

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 7.21.2020

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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](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](#)
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**Notes** - Heather **Facilitators** - Livvie, and Stu **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

### REPORT BACKS

Jamie: **Tax the Billionaires Fast & March** - we brought the Rise and Resist banner and some members helped with marshalling.

Jenny: 96th St. **Reading of the Names**. Bring water and hats. It is very hot. The reading of the names continues to be very powerful. We will continue to hold the space this week, 5:00 outside the 96th & Broadway subway stop, north entrance.

Heather: **Yankee Stadium photo shoot** - a very empty plaza even though a game against the Mets was getting underway inside. Now we have a collection of baseball-themed photos to use.

Jamie & Jonathan: **Trump Hotel Press Conference** - A two-block fortress around the Trump Hotel has been in place for 7 weeks. We called a press conference to address this waste of resources. As we arrived, we saw that the NYPD was taking the barricades down. We won! We don't know why or how they decided to take the barriers down and open Central Park West, but they did it just in time. Jamie and Jonathan gave their prepared remarks. We chanted and took pictures, and then went to take photos with the dozen police officers guarding the Columbus statue.

### Post Office Working Group

Robert: **National Day of Action** - American Postal Workers Union has called a Day of Action for **Thursday** - write your Senators and ask them to give the USPS 25 billion to shore it up until September. Tell your friends!

The privatization of the post office has been in the works for the past ten years, added and abetted by Susan Collins. All the ducks are in their row so we must act quickly.

<https://prospect.org/power/one-billionaire-versus-the-mail/>

A concern from the floor - postal workers should be wearing masks. Robert replied that it's hard to find each postmaster general and ask them to enforce mask wearing. But it is an aim of the Post Office Working group that all postal workers have proper PPE.

Additional Info from Robert via Chat: Please join me and sign up to CALL YOUR SENATORS THIS THURSDAY, JULY 23 to demand the USPS receives \$25 billion in emergency funding so that this September we don't lose it forever. The post office is in trouble because the Koch Brothers Americans For Prosperity, with the Congressional leadership of Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), created legislation that forced the USPS to pre-fund benefits for its employees 75 years into the future, adding \$5 billion in annual expenses and driving it into debt. In addition, postal workers were told just last week by Louis DeJoy, Trump's newly appointed Postmaster General, that they can't work overtime and must stop delivering as soon as their shift ends, deliberately delaying mail.

The Post Office an Essential Service because people rely on it for prescriptions and other vital services. It saves the reproductive rights of women to get abortion pills and is a lifeline in time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Vote By Mail has become an essential option for high risk citizens to participate in November's important election. The \$25 billion is vital because postal workers deserve PPE and overtime pay to do their job. Trump's attack on the PO is part of his war on people of color, who make up 40% of the postal workforce

### **Immigration Working Group**

Donna: **Covid Behind Bars** - we are switching our emphasis from jails and prisons to immigration detention centers. We want to remind people that immigrants are still being held in overcrowded, unsanitary detention centers. Also, that sick detainees are being transferred to centers where Covid hasn't hit yet and that's making more people sick.

**On Thursday July 30 at 5:00 we will take our "Covid Behind Bars = Death" banner to the Manhattan Bridge plaza at Bowery and Canal.** Take the B or D trains to Grand Street. This is a small, socially-distanced action.

Jonathan: **RAPP** (Release Aging People in Prison) is using our body bags for an overnight action in Albany with the same message that Covid Behind Bars = Death.

### **Budget Justice Working Group**

Mark: Our Legislation is in session even though it's July and they're meeting on Zoom. They're only in session this week. There are a whole slew of bills to go through. We would like to raise the taxes on the ultra-rich to generate a whole lot of money the state needs right now. There are 14 different proposals.

One bill gaining traction is the Budget Equity Act which would restore the balance of power between the Governor & legislature. Currently the Governor has disproportionate power over the budget process. This bill would create a Constitutional Amendment. We have to enact it this year in order for the next legislature to affirm it, and then it could go in the 2021 budget. So the legislature has to pass it this week or we have to wait another 2 years to try again.

