

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 3.31.2020

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### 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](https://www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
  - Instagram: [www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/](https://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](#)
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**Notes** - Alexandra **Facilitators** - Jay and Jennifer **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM:

Livvie: There was a hurricane of letters that ERT had to sign onto. Many items that had to be heard immediately because the budget is being determined tomorrow, April 1.

- Bail reform letter: clemency for elderly, infirm, technical violations, people who almost completed their term. Also plans for providing support for these people as they return to the community.
  - Jay explained ERT: Emergency Response Team
  - Letters will be sent to Alexandra as recorder to be added to the minutes.
  - **RaR voted to approve ERT's decision to approve this letter.**
- Letter from Vocal and other groups: plea to provide protections for the homeless, to provide additional shelters, better medical care, clean up shelter conditions.
  - **RaR voted to approve ERT's decision to approve this letter.**
- Make NY True Blue, Indivisible, Action Network letter:
  - Raise money by taxing highly wealthy people: this would raise \$35 B a year;
  - Block Cuomo's attempt to seize more control of the budget, using COVID as a reason;
  - Donna: ERT needs a better process, so that the people who submit letters know what ERT's vote was. ERT reps thanked her and agreed.
  - Questions: what are the proposed measures to raise taxes? They were not spelled out in this letter, but have been itemized by Tax the Billionaires group.
  - **RaR voted to approve ERT's decision to approve this letter.**
- Letter from VOCAL et al calling for Homeless protections in the time of COVID
- <https://www.changethenypd.org/protect-homeless-covid-full-letter-cuomo-de-blasio>
- Letter from RAPP asking for release of vulnerable prisoners in the time of COVID

- [https://4411e058-27c0-4b13-9697-267bacea3.filesusr.com/ugd/5982b2\\_7c681b17292b4e44a278dd121e2af7c0.pdf](https://4411e058-27c0-4b13-9697-267bacea3.filesusr.com/ugd/5982b2_7c681b17292b4e44a278dd121e2af7c0.pdf)
- Letter from Empire State Indivisible et al asking Andrea Stewart Cousins & Carl Heastie to stand up to demand Cuomo tax the rich and deny Cuomo unilateral control over the budget.
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1esrR5EyK5v3rhk34PxlzNCgA3SWJ-Q3JfFHsgOSzD8/edit>

## REPORT BACKS

**Banner “Trump Lies; People Die” was taken to Washington Square Park (3/26) and Trump Tower (3/30):** Goal is to make photographs of this go viral.

- Jamie: Good to see the image circulating around, FB, twitter, Instagram. We are looking for a lot of reach. (Police complimented activists on their social distancing. )
- Ray has been following up with these photos on tweets of famous people who are writing against Trump. And his tweets of the photos have gotten a lot of traction.
- Rick Weisfield was brilliant in doing the 6 foot distancing graphic on the banners. This has gotten a huge amount of attention.
- Rick here is the link to Gaby’s page:  
<https://ghgphoto.photoshelter.com/gallery/Brooklyn-NY-Rise-And-Resist-Action-Calling-Out-Trumps-Inaction/G0000.eNg9E2bCwg/>
- Are these photos going to Getty? Tweet to journalists, and all the major news services. Gaby might file them too.
- Use the hashtag #Trumpliespeopledie when spreading these photos on social media.
- Discussion of how and whether to file photos with Getty, other major sources. They will be printed by Gay City News.
- Ask Donna Aceto to share as widely as possible
- Discussion of selecting photographers who live in their particular boro so that they do not need to travel by subway. In this new era, we do not need lots of people, just people who are well placed.
- Mary: <https://www.riseandresist.org/trump-lies>

**Earth Week actions** will not be discussed at this meeting.

**Follow up on what to do when / if Trump pardons Manafort, Stone or Flynn**

- Ray: We took General Meeting’s feedback seriously. Important to come up with brief phrase, and also look at everything through the lens of corona: “TRUMP PARDONS AS PEOPLE DIE”
- Jamie: Possible trump would do this as a clemency thing during Easter.
- We are working on a meme, a sign that people can put in their windows, maybe a series of signs to carry.
- Background: Initial message was Guilt Matters, floor asked Actions to tweak it. Julie will work on the graphic. This was a very effective process, and we appreciated the feedback from the floor.
- **RaR voted to approved use of this message, and development of these signs/memes**

