9/10 Indict Trump - Igor Fruman change of plea at Federal Court

Rick: Fruman was changing plea to guilty and there were a handful of photographers there. Approx. 8 RAR showed up and the press thanked RAR for attendance. Made WSJ, AP Wire, Daily News, etc. Stayed for 90 minutes. Everything went according to hopes and plans.

Jamie: Had an Indict Trump banner which got press in the Daily News. Having a clear message that tied directly to the action – it was a great use during the court appearance.

9/10 Chubb Insurance in the U.S. Open

Cherie: [Video shown] Large inflatable head of Chubb CEO, flyers, and fans that looked like tennis balls (with a QR Code to a website about how Chubb funds fossil fuels) – effective visuals. Police did not interfere with the inflatable head. Really effective action. Goal was to put Chubb on notice in a public way (at the US Open when they were a sponsor, “Chubb Day”). Today a reporter talked to a Chubb representative and asked about insuring TMP. Rep said “we are not insuring the TMP.” First time that was announced – this is a massive win.

RAR, Chubb actions have been on the heels of years of indigenous activism. Indigenous activists deserve most of the credit.

Background: Companies that are/were insuring the TMP did not have to be public.

Still going after Chubb because they’re insuring other fossil fuel projects.

Question: Is there a date for the Dakota action?

Answer - Cherie: Not yet.

Question: What about going in front of the UN next week to protest Canada's involvement in climate-related issues.

Answer - Cherie: Good idea. A lot going on the next couple weeks. There are bad actors all over (e.g., Australia).

Note: If interested in attending RAR Climate Working Group, send Stu an email Climate meeting: Waldman@mikaya.com. Meet everything Thursday at 3:00 pm

9/10 Say Their Names (every Friday at 5PM at 96th/Broadway) - discussion about handling disruptive people.

Jenny: The energy was wild (maybe because of 9/11). Not many people were in attendance (it was a busy day). A jeep stopped by and the driver screamed about white supremacy being ridiculous (e.g., "what about the Muslims – they're the terrorists"). Others yelled at one RAR person for poisoning pigeons by giving them peanuts instead of the right kind of bird seed.

One person who was drinking and clearly denied social services during the last two years, was very aggressive and hard to read (e.g., unpredictable and under the influence of drugs and alcohol). Not masked. He was on top of people who were holding the banner, stood in front of it, stopped traffic by dancing in the street. People tried to engage him to calm him down, but it was very hard. Others wanted to call the police but were reminded "we" [RAR] don't do that. At the end he sang "Dream the Impossible Dream" which was really fabulous. It was a powerful experience – remarkable.

This type of action isn't going to get easier. The group is vulnerable at the location, which invites participation. But that means we need to be clearer at every event that there are people who are acting to keep their eye out.

Alexandra: As reading the set of names was when the second truck blaring and screaming about how white supremacy is great. One person at shoulder said there are a lot of psychic people here...keep reading. Really great. The energy was fragmented and broken.

Question: Was there any sense of the difference between the hostile type of people (e.g., new or recurring).

Answer - Jenny: Don't know if that's the case or could become that.

Note 1: *Action safety will be addressed during an RAR Actions meeting.*

Note 2: Article about Say Their Names:

<https://pavementpieces.com/vigil-honors-black-lives-killed-by-police>

9/13 Chase While You Were Out - discussion about Chase illegally closing the public space because of demo.

Jonathan: Took WYWO message to Chase to welcome them back to the office. While you were out the climate catastrophe got worse because of you. Approximately 500 slips of WYWO messages: tragic climate catastrophes from 2020-20201. Great chants (“Chase is a disgrace. They’re lying to your face”) and photographs of climate disasters were used as signs.

Chase security shut down the privately public space – Mike Duggan spoke with Jonathan and said, “you’re gonna have to sue them [Chase].” Group marched between doors to chant, march, and hold signs. Very energetic and ended up birddogging. No CD element attached to action.

Chase rep finally agreed to take the memos after several attempts to take them.

Note: During 2020, 227 climate activists have been killed.

Laura: Thanks Jon for organizing and keeping us in the loop.

