

Rise And Resist Meeting Minutes 10.30.2018

Facilitators: Elka, Livvie

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 at the Church of the Village, 201 W 13th St.

Meeting Introduction

- Any members of law enforcement (none responded) any members of press (none responded), get off your phone, step up/step back, raise your hand and introduce yourself with pronouns, reading of the mission statement, introduced Elizabeth the ASL translator
- Introduced greeter (Katrina) - any new people speak to her

Space Procedures (Donna)

- There were objections to signing in a few meetings ago and jokes about fake names
- People from the People's Forum heard that and were bothered by it
- It's a reasonable request in view of recent events - it makes sense that they would be concerned
- Signing in is a requirement of our using the space
 - We can have a receptionist from RAR to sign people in - one more volunteer task
 - Or have the People's Forum receptionist sign us in
 - Which do we prefer?
- Comment: this space is underwritten by an anonymous wealthy donor - shouldn't we know who it is for safety reasons?
- A: it's not George Soros - it's someone who is very active in the community, and it's not someone who is a target. It would be better to focus on the initial question posed
- Comment: any space we go to, there are donors - we don't ask that in other spaces
- Comment: It would be best for us to sign in when we come in
- Comment: I'm not sure I would sign in if I didn't know the person who was asking me to sign in
- Q: Does it put an undue burden on the person who works here? A: No.
- Q: What happens to the sign in sheets after they're done?

- A: The sign in sheets are just a level of protection for those in the space. We can give you a copy of the list, and we keep one for ourselves. We sometimes put the emails on the listserve but we don't have to.
- **VOTE: To have us sign in with the person at the front of the People's Forum; if someone volunteers to sit with them that's fine. Motion passes overwhelmingly - 3 abstentions**

Elevator Action Report Back (Jonathan)

- EAG has been working for the last 2 years on the MTA and subway stations for accessibility - we're at 25% compliance - trying to force the city and state to be in compliance
- Action at the courthouse this morning - livestream and photographers
 - **Was approved by the ERT - adding Rise and Resist's logo to a list**
 - Outlines 50 stations to be made accessible as part of the first phase of the modernization plan
 - **Floor voted overwhelmingly to agree with the ERT's decision**
- A few different transportation groups called on the MTA to make a binding agreement to make the MTA fully accessible in front of the Court this morning
 - After action, rally goers went to the court - judge welcomed their presence in the courtroom
 - Livestream on RAR page
 - Big turnout of coalition members
- Q: Was there an outcome in the courtroom
- A: No outcome yet
- Comment: On Sunday 60 Minutes did a piece with Andy Byford

Public Charge (Jody, Mark H)

- Current definition on public charge: a person who has become or is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence – and this is cause to deny someone a green card who is applying through a family or employment-based petition (i.e. those applying through asylum or refugees are exempt from the Public Charge rule)
- Under the current system, the government can only consider whether the person has received cash assistance such as SSI (Supplemental Security Income) or similar OR have they been institutionalized for long term care.
- Proposed new definition: A Public Charge is an immigrant who receives one or more public benefits: non - emergency Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare Part D, Housing Assistance
- CHIP is not included, but they are asking people to comment on whether it should be
- Proposed new determination is made by giving weight to a series of factors including: age, medical conditions, family size, earnings/income threshold, education/skills (English), and receipt of the listed benefits in the previous 36 months prior to applying for a green card (benefits applied for or received before the rule takes effect do not count – people should not cut off benefits at this point as the rule will not take effect until 60 days after it is finalized)

- They look at all of these factors and weigh them
- DHS will not consider benefits received by an applicant's family member
- What will the effect be –
 - it will make it significantly more difficult for moderate to low income immigrants to become green card holders.
 - It will cause people to decline to apply for benefits that allow them stability and security (and not just the benefits listed above – people will hesitate to apply for others out of fear and confusion)
- What can we do? Submit comments
 - Being taken until December 10th
 - Why should you comment?
 - The government is obligated to read ALL comments and, in theory, address them. Commenting will slow the process
 - Comments can be used in litigation down the road after the rule is enacted
 - Comments should lift up stories of impacted individuals; make the government justify their actions. The more personal, the better
 - Make sure you understand the proposed changes
 - Comments should be relevant – how taking away the ability to use these public services would harm you, your family, your community
 - Attach research and supporting documents
 - don't ask questions, make statements.
 - Write comments in your own words
 - The goal is to reach 100,000 comments - this will really slow things up in getting this rule change through
 - Submit comments at www.OurAmericanStory.us
 - More info at <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/resources/>
 - More info at <https://www.nycic.org/fight-changes-public-charge/>

NYC Welcomes All Immigrants and Asylum Seekers (Bill)

- Saturday action at Union Square at 1 pm
- Demands: people seeking asylum should be supported, people should understand that migration is a human right
- A variety of other groups: Movimiento Cosecha, NYC Socialists ISO, Jackson Heights Immigrant Solidarity Network, etc
- **VOTE: to endorse - passes unanimously**

