

02.19.2019 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Jamie, Elka

Notetaker: Jody

Group contact information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/
- General email: info@riseandresist.org
- Press email: media@riseandresist.org
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm

Meeting Introduction

- Any members of law enforcement (none responded)?, Any journalists here (none responded)?
- Any new members - Joan is greeting
- Please stay off your phone during the meeting
- Step up/Step back
- Raise your hand - introduce yourself with your name and pronouns
- We have metrocards for anyone that needs them to get to and from the meeting
- Reading of the mission statement

Report Backs

No Wall, No Way Demo (Jamie, Martin)

- 4:30pm there was a logistics meeting - decided to do a moving picket until it got too big for the sidewalk and then make it a moving picket around the block, When it got too big for that, march down Broadway to Times Square
- Surprise to us that when we turned corner, NYPD wouldn't let us walk in front of the hotel
- Good video from Sandi Bachom that shows much of the narrative
- 20 people were arrested
- Marshalls, etc, kept everyone calm
- Wasn't the plan to take a bust on CPW
- We got a lot of press - timeliness and location of the action helped
- Two paragraph media advisory and then individual emails to a new list of press that Martin had
- AP photos everywhere
- Rise and Resist was mentioned

- Graphics were amazing - kudos to Mary Hawkins
- Spanish language media often turns up at our protests and we don't have a speaker - not sure what the answer is
- Comment: I can speak Spanish but I was intimidated - it would be helpful to know what to say
- A: Just speak from the heart
- Comment: there were a lot of people who didn't know what to do after the arrests. Would be helpful to have a lead marshal who is not getting arrested
- Comment: the show of force was out of proportion to the protest
- Q: Do we have a sense if this is a one-time random thing or is this the new normal?
- Comment: I spoke to the inspector and he was angry at us for not taking the pen.
- Q: A few weeks before we had taken the steps of the hotel - that may be why they has such a show of force
- A: If that had been the case, they could have kept us off the steps
- Comment: I spoke to one of the detectives who said they weren't ready last time when we were on the steps, but "we were ready this time"
- Comment: I thought it was terrific and well done and a lot of great footage. I wish I'd gotten Jamie's explanation on camera when everyone was sitting down. Some of the chanting was off topic - it wasn't all about Trump - some was about ICE, etc.
- A: Video is on the Rise and Resist Instagram if people want it.
- Comment: I think the police were out in force because of the declaration that day - they were anticipating something.
- Comment: I was watching it online - I thought the signs were gorgeous. Has any thought been given to putting Rise and Resist on the front along the bottom?
- A: It was in the corner. But is the point to get the message out there or to brand Rise and Resist?
- Comment: when we met at 4:30 pm, we did divide up into marshals who were willing to get arrested and those who weren't. It was great that there were trained marshals who were willing to take over when those got hauled off to jail. Please come to the next marshal training so we have more trained marshals who can handle this.
- Comment: I went to the CD training with Extinction Rebellion and it made me feel so much more secure. They had a handout of know your rights which was also really helpful
- Comment: Expressing admiration for those who did jump in and do CD. it was the perfect time to do CD. I was concerned about the lack of response - it's not enough people responding. It helped to promote the Monday actions in response to the emergency.
- A: It was really good that we had a response ready to go if/when this were to happen. We should do this whenever we can.
- Comment: as one of the arrestees, it felt like it was pretty standard operating procedure - lots of warning, lots of opportunity to not getting arrested. I wouldn't worry about the outsized response.

- Comment: Last night in Union Square, they didn't have a plan in advance. It was good that we had a plan.
- Comment: Maybe we should use some basic sign language skills - when the NYPD turned on the recording, we couldn't hear Jamie.
- Comment: I really admired the flexibility of everyone - we got arrested in response to the police violating our civil liberties, not necessarily because of the emergency
- Q: Do you have any plan to fight in court in regards to 1st amendment rights?
- A: The people who got arrested need to talk about it.
- Comment: NYPD do lie, do bluff, are ignorant of the law.
- Comment: It was a great action - I did think there was something significant that was going on. The follow up should include that we wanted to go on the sidewalk so they forced us into the street. They trampled on our rights.
- Comment: Two things - if you're standing in a group with signs that say Rise and Resist on the back. People can flip they're signs around. It's also important that we relay that people don't get arrested by accident at our actions.