**We need to call the majority leaders now and ask them to bring the Budget Equity Bill to a floor vote. If it is brought to a vote, signs are it will pass overwhelmingly.**

Livvie: None of the other budget equity bills that we've been working on to tax the ultra-rich are on the table this week. The best we can do is get the bill Mark spoke about passed.

Ann: **Make Billionaires Pay Direct Actions** - the fast and march mentioned earlier was the second in a series of Make Billionaires Pay. The first was a caravan out in Long Island, which got a huge amount of press. **The third action will be July 30, another caravan to the Hamptons to visit more Billionaires.** They'll be keeping the pitchforks theme which helps get press. If you want to participate in the caravan, please contact Ann Rubin. This series of direct actions will probably continue through the summer and into the fall, so watch for other opportunities. Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/735056480655253/> Ann's email is aerubin13@gmail.com

Press from the last Caravan:

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/88954z/protesters-with-literal-pitchforks-just-showed-up-to-billionaires-mansions-in-the-hamptons](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/88954z/protesters-with-literal-pitchforks-just-showed-up-to-billionaires-mansions-in-the-hamptons)

<https://nypost.com/2020/07/02/rich-hamptonites-rush-to-hire-private-security-after-protests/>

Sign up link for the July 30 Caravan:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i7wsSyy2wRFEM6yfcDgsEvcokt2IJcGgowTTP-CaEBM/edit?userstoinvite=jggon03%40gmail.com&ts=5f16662e&actionButton=1>

Stu: This movement is becoming so strong that Cuomo feels he has to attack it. So we're doing something right and should keep coming out.

**Vote to endorse the Hamptons caravan: Passed**

### **Discussion of Our Response to Portland**

Jamie: Background info - how did we get here? Started with Trump using the National Guard to clear out Lafayette Square for a photo shoot. He followed it up with an executive order to protect national monuments and statues. DHS created a task force to enforce this order. They created rapid response teams. The monuments do not have to be federal monuments, they can be state or local monuments. Trump has had to cobble together a police force out of CBP and ICE and TSA and the Coast Guard to protect federal buildings in Portland. He has said he will do this in other democratic cities. An election ploy. Similar to when he announced ICE Raids - the effect is to terrify people. Portland is real, but the other cities may be him bluffing.

Are we opposing Trump's police force?

Are we opposing using unarmed officers against protestors?

Do we want Wolfe and Barr to resign?

Link to the Executive Order:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-american-monuments-memorials-statues-combating-recent-criminal-violence/>

More background info:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/dhs-authorizes-personnel-to-collect-information-on-on-protesters-it-says-threaten-monuments/2020/07/20/6f58867c-cace-11ea-b0e3-d55bda07d66a\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/dhs-authorizes-personnel-to-collect-information-on-on-protesters-it-says-threaten-monuments/2020/07/20/6f58867c-cace-11ea-b0e3-d55bda07d66a_story.html)

Jackie O: Fox News was emphasizing the lawless liberal mayors are not protecting children. Using statistics around increased homicide. Not about the national buildings. That is the fascistic undertone of this. Some of the most fascistic elements of immigration and border control forces and using them against protestors. Forms of state violence developed in DHS for use against immigrants is moving over to be used against BLM protestors.

Mary: resonance between Abolish ICE and the idea that ICE can just show up in any city and detain someone. A call to re-organize Homeland Security. This is our problem with ICE, it's long-standing, and it's now being used against American citizens.

Jackie O (via chat): YES re: what Mary is saying. Remember DHS did not exist before 9/11 ... DHS was this massive infrastructure built out of new militarized notions of "homeland" and "security." AOC has actually called for the abolition of DHS (not re-organizing it), though maybe she's saying that more in local immigrant town halls than on the national stage. Here is what the Immigration group has already done re: Abolish ICE campaign: <https://www.riseandresist.org/abolishice>

Jamie (via Chat); Action Committee Zoom Meeting is every Wednesday at 6PM.