NY School of Technology (Carl and Debbie)

- 2 students learning about advocacy for disenfranchised individuals
- Can they take photos for their presentation?
- Working to make NYC more accessible for people with disabilities
- Their professor tried to connect them with the Elevator Action Group

- We have a general policy about not taking photos in the meeting - to avoid distraction and also to respect people's privacy desires
- Perhaps we can ask people who don't want to be in photos to be in one section?
- You can pilfer and poach photos from our website and facebook
- Those are better photos
- People can move to the other section if they're not comfortable

July 25th Return the Children court date (Leon)

- RAR shut down 5th Ave for about an hour on July 25th
- Day before the deadline to return the children
- About 11 people were arrested
- Everyone got Adjudgment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD) - you're supposed to stay out of trouble for 6 months
- Initial court date they offered different things to different people - they stood in unity and said they're all in it together
- Comment: Being in court for something like this is a real example of seeing your privilege. There are people there who aren't going to get off like we all did.
- If you do an ACD, after the 6 months, you are legally returned to the state you were in prior to the ACD. Nothing on your record after the 6 months.

Rent collection

Any more new people?

Pass around the clipboard for meeting tasks

NEW ACTIONS

Discussion of the week's events (Jamie, Leon, Jonathan)

- Actions meets on Wednesday nights - long discussion of pipe bomb occurrences
- Planned action for November 2: Trump Lies, Democracy Dies
- Then Saturday morning the shootings in Pittsburgh happened
- Needed to change action to include that - Trump Lies Destroy Lives
- His lies about the caravan, Khashoggi, asylum seekers, globalism
- We want to hold him accountable for the violence that his lies have caused in the past week
- This is a sensitive thing - we want to be respectful but not let Trump and the Republicans (who don't call him out on his lies) off the hook
- We should discuss and then vote
- Comment: I hope that we can raise up and shine a light on what happened in Kentucky too
- So much has happened, it's hard to focus and pinpoint
- Discussion ensued:

- I was watching the demos in Pittsburgh today - there was a Jewish prayer with people tearing black pieces of paper (instead of clothes) - among that you could see "Vote" "Build Bridges, not Walls".
- I think the tone of this is really important - I want to be part of this but I don't want to yell and scream. We need to hold the moral authority and not let hatred seize our souls.
- As horrific as these occurrences are, we can't forget that he's trying to erase transgender people and he thinks he can erase the 14th amendment by executive order. It needs to be about all of this and not just the mourning for Pittsburgh and Kentucky
- Would you consider reading the names of the dead and saying Kaddish or whatever prayer would be appropriate for the 2 people in Kentucky?
- 14 protesters were just arrested outside the Metropolitan Republican Club - they sat shiva and banged on the doors. I hope we won't be afraid to be bold.
- I think it's important that we're moral and respectful, but we're not a religious group. The media is letting Trump off the hook. Let's lay this at his feet very directly.
- How do we get youth more active?
- There was a thing at Battery Park - Bend the Arc - largely Jewish - candles and in his face stuff. I would prefer to avoid prayers in our thing.
- Thinking about what a scenario might look like - 13 coffins - deposit them on the steps of the Trump hotel. Other deaths we can attribute to him - leave them on the steps with something written on them.
- We need to call this out as fascism explicitly.
- Public opinion research is showing that people's opinions about Trump are what will motivate people to vote or not.
- The Republicans standing on the sidelines not saying anything should be held accountable.
- Day of the dead November 1-2 - perhaps we can incorporate some of that into this.
- Prayers and all are nice, but I'm angry and that needs to be part of it. Unbelievable that he's in Pittsburgh. We need to be more rage-filled.
- Pittsburgh handled it beautifully - they told him not to come, the people that were mourning protested him. There's power to that
- We should focus on the anger, not the vigil aspect.
- I'm done with the millennials - I'm getting in their faces and make them uncomfortable.
- We should focus on the vote
- We are looking to do this in a respectful manner and we don't want to make this disrespectful - people's loved ones died.
- If there's a reading of names, it needs to be more than just the 13 names
- **VOTE: to approve action at the Trump Hotel on Friday at 5:30 pm Passed unanimously**

Poster party on Wednesday 6-8 pm at the UAW, 256 West 38th St, 12th fl

Kirstjen Nielsen appearance (Jamie)

- Friday, November 2nd at 8 am at the Council on Foreign Relations, 58 East 68th St @ Park Ave
- 7:30 am demo - registration starts at 7:45 am
- She is personally responsible for separating children from their families; responsible for dealing with the “caravan” - has said she won’t let them in even though they are legally seeking asylum
- Event is not open to the public
- Q: How does one become a member? A: Pay big bucks
- **VOTE: to approve action - don’t need big crowd Passes unanimously**

Elections (Claire)