Topic: Should RAR sue companies that deny access to publicly private space.

Jamie: Legal pursuit against Chase for not allowing people to access the publicly private space. People should know the hours of operation, and other details. Company does not have the right to exclude public access. After entering people have rights, such as walk around and cause the same type of disruptions

How we choose to do this needs more discussions. But it’s important to return to Chase and demonstrate the right to go into the space (i.e., lobby).

Wrolf: Sue can obtain advice from a professional lawyer.

Stu: In 2019 RAR people were arrested for sitting down in front of Trump hotel (wasn’t a pre-arranged CD). Should keep all options open at actions.

Mark: Seems like this matter is up the alley of the public advocate. What their office does (ombuds services and studies in advocacy). Suggest reaching out to PA. Also talk to the city councilmembers of that area – work the levers of city government since Chase is violating rights.

Robert: Yes, we should approach Jumaane Williams about Chase and I think Ben Kallos is the rep of that district.

Jenny: Important to educate the public about how much of the streets are private, how overhangs affect public access.

Rick: And we have eventually prevailed in this POP issue both at the former guy international hotel and at faux news. POP abuse for targeted 1st amendment violations SHOULD get more traction with elected, press, etc, as opposed to the more mundane benches, bike racks etc violations.

Cherie: Plan A [of Chase climate action] was to go inside the lobby. But always knew there would be a good chance they wouldn't let "us" in. Plan B was what we did – birddog in front of the entrances. Despite public access conflict, we succeeded in getting "our" climate message out. Agree with going to public advocate and city council.

Jonathan: Scott Stringer's office did an audit of the publicly private space. And many companies are still denying access because there isn't any enforcement.

9/13 Met Gala - (requires approval of ERT vote).

George: Small action and were in a lot of cell phone pictures. People cheered at the signs. A log of students. A couple bystanders joined in the action. Stopped for a few photo ops along the way with signs. An offshoot protesting at City Hall were having their own demonstrations at the south end of the crowd.

Robert: We're not protesting the Met Gala, but using the opportunity as a way to get the message across. AOC and Caroline Maloney were inside speaking to issues when they were being interviewed (e.g., on red carpet). Had an inside-outside strategy.

Susan: Loved AOC's dress from the Met Gala (message on dress was "Tax the Rich").

Note: ERT approved action. Tonight's vote to approve the action was passed unanimously.

9/14 Truth Tuesday at Fox today (and every Tuesday at 9AM @ 48th/6Ave)

George: Successful there at driving people nuts. They didn't expect the plaza being occupied – and mostly held it in silence. Now we have to think about what can be done with this opportunity to use this space. There will be a nod to climate next week (will work with RAR Climate Working Group on Thursday). Allotted \$450 already and almost all of that has been used.

Budget request: \$261

\$80 for 11x17 posters, flyers

\$140.97 for 1k stickers

Vote to approve funds requested passed

Annual Meeting and RAR Board

No meeting last year in October because of COVID. Current Board members have expiring terms. Need 8 new members. At the end of next week's meeting, the 8 people will stay on the call and elect different roles such as President, VP, Treasurer, etc.

Susan: There are some responsibilities for the Board (e.g., Treasurer has to attend the RAR Finance Working Group meetings).

Mark: When on a Board you do have some fiduciary responsibilities. Not totally a meaningless role.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Thursday 9/16 5PM Immigration Action at Staten Island Ferry

Jamie: Have props specific to welcoming Afghan Refugees, and creating a path to citizenship for everybody. Weather looks iffy. Jamie will send an email around 3pm day-of whether the action is cancelled. Also check FB event page to see if the action was cancelled.

Friday 9/17 (11am in front of Federal Hall) Fair Election demo

Livvie: Same group of people who have worked with Filibuster action before. Need voting rights protected on federal level and also end the filibuster. Last similar action was when Jay was Schumer, with the medical bed prop.

This time will be a rally plus street theatre. Going to be an obstacle course that people can run through. Jumani Williams, AG James, and Common Cause Susan, and others will be speaking. Need people to show up and be there. There should be a good amount of press present. Have to keep the pressure and publicity on. It's been the activists pushing Schumer to keep these issues life.

