

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
June General Membership Meeting
June 18, 2020
7:00-9:00pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

1. Introduction (5 minutes)
 - a. President Jerry Ferguson called the meeting to order, and addressed the issue of police violence and killings of black men
 - i. Jerry also announced the formation of a working group to address institutionalized racism
2. Guest Speaker: State Senator Liz Krueger (20 minutes)
 - a. Sen. Krueger spoke about police reform at the state level, as well as COVID-19 economic relief efforts
 - b. Sen. Krueger's legislative response to systemic racism includes:
 - i. Repeal of 50(a), which bars the disclosure of officers' disciplinary records
 - ii. Granting bystanders the right to record police activity and to retain custody of the recording
 - iii. Prohibiting chokeholds
 - iv. Collection and publication of data related to arrests and police-caused injuries or deaths
 - v. Affirming New Yorkers' right to physical and mental health treatment when in custody
 - c. Sen. Krueger also detailed her response to the economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, including passing a rent relief bill
 - d. Sen. Krueger next held a Q&A with members and answered questions concerning school segregation, the closing of Indian Point nuclear reactor, rent relief, and more
3. Guest Speaker: Council Member Keith Powers (20 minutes)
 - a. CM Powers spoke about police reform at the city level, as well as the city's responses to COVID-19's economic impacts
 - i. NYPD reform agenda:
 1. Chokehold ban
 2. Right to record the police
 3. Requirement to display police badge at all times
 - b. CM Powers held a Q&A with members and answered questions concerning the penalties for hiding a shield, the city's housing & zoning plans, possible changes to the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), and more
4. Presidential Primary (15 minutes)

- a. The primary election is coming up on June 23rd, with early voting already underway, and the two key races are the Congressional primary and the Presidential primary
 - b. Congressional primary:
 - i. The club has endorsed incumbent Representative Carolyn Maloney for reelection
 - c. Presidential primary:
 - i. Assembly Member and Biden Delegate Candidate Rebecca Seawright advocated for voting for VP Biden in the primary, citing his experience, character, and electability
 - ii. Club member and Sanders Delegate Candidate Brian Mangan advocated for voting for Bernie Sanders in the primary, as this would allow Sanders to amass more delegates to help shape the party's platform
5. Reflections from Club Diversity and Outreach Co-Chair Marina Phillips (10 minutes)
- a. Marina spoke about her experience as a Black woman in America, and the exhaustion brought on by constant racism and microaggressions
 - i. “To be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a rage almost all the time” – James Baldwin
6. Resolution Regarding Trump's Response to Protests (10 minutes)
- a. The Rule of Law Working Group (Royce Cohen) presented a [resolution](#) that condemns Trump's violent and oppressive response to the protests, including his use of chemical weapons on peaceful gatherings, and opposes the illegal deployment of the military to occupy the streets
 - i. Resolution adopted unanimously
7. District Leader Reports (10 minutes)
- a. District Leaders Kim Moscaritolo and Ben Wetzler gave an update on:
 - i. The club's volunteer efforts to assemble PPE kits and distribute them to those in need
 - ii. Early voting protocols
 - iii. Remote options for the judicial nominating convention
8. Adjourn (2 minutes)
- a. Jerry called the meeting to a close, but, in the spirit of continuing the club's tradition of convening at a local bar post-meeting, invited members to remain on Zoom and continue the discussion