## What COVID issues do we want to organize around?

- Wrolf: Indivisible chapters and many other groups drafted a letter advocating that NYC media to stop airing trump's speeches in full without fact checking, and also calling on all editorial boards of newspapers to call for trump's removal.
- There was much discussion of this issue. How do we remove trump from office at this point? Already impeached. Those two items should be separated. We should speak about trump's treatment of reporters of color. Concern expressed about censorship. This is not censorship: people are not allowed to cry fire in a crowded theater. We have to develop considered responses. The danger is great, but this letter requires deeper thinking. Invitation to cross boundaries because we are troubled by what is going on is tempting, but actions need to be thought out further.
- **Given the lack of support, and concern, this item was removed from the table.**
- People can sign this letter individually.

## Guest Speaker

### Charles Khan representing Strong Economy for All

- Budget is particularly fraught because of the virus
  - The budget will be completed by the end of this week. Technically if the Legislature stays in session and votes within several days, the budget will "officially" be passed on April 1.
  - We have 24-48 hours to have our voices heard.
  - Many things we have been fighting for have been put on the back burner because, ostensibly, of the virus.
  - Governor wants a bare bones budget - there will be cuts for healthcare, education, homeless people, affordable housing.
1. **Bail reform:** police unions have been pushing for rollbacks of bail reform. They are likely to succeed.
  2. **Healthcare and funding of Medicaid:** Cuomo is touting efficiencies in state Medicaid funding, which would be cut by \$2.5 billion. This is matched by federal moneys, totaling \$5 billion in cuts. Cuts to hospitals, homecare that keeps elderly and disabled at home rather than in institutions; long term care.
    - a. Federal money for Covid has created a problem for Cuomo. Gov wants the money but he wants the Medicaid cuts. He is risking losing 7 billion. He seems likely to push this through.
  3. **Revenue:** Cuomo says we have no money. The stakes are higher because of NYS 10b deficit.
    - a. NY has 112 billionaires who are wealthier than they have been before.
    - b. 10b worth of cuts will be devastating.
    - c. Many activist groups have been coalescing around an ultramillionaires tax.
      - i. For people who make over 10 million annually, the tax would be xxxx.  
11% for people who make 100 million annually the tax would be 11% additionally. These taxes would close the 10 b gap.
  4. **Affordable housing and homelessness.** 80,000 homeless people living in NYC. They are packed into shelters, and Covid is moving rapidly through the shelters. Cuomo's budget does not include anything about homelessness

- 5. Cuomo is seeking unilateral discretionary power on budget without legislative approval. He will take responsibility for everything, and Andrea Stewart Cousins and Carl Hastie are willing to give him this power.
- “This budget is shit; it’s terrible.”

**Resources that were flagged in the meeting in Chat:**

- Here are supportive members:  
<https://twitter.com/SenatorBiaggi/status/1244739621378031617>
- Other supportive people to contact: John Liu, Rachel May
- Ann R: Here’s a link to a letter asking for stand up against giving Cuomo unilateral power to make rolling budget cuts as Charles described:  
<https://medium.com/@esindivisible/coalition-urges-ny-state-senate-and-assembly-leaders-to-reject-governors-proposal-for-unilateral-6538a142a8a5>
- From Ann R: Wwww.makebillionairespay.com has a big toolkit and a lot of information. Here is the link: <https://makebillionairespay.info/take-virtual-action>
- From Ann Rubin : Here’s the letter from Housing Justice for All to Heastie/A S-C covering evictions, rent, et al housing issues we can sign organizationally:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezcS3OEzi7RuizNFFvwbKgisEyaEEI3\\_u1Ggax7yo2CgIBQw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezcS3OEzi7RuizNFFvwbKgisEyaEEI3_u1Ggax7yo2CgIBQw/viewform)
- Alexandra: here are the 14 proposals from make billionairespay.com
  - Billionaire Wealth Tax
  - Pied a terre tax
  - Ultramillionaire income tax
  - Stock buyback corporate greed tax
  - Carried Interest Fairness Fee
  - Corporate Tax Reform for Multinational Corporations
  - Luxury Land Tax (Hudson Yards)
  - CEO Pay Gap Tax on Big Business
  - Stop Subsidies for Real Estate Billionaires
  - Corporate Landlord Tax
  - 21<sup>st</sup> C Bank Tax
  - Restore Yachts and Jets Tax
  - Data Tax on Digital Advertising
  - Stock Transfer Tax
- Jessica M: A member posted: **Complete list of State Senate opponents to Cuomo’s budget:** Julia Salazar (D18) Allesandra Biaggi (D34) Gustavo Rivera (D33) Nydia Velazquez (D7)–Monica Martinez (D3) Kevin Thomas (D6) John Liu (D11) Jessica Ramos (D13) Leroy Comrie (D14) Zellnor Myrie (D20) Brad Hoylman (D27) Robert Jackson (D31) Jamal Baily (D36) James Skoufis (D39)Jennifer Metzger (D42) Rachel May (D53) **Assembly:** Brian Barnwell (D30) Aravella Simotas (D36) Catalina Cruz (D39) Mathylde Frontus (D46) Joseph Lentol (D50) Maritza Davila (D53) Yuh-Line Niou (D65) Linda Rosenthal (D67) Harvey Epstein (D74)
- Covid Relief from Djeremy:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/covid19-relief-fund-for-lgbtqi-bipoc-folks>
- Djeremy: Covid Relief fund:  
<https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/9a139c0d-d9fb-418e-8e96-117f0e0c841c>