Jim S: Is there a nationwide day of action on the 25th? If so we should do something then. The message should be to abolish DHS. It's still a relatively new thing. Had a fascist implication from the minute it was set up but people ignored it because it was coming for immigrants.

Wroff: There are Facebook groups coming together for an NYC response. We should incorporate the color yellow that Portland has been using.

Michael: we should focus on getting rid of Trump and his white-supremacist, authoritarian threat. Build a coalition with BLM. Start planting the seeds for a general strike if Trump is defeated in November and doesn't leave in January.

Ken: We can't expect people to be as in-tune as we are. We have to bring up the most important threat - that threat is fascist armed invaders in our city. Trump is trying to deflect from the pandemic. We can't let people forget that. We should include health care workers in our actions. Ask them to wear their scrubs. We should include clergy, and people of all walks of life that can't be called violent left-wing radicals. People should claim their own identities so they're not labeled "antifa".

James: Make sure we know why Portland is wearing yellow before we all wear yellow. What is the core horror we're trying to prevent? Choose one and address that.

Neva: Trump and his people are so short-sighted that they believe the pandemic is going to stop the day after the election. We should remind his business supporters that right after the election is Thanksgiving and the holiday shopping/travel season and it's not going to happen this year.

Cheri: The Portland Wall of Moms is getting a lot of attention right now. In the Climate Movement the young people get the attention. People protesting under their identity is key. We aren't crazy radicals, we're human beings. We should put our identity in the forefront.

Virginia: The Executive Order is not about protecting human beings, it's about protecting statues. They are on the wrong side of history, this is not a team you want to be aligned with.

Elka: This is an expansion of ICE and their methods in response to the BLM movement. When you say Abolish ICE, people in NYC understand that our response to ICE was to become a sanctuary city. We should do something wild and joyful and New York. Wilder and happier than the wall of moms in Portland. Bring back something that has been eroded by the Trump Administration.

Tom: Trump is impervious against any criticism we throw at him. We could instead ignore Trump and address these military people. This is horribly wrong to bring these military types into towns and cities. This is homeland insecurity.

Alexandra: We should do a non-violent protest and put ourselves on the line.

Sandy: We shouldn't focus on Trump. We should be sure to say this is not the military, this is paramilitary. The national Fraternal Order of Police has come out pro-Trump.

Heather: We should hammer on the Abolish ICE angle. ICE is not just something that happens to other people

Jeremaih, how is this administration taking away freedom in the name of freedom. If you're a patriotic American, you should be out on the street right now. Take the word "freedom" back.

Katrina: the police unions endorsed Trump's actions before Trump even announced, so this could be payback - giving them a long leash. The Philadelphia DA is trying to get other cities to follow their lead, telling the feds that they could be prosecuted for their actions in Philadelphia.

Virginia (via chat): In a phone interview, Sergeant Benevolent Association President Ed Mullins said he'd support the deployment of federal agents in New York City, claiming that officers were hamstrung by recent bail reform laws and legislation against chokeholds.

"If federal agents are coming in to assist the NYPD and take [alleged criminals] through federal court, where we know the U.S. Attorney's Office will prosecute them, I think that's a great idea," said Mullins, an outspoken Trump supporter. "What we need is leadership here in New York. If the president wants to send leadership, that's great."

Jackie R (via chat): Chief of Department Terence Monahan, the NYPD's highest-ranking uniformed officer, also recently described demonstrators as violent anarchists, "whose sole purpose is to get rid of government."

Commissioner Shea has falsely claimed that local activists are "outside agitators" — an allegation also used by Trump to discredit the Black Lives Matter movement.