Elevator Actions (Jackie, Jessica)

- Report back
 - Last Monday, Feb 11 - Jessica and Jackie met with 4 legislative aides to ask for a committed percentage of the MTA budget to go to accessibility
 - Learned about hearing that took place today - Senate Transportation committee - met about MTA oversight - were able to deliver testimony today as a result of meetings last Monday
- Two upcoming actions -
- Thursday at 11am - 25th and 8th Ave - Transit Center rally
 - At Penn South (senior community)
 - Accessibility for older people - partnering with AARP
 - Fund Fast Forward
- The People's MTA - Monday, Feb 25- MTA subway and bus meeting
 - Board meeting is at 10am
 - Will probably talk about raising the fare
 - People with strollers use the subway - the woman who died, they're saying she was sick - all the more reason to have an elevator
 - We'd like to pack the room with people with strollers and toddlers
 - There are so many different groups that use elevators - people with injuries, people with luggage, etc
 - You have to sign up before the meeting starts to speak at the meeting

Upcoming Actions

Seeking Asylum is not a Crime - been re-titled to **Trump is the Emergency, Immigrants are not the Enemy** - Thursday at 5:30 pm at the Oculus

- Expanding demands to include: No boots, No beds, No wall

- We also have new photos/posters
- Q: Does the demand mean no additional beds or just none? Do we believe in no screening?
- A: We're against detentions in general
- A: But also no beds means that people shouldn't be held in detention while they're waiting for their immigration cases to be heard - they didn't used to be detained in this process
- Comment: Since we're adding Trump is the Emergency, can we broaden this beyond immigration? He's perverting the system of government. It's a constitutional issue.
- A: This is part of series of actions that was approved in regards to immigration. Actions will be discussing the abuse of power more fully.
- Comment: there's a wide range of opinion on borders and immigration. Where do we stand as a group on that? Open borders or not?
- A: It's a larger conversation we need to have.
- Thursday's action is a silent vigil.
- Comment: can we ask people to join us if they clap for us?
- A: Yes

Pfizer Demo (Mark, Mark, Ann, Alexandra)

- We have a flyer about the event which we will distribute
- Action in support of NY Health Act
- Would eliminate the private insurance industry in NY
- NY State would be providing health care coverage
- Sunday, March 3 at 11 am at 235 E 42nd St outside Pfizer HQ
- Conference of medical students that weekend at Columbia - they're participating in this action
- There will be a legal rally with speakers, etc
- There is a possible affinity group action - details to be worked out. Will be meeting this Sunday to discuss.
- If you want to participate in affinity group, let Mark, Mark or Alexis know.
- Go to <https://bit.ly/2tpKqmC> to sign up for meeting/affinity action this Sunday - sign up by tomorrow at the latest
- RAR has approved this action
- Asks are: show up and help to marshal for general rally; commit to affinity group action as participant or as support
- RAR has some doubts about the affinity action and the goals and plans or lack thereof
- Asked who can attend and who can marshal - people volunteered
- Comms is working on social media campaign to explain the issue

Impeach/Indict/Arrest (Andy)

- Last year we did a series of impeachment actions - based on various themes
- Now with democrats in control of the house, we're bringing them back

- Be one part of the activism around the calls to impeach Trump, including Tom Steyer and By the People
- What is the messaging? What does it mean? Why do we want to do that even if the Senate might not convict
- Will be discussed further at the Actions meetings - join if you're interested
- Actions meets at 6 pm on Wednesdays at the UAW, 256 West 38th St, 12th fl
 - Be on time as doors are locked at 6:15 pm or so

