

Four Freedoms Democratic Club General Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2020

7pm

Opening remarks:

- We founded this club to carry the vision of Roosevelt with the Four Freedoms into the 21st Century
- FILL OUT THE CENSUS! This is the last moment to do so

Getting Out the Vote With Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

- Thank you for endorsing me, and for the work you're doing for democrats across the country
- This is the most important election in our history
 - o But, we also have a big election right here at home, against a Trump-loving republican
- Past few months- my team has been making calls, I'm out every single day in the district, carrying voter registration cards, absentee ballot applications, and basic information on laws we enacted in July on how to vote!
- We are in GOTV right now!
- Phone bank coming up on Sunday which Kim is hosting
 - o Social distanced phone banking at campaign HQ or virtually
- Press conference on Saturday on the East Side Espinwald about sink holes
- Early voting starts 10/24. Look up your [location here](#)
 - o 90% of AD76 voters will vote at Wagner middle school
- Club discounts at her events
- Q&A
 - o What are you hearing about in terms of concerns on the street?
 - People are worried they haven't received their absentee ballots yet, even after submitting their applications
 - Printing error on the ballot, which says "Absentee Military Ballot."
 - It's missing the / between absentee and military, so people think their ballots don't count/isn't legal
 - Postage—you don't need any!
 - o Homeless situation, specifically relating to people who had to be relocated. What do you see as the appropriate response for the city to be and what can the Assembly do/is currently doing to find a stable home?
 - We need a long term, thoughtful solution to get people into permanent solution
 - Vouchers for the homeless
 - Co-sponsor of the Home Stability Act
 - o The state runs the BOE and as an Assembly member who just discussed the issue with the ballots...do you support reorganizing to make it a professional run org versus politically?
 - We need to hold hearings on what's going on with local BOEs
 - A lot of people right here at NYC BOE that are near retirement
 - It's the perfect time to reorganize, and need feedback
 - We learned a lot about what went wrong in June, and I favor having hearings
 - o Guardian Angels are making their way into our community. What have you been hearing about their presence and what is your feeling about why they're here and their aims, and what can you do about it?
 - Most of the people reaching out to our office

- Spoke with Krueger because they are concerned
- Their presence is political and not needed
- The 19th precinct is very responsive
- BOE: do you know or heard of proactive measure they're going to take in terms of being able to handle the influx of absentee ballots?
 - We did enact laws after June Primary in response
 - There is a new tracker to track your ballot
 - BOE can now sort absentee ballots sooner than they were able to for the June primary

Conversation with Comptroller Scott Stringer

- Started out as DL on UWS!
- We have to make sure Rebecca Seawright is elected
- Want to brief on state of play in our economy
 - In feb of 2020 (pre-COVID) the unemployment rate was 3.4%-- lowest ever!
 - Over the last 10 years, we created 1M new jobs
 - Within 30 days of COVID, unemployment went t 20%, the highest it's ever been
 - We lost 970k jobs
- It's not just about the 4B deficit the city has, it's also about reopening our city and economy
- We have to acknowledge something that COVID shows us: it discriminates
 - It went to the most vulnerable first
 - It hit the communities that we as a city didn't invest in first
- We need to think about not just the old jobs that will come back, but also the new jobs that will come
- We lost our tourism: 62M people
- We should use this opporuntity to reimagine our streets
 - Outdoor dining and commerce
 - Even broadway and classrooms outdoors
- Q&A
 - What the RoR on the pension fund for last year and this year and how much does the city pay the financial advisors?
 - The pension fund asset allocation is exactly built for the period we are in right now, so we don't look at the short term challenges, we have a long term investment strategy
 - Even including these last few months, our pension fund has maintained our 7% actuarial goal. It'll fluctuate
 - Fees: no controller has attacked high-fees. We have lowered fees and demanded consultants and investments we make to show us data based on race and gender
 - Double investment in green economy (4B- lead in the country)
 - NOT in pension funds: guns, private prisons
 - If you were elected, would you support a non- police response to mental health calls?
 - We need to reform NYPD. New commissioner and Mayor who can take control
 - Amazing to me that 40% of 911 calls is for crime in progress, and the 60% is for things like mental health concerns
 - Makes sense to build an infrastructure of mental health professionals
 - This is not new to me- I respect the protest, I respect Black Lives