Sergeant Benevolent Association President Ed Mullins said he'd support the deployment of federal agents in New York City, claiming that officers were hamstrung by recent bail reform laws and legislation against chokeholds.

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[https://gothamist.com/news/trump-threatens-send-federal-agents-police-nyc-im-going-do-something?mc\\_cid=088b328fed&mc\\_eid=94e706ede7&fbclid=IwAR0bm0SeQk5XzUS-0N0PGfos2kiUUiU0hNIFY5OyJQum-daMri4SG4KrRlo](https://gothamist.com/news/trump-threatens-send-federal-agents-police-nyc-im-going-do-something?mc_cid=088b328fed&mc_eid=94e706ede7&fbclid=IwAR0bm0SeQk5XzUS-0N0PGfos2kiUUiU0hNIFY5OyJQum-daMri4SG4KrRlo)

Jackie O (via chat): Historical memory re: federal decision to deploy BORTAC in sanctuary cities, including NYC, back in February before COVID, before national anti-racist uprisings (BORTAC: special Tactical Border Control unit, trained to apprehend drug traffickers around the border, etc.): <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/14/us/Border-Patrol-ICE-Sanctuary-Cities.html>

### **Schenectady PD Actions**

Elka: Angi Kearse came to us last week because the officer responsible for Andrew's death is back on the Schenectady police force and was on video assisting in a case with a chokehold.

Most of the people on last week's organizing Zoom calls would like to help Angi reopen the case and open other cases upstate. Since Angi is in the middle of settling her case, this is not the time to re-open Andrew's case.

Suggestion: we should write an open letter to AG James asking her to open an investigation into the Schenectady police department. Make a public statement from RaR calling out the corruption in the Schenectady PD. If you'd like to help draft the letter, contact Elka.

### **Finance**

Eve: Our net worth is \$21,900, the same as last week. Please remember that we have a fiscal sponsor because we are a 501c(4) and people can't get a tax deduction for donating directly to us. We might be looking for a new fiscal sponsor, so if anyone is in an organization that also uses a fiscal sponsor and you're happy with them, please let the Finance Working Group know.

### **Students for Justice**

Sandy: Session 1 was so successful that they'll be doing a second session in September-October. Cutoff for applications will probably be mid-August. If you know a college student who needs an internship, or if you know anyone who should be a supervisor, contact

Sandy: If you have any ideas for speakers, Sandy would like some new presenters for the second session. slradoff@gmail.com

Robert: As one of the supervisors, he can testify that these interns are great and the program is wonderful and people should volunteer.

### **Postcards to Voters:**

Sandy is looking for new volunteers to write high-impact postcards for Reclaim our Vote now that Florida has been added as a target state. If you're interested, contact Sandy. slradoff@gmail.com

### **RaR Picnic**

Jamie: The Actions Working Group would like to see everyone in person. We're trying to figure out how to do a socially distant BYO Everything picnic.

Sunday, August 2, 5:00 is the date, location TBD. We're looking for spaces with lots of room and some shade.

### **Non-RAR Actions**

Andy: **Trans Liberation March - Friday, July 25, 5:00.** Gather at 5:00 in Washington Square, Vigil at 5:30, followed by a march to Stonewall and then to City Hall.

Robert: **August 6 is the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.** Rally at City Hall asking for 2 pieces of nuclear disarmament legislation to be put for a vote before the City Council. This isn't going to be a large event, so please email Robert to get the details. rcroon@gmail.com

Jeremiah: **Treatment Action Group** is working on the COVID-19 response and has been calling out Cuomo and DeBlasio on an inadequate response. Not getting a whole lot of community engagement. The Test & Trace program in the city is being mis-managed. **Next Wednesday at 10am, Gracie Mansion, they are having a press conference.** There should be a FB event tomorrow.

Alexis: **Wall-of-Moms** is interested in being mobilized when the federal agents show up in NYC. Join the Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wallofmomsnyc/>

With a cheer of "Rise and Resist," the meeting was adjourned.

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