Rent Collection

MTA cards are available if needed

Facilitation training

- Would love new facilitators
- Training - Saturday, March 2, 2-4 pm at the Silver Center at NYU
- Need to RSVP to get past security - please RSVP if you might be interested
- No obligation to facilitate if you decide it's not for you
- Talk to Jennifer VD or Jamie if you're interested
- Email Ken Kidd if you want to RSVP - kiddinthecity@gmail.com

Voices for Creative Non-Violence (George)

- Yemen action
- People coming from Maine, UK, Chicago and NJ to support court dates
- Would like 10-15 minutes on the agenda next week to talk with us about the work they've been doing supporting the peace effort in Yemen - CD, fast, hunger strikes
- A teach-in
- **VOTE: overwhelmingly in favor of inviting them**

Climate Action Group (Stu)

- Looking at two-fold approach
- Legislation in NY State
 - Climate and Community Protection Act - Stu testified last week
 - Most of the people there were Latino - it has a strong social justice element
 - Most of the people there testified in support of a stronger bill
 - Learning as much as they can about the various bills
- Action in early stages of planning - David Koch has spent \$125 million on climate change denying orgs
 - Planning action targeting David Koch - enabling climate denial
 - Sunday, March 24 - will update as plans solidify
 - Looking for coalition partners
- Meet every Monday night at 7 pm

Elections (Cherie)

- Call relay for discovery reform (Innocence Project)
- Need stronger discovery laws in NY State
- Feb 20th
- Sign up at website - they'll give you a script and phone numbers
- <https://makeNYtrueblue.org/events>
- The Public Advocate election is Feb 26 (next week)

Someone needs to take notes next week (Feb 26) - see Donna if you can!

Chuck Schumer proposed action - new RAR committee (Jody, Alexis, Virginia)

- What the Fuck, Chuck is the name of the campaign (WTFChuck for G-rated uses)
- Demand: No more judicial appointees at any level
- Demand: Unequivocal support of immigrants
- Demand: Use all Senate procedural tools
- Range of tactics: emails, phone calls, postcards first, then sit-ins near his office
- Outreach to other organizations to participate, suggestions welcome
- Talk to Jody, Virginia, or Alexis if you're interested in helping them plan
- We can create a page about the campaign on our website
- Some concern that Schumer is doing OK, and this isn't the best use of our time
- One suggestion - narrow the campaign to one issue we'd like to move Schumer on
- Concern about further dividing the Democratic Party, and that he's naively hopeful that he's working hard behind the scenes
- Will press be able to cover a campaign with the word Fuck in it? The campaign will emphasize the issues, and WTF instead of it written out
- **Campaign was approved, "WTF" was approved with a small margin.** Group will take into consideration the name - we welcome alternative suggestions

Who is making money from the crackdown on immigrants (Elka)

- Elka has presentation but slides are not working today
- Will do presentation next week instead

Draft principles of how RAR demonstrates (Jamie)

- The words non-violence are not in our mission
- Jamie developed the following text:

Principles of Demonstrating

RAR is a direct action group. We spend a lot of time demonstrating in public spaces (and sometimes on private property). We believe in exercising our First Amendment rights to free speech, freedom of assembly, and to petition the government for change. We try to keep our demonstrations focused and our messaging clear. RAR uses a team of members (marshalls) to facilitate our actions and to handle changes to our agreed upon plan. We use non-violence as one of our tactics.

At almost every demonstration, we get support from people who agree with us, and we get heckled by a few people who disagree with us. Those hecklers may yell at us ("Get a job" or "Build the wall" or "Losers"), or shoulder check us while picketing, but most keep moving. We often attract counter protestors who come specifically to film us, to name-call, to provoke conflict, and to disrupt the demonstration. We also have had some interactions with the NYPD where they infringed on our First Amendment rights and we needed to take group action.