Friday 9/17 XR demo, Enough Is Enough

Stu: March will begin at noon and will go to a few places (e.g., financial institutions and hopefully the UN). Big march before Climate Week. There will be a lot of climate actions this month.

Virginia: Suggestions for what to wear: blue like water/floods, yellow/orange/red for fire.

Maryellen: Need marshals for this action, please! Contact Maryellen to volunteer, nycmaryellen@gmail.com.

* Monday 9/20, 12:00pm Vaccine Access demo in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, <http://bit.ly/endvaxapartheid>

Ann: Part of a series. Last one was in July. This action is addressing UN Week and focused on Biden because he announced that he was in favor of waver months ago. But there hasn't been anything about that since.

Event is a march and some kind of action – action development is nearly done, will finish during the RAR Actions Working Group meeting tomorrow. There is a FB event page – please like and share it.

Question: Act Up isn't aware of this event.

Answer – Ann: Jason Rosenberg was involved in the planning. As a rep for Act Up NY

Question: Are you certain the plaza will be open?

Answer – Ann: Don't think there will be a stringent amount of street closures.

Question: Is there an action on 9/21 as well?

Answer – Ann: Code Pink is having a climate focused event. And a large action being organized in DC, regarding Build Back Better plan.

Note: Web page for street closures.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/news/tr0910/traffic-advisory-street-closures>

Chalk action

Rick: Early morning chalk action volunteers wanted, date TBD, at Schumer's apartment in Bklyn - if interested email Rick at rmweisfeld@gmail.com.

Health Care Committee action update

* Beds Not Body bags action

Mark: Did a site visit and there are a lot of issues to talk about/think through. Will get back to people about plans next week (or two weeks).

RAR Potluck Picnic Sept 25th (budget)

Robert: Encouraging people to invite coalition partners. Or the rain date is 9/26th. FB event page. There are tables, chairs, and a café nearby. Asking people to bring food to share, a blanket or lawn chair, games. Want to make sure there's a balance of food. Call Donna G. to let her know what you're bringing.

Budget request: \$100 to purchase paper plates, cups, napkins, and forks was approved.

NON-RAR ACTIONS

1. Kathryn Solomon: **TAP funding** was available until mid-90s then it was taken away. Only thing prisoners can do to increase their chances when they're released from prison. Has profound effects on the next generation. A good thing to do. Bills passed by the NYS Senate and Assembly, but neither bill got out of the higher education committee. Would like RAR to endorse the Zoom meeting (Sunday, November 7th) – specifically use RAR logo on flyer, advertise event on RAR FB page, let people in group know.

Question: Where do Glick and Stavenski stand on this?

Answer – Kathryn: Have held off on bills because they wanted to have a gap in TAP funding (e.g., only covered a small part of SUNY tuition). And they achieved it. But people can't advocate for themselves

Question: Why highlight these two senators?

Answer – Kathryn: Our representatives are co-sponsors. Would like to get the chairmen of the committees on the zoom meeting.

Vote for RAR endorsement was approved.

2. Virginia: **Save East River Park**. East River Park is being bulldozed. This is a terrible plan – will not protect against climate change, and the City doesn't have enough money to pay for the plan. They tore down the first tree yesterday. <https://eastriverparkaction.org>. There will be a direct action option.

Location: East River Amphitheater (Grand St. and the River)

Date and Time: 4 pm this Saturday 9/18 to mobilize to save East River Park

3. Ann: **Day of Engagement**, <https://www.risingtogether.info>. Say Their Names has been asked to read names at the Rising Together Demo this weekend. Will RAR approve this? Would anyone be interested in helping to do this?

Location: Foley Square

Date and Time: (Sunday) 9/19, 11am

TBD whether this can be done.

4. Donna: (virtual) **City Hall Hearing about Rikers Island**. Following the large number of deaths.(tomorrow) 9/15th at 9am, demo at City Hall on Broadway side.

Ann: VOCAL has a web page about this action.

<https://vocal.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=3548>

RISE AND RESIST