- Djeremy Emergency relief for Sex workers: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/z6w8v5>
- **Actions to be considered.**
  - Push on Heastie, Stewart Cousins, and the Governor.
  - Tweet, but calls are more effective. Mary: like your mother nagging you!
  - **We need to focus on the next 24 hours.**
  - There is a chance that some legislators will vote no. They will say that we have to accept the 6 billion Federal money. Gustavo Rivera will speak up very loudly.
  - Dems have a 6-member majority. So, if 6 vote no, then the budget does not pass.
  - Tweet, call, message Speaker Heastie, Andrea Stewart Cousins and Andrew Cuomo
  - Refer to **MakeBillionairespay.com**.
- All six of the IDC slayers have voted against the budget. Gustavo Rivera, Salazar, Biaggi, Zelnor good on housing, Robert Jackson and..... Jumani Williams has also spoken out. Republicans will not be likely to cross party lines to vote for Cuomo's budget.
- Mark Hannay who has been working with Charles Khan said: the State senators will threaten to vote no. That will permit deals to be struck.
  - The ultramillionaires tax
  - Accept the 6 billion from the federal government.
  - However, because of fear for their health, legislators want to rush through the budget and get out of Albany.
  - We must put pressure on the Senators,
  - We need a block of 20 Assembly members to say, "you can't do this."
- Use the hashtag: #makebillionairespay
- Cuomo: He is President number 2 when he does his press conference every day. He is very successful. Medicaid cuts are vicious, educational cuts are vicious, Try to talk as much as possible on every media blog. Good job on social distancing but everything else is highly destructive.
- Mark H: Cuomo has 87% approval rating.

### What other directions should we be going in?

- Homeless people have no place to shelter.
- 3 States are allowed to ban abortion; this was rejected by one court, and then upheld; about nine other states are jumping on to this bandwagon.
- Jackie : immigrants, undocumented workers both in detention and not in detention are at great risk;
- Also what can we do best as a direct action group?
- Mark H. People cheering at 7pm to thank workers. Let us organize to bang pots and pans action whenever trump speaks for 5 minutes. Also, how do we communicate about this experience that we have gone through as 350m people?
- Jennifer: MTA workers are being prevented from wearing masks as it would be viewed as "too upsetting" 500 front line workers are sick, and 7 have died. Conductor cars are not being cleaned.

- Djeremy: Find ways to support the strikes: Amazon, Instacart, General Electric workers, have gone out on strike. Workers who are precariously positioned. These are largely wildcat strikes.
- This is an opportunity for institution of authoritarian measures. See what just happened in Hungary. Victor Orban has now grabbed the same amount of power as Hitler. Cuomo is also attempting a major power grab.
- There is very little info in communities of color about social distancing.
- Miriam: pot banging to support healthcare workers. Push for distance voting for all state and federal elections.

### **Non rise and Resist actions**

Mary: made a lot of printable stuff which can be printed on one's printer. Look on the RaR website and you will find all sorts of templates. <https://www.riseandresist.org/trump-lies>

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