

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
July General Membership Meeting
July 16, 2020
7:00-9:00pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

1. Introduction
 - a. President Jerry Ferguson called the meeting to order, and explained the process for voting on the club's Assembly race endorsement
2. Assembly Race Endorsement Presentation and Vote
 - a. Independent candidates for Assembly, Incumbent AM Rebecca Seawright and activist Patrick Bobilin, presented their candidacies to the club and asked for members' endorsement votes
 - b. Both candidates engaged in a Q&A session with members, covering topics including rent relief, redistricting, affordable housing, and support for the BLM movement
 - c. The members engaged in a discussion of the candidates' merits, then submitted their votes online
 - d. Results:
 - i. Rebecca Seawright received the club's endorsement, with 74% of the vote on the first ballot
3. Guest Speaker: Lucy Lang
 - a. Lucy Lang, Director of the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, spoke to the club about the prosecutor's role in addressing police abuse
 - i. Police and prosecutors work together daily, which can create a conflict of interest
 - ii. In a better prosecutorial model, the Attorney General would take over any case involving a police-caused fatality
 - b. Ms. Lang shared the Institute's [toolkit](#) for dealing with and prosecuting police abuse
4. Resolution on Presidential Accountability Act
 - a. The Rule of Law working group presented a [resolution](#) supporting the passage of the Presidential Accountability Act, which would codify many of the norms that President Trump has flagrantly violated
 - i. For instance, the Act would require divestiture of the President's assets, force the disclosure of the President's financial interests, and prohibit nepotism in executive staffing
 - b. A motion to adopt the resolution carried by acclamation

5. Declaration of Incompetence
 - a. Member John Wagner presented his [Declaration of Incompetence](#), a searing indictment of the President's unfitness for office in a format echoing the Declaration of Independence
 - a. A motion to endorse and promote the declaration carried by acclamation

6. District Leader Report
 - a. District Leaders Kim Moscaritolo and Ben Wetzler gave an update on their ongoing meetings with the Board of Elections regarding voting concerns
 - b. Kim invited members to get involved with The Covid Foundation's [initiative to provide PPE](#) to the Upper East Side
 - c. Ben discussed the city's [open streets](#) initiative

7. Working Group Reports
 - a. Racial Justice (Justin Maffett):
 - i. The group has been working on a resolution condemning the arrests of activists by unidentified officers using unmarked vehicles
 - b. Elections (Jordan Stein):
 - i. The group will be hosting phone banking events for [Biden](#) and Rep. Max Rose, and will also be hosting a DNC watch party on Cast, which will include buzzword bingo
 - c. Economic Justice (Erica Vladimer):
 - i. The group is working to put pressure on elected to shore up rent relief, because the version that passed at the state level is far from comprehensive
 1. Invited members to participate in a [letter-writing campaign](#)

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