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The City of New York Community Board 8 Manhattan Social Justice Committee Meeting Monday, December 7, 2020 - 6:30PM This meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom

## **Minutes**

**Community Board Members Present:** Lori Ann Bores, Taina Borrero, Loraine Brown, Alida Camp, Anthony Cohn, Saundrea Coleman, Brian Correia, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Takako Kono, Craig Lader, Valerie Mason, Gregory Morris, Jane Parshall, Peter Patch, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Cos Spagnoletti, Russell Squire, and Marco Tamayo.

A well-attended first meeting of the Social Justice Committee began with an introductory video, "A Lasting Legacy". The video highlighted the importance of viewing social justice as more than a struggle for racial equality, but one that extends to all social advocacy: economic rights, gender, LGBTQ issues, health equity, fairness in educational availability, homelessness and housing, food insecurity, policing and criminal justice, accessibility, and environmental justice.

Many attendees spoke to these issues as possible topics for discussion. The co-chairs deliberately did not follow the customary approach to recognizing speakers: there was a mix of public and board members, in part to encourage public participation and in part to blur the distinction between public and public servants (at least in the first meeting – one without resolutions to discuss).

From the spirited discussion several action items emerged:

- Increase internal participation in the committee, and also reach out widely to the community
- Possible inclusion of Social Justice issues in the annual explanation for the Statement of District Needs.
- Coordination with other committees on programs of mutual concern.
- Suggest that each Manhattan Community Board establish a similar committee if they have not already done so, perhaps with the assistance of the Borough President
- Examine all committee actions through the lens of Social Justice. The example offered involved E-bicycles. As annoying and dangerous as they might be, outright bans would cause economic hardship for delivery persons, and a more fair response might be toward licensing and regulation.
- The committee should be and remain a group focused on change.
- Invite relevant speakers to address topics of concern
- Structure future meetings on focused topics

The intention, going forward, is to meet every month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

## Saundrea I. Coleman and Anthony Cohn, Co-Chairs