RAR tries to maintain control of our demonstrations by asking our members (and people attending our demonstrations) to "not take the bait" and to not engage with hecklers, counter protestors, or NYPD unless they are engaging to deescalate the situation. We ask members to not yell back at hecklers/provocateurs, to avoid name-calling (including NYPD), to refrain from seizing/ripping up their signs, and to not push or shove back.

De-escalating means asking counter protestors to step aside and hold their own demonstration, asking them to respect our First Amendment rights, talking to counter protestors about why we are there, asking them questions (to keep them from yelling), and creating an active non-threatening physical buffer between the counter protestors and RAR members. De-escalating with NYPD means explaining our right to protest and explaining why we are refusing to follow their requests/orders.

RAR makes every effort to keep the demonstration going as planned, and to deprive the counter protestors of what they want: to turn the demonstration into an us against them thing (media circus) - and to make the counter protestors look like victims of left wing intolerance/violence. Our goal is to keep the counter protestors as powerless and ineffective as possible. RAR also makes every effort to not involve the NYPD and to respect the First Amendment rights of the counter protestors.

RAR cannot guarantee the safety of demonstrators. We trust our members to exercise self-control, to not be provoked into violent responses, and to try not to provoke others. We believe that these are the best tools for us to use. In situations where we are concerned about imminent violence (counter protestors or NYPD) we ask everyone to stay in place and, if necessary, to sit down to hold space, to diffuse the tension, to let everyone see what is going on, and to give the group time to respond. We do not disperse in these situations because we do not leave vulnerable members behind to fend for themselves.

Action Guidelines:

- Our attitude will be one of openness and respect towards all people we encounter.
 - We will not use physical violence or verbal abuse toward any person.
 - We will not intentionally damage any property.
 - We will not bring any alcohol or drugs other than for medical purposes.
 - We will not carry weapons,
 - We will not seek to avoid the consequences of our actions.
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- What our operating principles are
 - It's kind of dense - read it between now and next meeting
 - Discussion to happen in the future
 - Action Guidelines
 - Minimum standard non-violence guidelines
 - Can we put aside some time next week or week after on this
 - **VOTE: yes, let's discuss in next 2 weeks**

Finance (Martin)

- Net worth is \$12,100 - decrease of \$500
- \$256 rent collected tonight

Comms (Andy)

- There was a request to put our tasks for the weekly meetings on our website
- That's now up there
- Would like to add Schumer and Climate Action Group to website

Non Rise and Resist Actions

Sunrise Group - group of young people who were the impetus for getting the Green New Deal started

- Monday, Feb 25th - people from Kentucky going to confront Mitch McConnell
- There's a form - see Stu if you're interested and he'll send you the form
- Going to Schumer's office on Tues, Feb 26 at 10:30 am - demand that he support the Green New Deal
 - 3rd Avenue office

Within Our Lifetime

- Friday, March 15th at the People's Forum
- Sliding scale donation
- 6:30-10 pm
- An Evening of Palestinian Culture

St. Pat's for All Parade

- Sunday, March 3rd at noon

- NY Nuclear Weapons Divestment Campaign - marching with IQUAN (International Queers Against Nukes)
- Lots of political leaders will be there
- 43rd St and Skillman Ave in Sunnyside, Queens

Gun Violence Prevention Groups

- Tomorrow at 9:30 am - Foley Square
- NYC gun permit law hearing at 10 am

Reclaim Pride Coalition

- Working on Pride March in June about people and community
- Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm at People's Forum
- Movement for radical queer liberation

United Against Racism and Fascism

- Meeting on Sunday - planning march in March
- Sunday at 1 pm at the UAW, 256 West 38th St, 12th fl

Emergency Response Team Votes (Wrolf, Andy)

True Blue Letter

- We were asked to sign on to a letter with True Blue
- Letter will be shared around for a vote next week

MoveOn response to national emergency

- Asked RAR to endorse yesterday's Union Square action
- **ERT voted to endorse it**
- **VOTE - overwhelmingly to support ERT decision**

Meeting adjourned

Rise And Resist