- We have an election coming up
- Working really hard in the next week to get out the vote
- Email going out to whole RAR list on how to get involved
- Wednesday - postcards to voters in NYS Senate
- Thursday - canvassing on Long Island for NYS Senate - Anna Kaplan and Kevin Thomas
- Friday - Canvassing for Andrew Gounardes against Marty Golden
- Saturday - buses going out the city to canvas
- Sunday - The Big Blue Dial
- Sunday - a day of canvassing for Anna Kaplan
- Monday - unsure
- Tuesday - canvassing for Andrew Gounardes
- rar.elections@gmail.com
- This is the big push - we hope to see lots of you join us!
- Postcarding ends tomorrow night

A Place for Justice (Elka)

- Support for Angie Kearsse whose husband died in police custody
- May 11 planted a tree in the Bronx
- Plaque placed in May was wood and didn’t weather well. Bronze plaque being installed on November 11, 2 pm
- Come and support

Read and Resist (Elka)

- Saturday, November 24 at The People’s Forum, noon to 2 pm
- Transgender History by Susan Stryker

Health Care and Social Safety Net Group (Mark H)

- Working in NY 11 /Dan Donovan district - leafleting about health care issues
- Three candidates: Dan Donovan, Max Rose, Henry Bardell (Green)
- Leveraging voters' interests in healthcare and turn out a vote
- 6 days of leafleting, 2 more to go - more than 3,000 flyers
- Did a town meeting last night on the north shore
- Panel talking about what the state of health is on Staten Island
- This Thursday, Nov 1 - 4:30-6:30 pm at Staten Island Ferry Terminal upper level
- Monday, Nov 5 - 4:30-6:30 pm at Staten Island Ferry Terminal upper level
- Mark has the flyers - take some if you're going to South Brooklyn or Staten Island
- Comment: there's a green party candidate?!?
- A: there seems to have been one in this district the last few cycles.

After the election - Campaign for NY Health (Mark H)

- Health Insurance industry is having their annual meeting in Troy, NY on November 15th
- Still figuring out tactics, but looking for a group of people who want to go up there
- Taking on and calling out insurance industry

Rebekah Mercer action (Roberta, Jonathan, Bill)

- Sunday at the Museum of Natural History
- Rebekah Mercer on the board
- Dressed like Rebekah Mercer with hoods on - it was a great action
- There was guy who looked remarkably like her and kept saying "I could destroy you" "I own you" and so on
- She is one of the dark money people -
- This is not the kind of money that a Science Museum needs
- Tina Fey is on the board too - we need to expose Rebekah Mercer to these other people
- Leaflets were effective
- Mayor DeBlasio and Scott Stringer are also ex-officio members of the board
- Q: Have you expanded beyond Rebekah Mercer? Steven Schwartzman is talking to Trump - he's involved with the 42nd St Library.
- A: There's a group working on dark money - you should join them

Police Behavior (Apollo)

- Motorcycles during the march from Union Square - People's Monday March - highlight people killed by the police
- Last night had a march about a trans woman who was killed
 - The march started at the Flatiron Building - lots of good speakers talking about what Trump has been doing
 - Marched up to Grand Central
 - Heightened Police presence but didn't feel like they were going to arrest anyone
 - People's Monday took over at Grand Central and had their march and then there was an immediate change in feeling with the police

- Police will deal one way with people who get permits, another way with people who don't get permits but are friendly and don't say "fuck the police", and then a third way with people who are more aggressively anti-police
 - Rise and Resist is somewhere in the middle
 - There's been an escalation in the last 6-7 months
- The Proud Boys night - the police didn't do anything to stop the Proud Boys - but targeted the group on the other side
- There are white supremacists in the NYPD
- You need to always be aware - remember they'll do what their boss says and will stop what you're doing if you cross a certain line.
- New rule: they're supposed to give their name, rank and badge number when they stop you. They're not necessarily going to do that.
- When Apollo livestreams, he makes sure it goes out to DeBlasio's twitter feed.
- Comment: Thank you for saying what you said - in our experience the police are at their worst when you're demonstrating against the police.
- You should also be aware of people who are there to support the police

Finance (Robert)

- \$200 collected toward the
- Net worth is \$8800
- We got PO Box 62, New York NY 10014
- We have \$3000 that we need to spend by June 30th - need receipts against that

Postcard Party (Rachel, Mary)

- Last Wednesday - did 194 postcards
- Big Blue Dial - did 1351 postcards
- Wrote postcards for State Senators
- Next one: Wednesday, November 14th at 7-9 pm at 209 East 56th St, 6B

Next Tuesday, Election Day (Jamie)

- Going to Tir Na Nog at 315 West 39th Street after the meeting to watch election returns
- Have drinks and food

Halloween is tomorrow (Mel)

- Marching with a 12 foot puppet of Steven Miller
- Meet up at Spring and Varick at 6:30 pm

Interference Archive

- Sat, Nov 3 - research skills workshop