- First elected official who looked like me to advocate for end stop and frisk
 - Supports reduce NYPD- \$1B over 4 years
 - Pension fund being used in a predatory lending scheme with third parties? HPD is a major issue, especially the deputy commissioner. They falsely claim the work has been done
 - There are certain things we don't hold
 - Our office wants to talk to you so we can look into this criminal practices
 - How is the City going to be able to fund our needs to provide affordable housing to everyone who needs it while we have such a big deficit?
 - We are spending \$3.2B, but homelessness is going up
 - Which means the conditions haven't been solved
 - Siloed affordable housing and the shelter system
 - AND, the affordable housing being built, is not affordable housing to those who are in the neighborhood
 - Housing Plan: set up land bank and land trust
 - Access city-owned property
 - Get the AMI to reflect the community
 - Get rid of the 420-A program!
 - Given that we now know 52% of students are learning remotely, how do we address significant lack of access to broadband and devices, especially in underserved communities
 - Remote learning is HARD- not doing well with my own children
 - Outrageous that the mayor and DOE failed to plan
 - \$600M that funds DOE bureaucrazy must be redirected especially to remote learning
 - Support universal broadband access
 - How are you modeling the outcomes in DC? Auditing HPD?
 - Yes, we should audit HPD
 - In terms of modeling what we're in for—if Biden wins, we take the Senate, I think we get the 3.3T the country needs
 - BdB wanting to borrow 5-7B without a financial plan is irresponsible. Don't want to borrow unless absolutely necessary.
 - If we get a vaccine- a REAL one- we start to turn it around
 - Our come back is predicated on funding from federal gov, because we need trillions

Club Officer and Board Nominations

- Annual meeting is November 19th! We'll be voting then
- You do not have to make nominations tonight, you can make them w/in 5 by sending them to Jerry or Erica
- President Nominations:
 - Jerry (accepted)
- VP Nominations:
 - Frank W (accepted)
- Corresponding Secretary
 - Alex Bores (accepted)
- Treasurer

- John Bartos (accepted)
- Recording Secretary
 - Erica Vladimer (accepted)
- Members at large
 - Justin Maffett (accept)
 - Marina Phillips (accept)
 - Flor de Maria Eilets (accept)
 - Ruth Halberg (accept)
 - Matthew Lombardi (accept)
 - Amy Schwartz (accept)
 - Lee Wiggins (accept)
 - Esther Yang (accept)
 - Arlene Kayatt (accept)
 - Jordan Stein (accept)
 - Gabe Panek (accept)
 - John Wagner (accept)
 - Jeremy Berman (accept)

District Leaders FAQ on Early Voting and Absentee Voting

- Here's the website on where to look for your early voting site: <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>
- We're encouraging everyone to vote early
- Early voting starts October 24th and end November 1st
- Mail in voting:
 - Strongly recommend to drop off ballot at any early voting site or your poll site on election day
 - If it's signed and sealed, someone else can drop it off for you
- October 25th will be our FFDC "joint" early voting day

Outreach Committee Report

- Working on getting some t-shirts and sweatshirts!
- Gives higher visibility to the club

Events Committee Report

- Sunday, [10/18 day of action](#), out on 79th and 1st, 12pm-2pm to educate neighbors about mail in and absentee voting
- Zoom fall fundraiser on 10/22
 - Wine Tasting!
 - Shipments will be going out in the next few days
 - Zoom link email will be going out shortly thereafter
 - If you have no signed up but want to, please email Matt: mlombardi1@gmail.com

Elections Working Group Report: the Final Push

- Wednesday phone banks have been going great! About 30 people joining
- Starting a new Monday series for Antonio Delgado. Sign up [here](#)
 - We are doing this for the state elected within the area too
- Halloween canvass for Max Rose → meet at the SI Ferry at 11:30am
 - Could be a lit drop
 - Details still being worked out

Rule of Law Working Group Report: Organizing to Protect the Result

- Coalition of orgs that are preparing to protect integrity of election and make sure we get a fair result
- Letters are being sent to elected officials asking them to help maintain the integrity of the elections
- November 4th election, 5pm: event by protect the results
- Suggested that we reach out to the NYPD community affairs team to see what they plan to do

Racial Justice Working Group Report

- Preparing for a cultural awareness training for board leaders and committee chairs
- Organized by a cultural competency firm
-

Education Working Group Report: Protecting or Fragile Education Budget

- Concerns that distribution that laptop, devices, and broadband is so unequal
- Concerned about staffing
- Thinking of having a townhall that will touch upon what schools are going through and they are handling remote teaching (post-election)

Report of Ad-Hoc Constitution Revision Committee (proposed revisions shown in attached redline)

- We'll be sending out proposed changes with the notice of our November meeting
- Not many major changes, the vast majority of constitution and bylaws held up really well
- Most changes were about clarification and updating it based on how the club currently operates
- Need 2/3 of members to vote for amendments to pass