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Chair

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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Social Justice Committee Meeting
Friday, January 29, 2021 - 6:30PM**

This meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Minutes

Community Board Members Present: Saundrea Coleman, Sarah Chu, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Russell Squire, Billy Freedland, Rami Sigal, Gayle Baron, Brian Correia

Resolution for Approval: Item 3

1. The First Amendment

- a. Text: "The First Amendment provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

2. A look at the disparities of how protestors are treated:

- a. Link to video: <https://youtu.be/axxb9FRJTg0>

3. The Capitol Insurrection an Open discussion [summary of discussion]

- a. There was a general consensus that there was a clear disparity in the way that Black protestors were treated compared to how the insurrectionists were treated by law enforcement. The disparity was also clear in the aftermath of the January 6th events. Over the summer, peaceful BLM protestors were met with violent use of force by police and subject to police strategies - such as kettling - that were applied to ensure their capture and arrest. In contrast, despite participating in a violent attack on the Capitol that resulted in deaths and severe injuries to the responding law enforcement officers, few people were charged for committing violent acts that were witnessed by cameras, few people were arrested, and there were many reports that those arrested were being down charged. Despite their fundamental assault on the government, most participants will not be charged.
- b. The disparities in the anticipated response of law enforcement were apparent in how cell phone cameras were used to document protests v. the insurrection. During the summer's protests, cameras were used to document police violence. During the insurrection, cameras were used to announce the crimes being committed - the rioters felt safe publicizing their acts knowing they would not be held accountable.
- c. Important to this discussion were the difference between the summer protests and the insurrection. They are not equivalent events. During peaceful BLM marches, clashes were instigated by police and from overly physical responses to largely peaceful expressions of protest. There is a big difference between peacefully protesting for not being killed and violent protesting for overturning the government and violently forcing Congress to recognize a different winner of

the election. Accountability should be broader than the people who participated broadly as the group believed this was the culmination of months of willful incitement.

- d. The group also had a discussion about bail, its purpose to reduce flight risk rather than as a judgement of the defendant, and how it was used more generously with violent insurrectionists.
- e. There was also an expression that the events of January 6th reminded us of how white supremacy has permeated so much of our history and is not a relic of the past. The United States has experienced hundreds of years of white supremacy, dating back to at least 1619, and we were reminded that it is patriotic to question our country with the goal of making it better. It is unpatriotic not to criticize.
- f. Lastly, Black members of the group described the pain of seeing hate in action, how they have been harmed by structural racism in policing, and the impact it has had on their children. They expressed how difficult it is to continually experience hate in the course of their daily lives.
- g. Resolution:

Therefore be it resolved, Community Board 8 Manhattan condemns the terrorist actions of January 6th on our Capitol as a violent insurrection, a terrorist assault on our democracy, an expression of white supremacy, and the exhibition of hatred for the diversity that we value in our community,

Further resolved, Community Board 8 Manhattan continues to condemn the disparate treatment of peaceful protestors and white supremacist terrorists and other hate groups,

Further resolved, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on our elected officials and the judicial system to hold accountable the elected officials who incited the January 6th attack by supporting baseless conspiracy theories that the election was fraudulent,

Further resolved, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on law enforcement officials and the judicial system to hold those who participated and incited the insurrection accountable to the fullest extent of the law,

Further resolved, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls upon all people to ensure accountability for those who participated in the insurrection and to address the misinformation campaigns that led to the insurrection,

Further resolved, the events of January 6th are a reminder for all of us to redouble our efforts to combat structural racism and white supremacy, and Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on our community to work together to combat the structural forces that perpetuate hate and discrimination.

Rita Popper made a motion in support and Russell Squire seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0-0

IN FAVOR: Sarah Chu, Saundrea Coleman, Brian Correia, Billy Freeland, Rita Popper, and Russell Squire

4. New Business

- a. UES Mutual Aid Network is starting a Community Fridge on 96th x 3rd. This topic was referred to the chair for referral to the appropriate committee.

5. Old Business - None

Saundrea I. Coleman and Sarah Chu, Co-Chairs