

# Citywide Convention Bulletin for September 1, 2021

## Bulletin #2

*Sent 09.1.2021*

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#### **Introduction**

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The Citywide Convention will be September 25, 2021. Convention is the highest decision-making body of NYC-DSA and meets once annually to elect officers to our Steering Committee and to debate and decide issues affecting the organization of the chapter and its political orientation. There are three major tasks of the convention: constitutional amendments, resolutions, and officer elections. To learn more about those tasks, check out the website [here](#).

#### **Attend Convention**

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Our convention is delegated, meaning that voting and decision-making is done by representatives elected in the organization's branches. More information about the delegation is available [on the website](#).

**To volunteer or to register as an observer:** The Convention is in need of volunteers to make the event happen. If you want to volunteer or observe, please [do so via this form](#). Members in good standing are also welcome to observe the meeting. However, because of limited space, we can only offer observership to a handful of people. Email the chapter staff at [info@socialists.nyc](mailto:info@socialists.nyc) if you have further questions.

#### **Timeline + Deadlines: A more complete list of deadlines is available [on the website](#)**

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**8/11:** Candidate questionnaires due for convention delegate

**8/13:** Labor Branch delegate elections open

- 8/14:** Proposals for citywide Convention are due
- 8/16:** Labor Branch delegate elections close
- 8/17:** Proposals sent to membership; calls for amendments
- 8/18:** Geographic branch delegate elections open
- 8/23:** Geographic branch delegate elections close
- 8/27:** Officer statements due
- 8/29:** Amendments to proposals are due
- 9/25:** Citywide Convention

### **Consent Agenda and Debate Agenda Vote Results**

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The below chart reflects the results of the Opavote for both the Consent Agenda and the Debate Agenda.

All items that passed the  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote will be added to the Consent Agenda; these items are highlighted in yellow. Please note that these items will not be debated, and will be voted on together at the beginning of convention.

The Debate Agenda scores were calculated with Borda Count, and the most highly ranked proposals will be considered for debate. 2 ½ hours will be set aside for debate time during the convention, which will run from 9am - 4pm. The Steering Committee will determine how many of the resolutions will be debated, and share the finalized agenda by September 8th.

C/R#	Resolution or Amendment	Consent Agenda Votes	Consent Agenda %	Debate Score	Debate Rank	66%+ Consent Agenda
RE09	R- New Deal For CUNY Priority Campaign	33	23%	2099	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE15	R- Branch Visioning: Branch Sections	35	24%	1946	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE02	R- Constituent Organizing	73	50%	1921	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE18	R- Tasks for Branches	35	24%	1872	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE10	R- Create Strong Issue Campaigns	52	36%	1795	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE08	R- Prioritizing and Funding Latino Organizing	64	44%	1680	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE17	R- Make a Goal of Three New Branches for NYC-DSA	42	29%	1637	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
CA5	C- Integrating Priority Campaigns into CLC	75	51%	1495	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE03	R- Voter Registration	56	38%	1462	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE07	R- Rights of NYC Public Housing Residents	40	27%	1359	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
CA3	C- Biennial Conventions	60	41%	1265	11	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE16	R- Branch Visioning: Branch Commission 2.0	39	27%	1263	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE14	R- Communication Between CLC + Branches	63	43%	987	13	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE12	R- Increasing Organizational Transparency	55	38%	966	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE06	R- Creating Structures for Protest Response	32	22%	948	15	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE01/20	R- Articulate Socialist Drug Politics	39	27%	941	16	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE19	R- Boycott CPC to End the 24h Workday	10	7%	722	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
RE04	R- Establish a Citywide Mobilizer Program	102	70%	1871		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RE05	R- Build BIPOC Leaders w/Socialist Summer School	102	70%	1579		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA2	C- Make a Campaign Coordinator Position	99	68%	1191		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA1	C- Cultural Organizations	105	72%	1062		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA4	C- Fall/Winter Convention	114	78%	813		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RE11	R- Yearly Reports by Priority Campaigns	96	66%	704		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RE13	R- Resolutions Compendium	113	77%	573		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Constitutional Amendments Index

The below amendments propose to amend the current NYC-DSA Constitution, which is available on the website [here](#). Text that is proposed to be removed is struck ~~like so~~, while new text is underlined like so.

We have tried to group Amendments by their topic to allow for easier reading of this bulletin.

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8. [Prioritizing and Funding Working-Class Latino Organizing in NYC-DSA](#)
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10. [Create Strong Issue Campaigns through a Rigorous Citywide Priority Campaign Adoption Process](#)
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## Constitutional Amendments Full Text

### *Constitutional Amendment #1*

## Cultural Organizations

**Authors:** Annie Levin (CBK), Amy Wilson (NBK)

**Co-sponsors:** Jabari Brisport (CBK), James Neimeister (SBK), Desiree Joy Frias (B/UM), David Duhalde (CBK), Jesse Jae Hoon (Queens), Tefa Galvis (Queens), Daniel Lynch (Queens), Kay Gabriel (Queens), Carrington Morris (NBK), Sam Westley (B/UM), Madi Mornhinweg (CBK), Michael Carter (CBK), Emmy Hammond (NBK), Ben Mabie (CBK), Tiffany Berruti (B/UM), Zyad Hammad (Labor), Jenny Brown (LowMan), Michael Cavadias (LowMan), Natalie James (Queens), Jack Devine (CBK), Siobhan O'Loughlin (CBK), Josh Feintuch (CBK), Elizabeth Vogt (CBK), Alexandra Holmstrom-Smith (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), Scott McMillin (Queens), Pablo O'Connell (B/UM), Dorian Wallace (B/UM), Sean Reilly Wood (CBK), Gaya Sriskanthan (CBK), Richard Azierski (B/UM), Eric Horwitz (CBK), Steven Dube (CBK), Julie Solomon (CBK), Nicholas Connolly (Queens), Alexandra Zevin (CBK), Lee Ziesche (CBK), Bernard Goyder (B/UM), Bethany Scott (Queens), Ira Pollock (Labor), Robert Fuller (B/UM), Robert Granniss (SBK), Eileene Vicencio (Queens), Isabel Anreus (NBK) Pete Martin (CBK), Robert Espinosa (NBK), Chris Brooks (SBK), Roy Felshin (B/UM), Ryan Beckley (CBK), Leslie Roeder (LowMan), Caleb de Jong (Queens), Jarvis R. Hunt (NBK), Gayle Snible (B/UM), Cameron DeOrdio (Queens), Julie Bowen (Staten Island), Andrey Chichagov (LowMan), Cliff Connolly (CBK), Charlotte Albrecht (NBK), Esmerelda Huerta (CBK), Jack Tomascak (Queens), Diana Finch (B/UM), Andrew Callaway (NBK), Dylan Saba (CBK), Gerard Dalbon, CBK, Nikhil Shimpi (CBK), Tom Brick (NBK), Nick Nicoludis (Queens), Haley Weiss (CBK), Aaron Eisenberg (SBK), Chris Carr (B/UM), Jonathan Bailey (Queens), Katy Lasell (CBK), Mitch Ellmayer (CBK)

### **Motivation:**

Culture and the arts have always played a critical role in building movements for racial, social, and economic justice in the US and globally. During the 1930s, trade unions, political parties, and socialist organizations ran choirs, baseball teams, summer camps, and schools for adult education, building a rich and sustaining culture for those engaged in class struggle.

This constitutional amendment would change Article V, Section 3, e on the Steering Committee to empower the Working Groups Coordinator to bring proposals for new Cultural Organizations before the Steering Committee, and establish oversight of Cultural Organizations by the Working Groups Coordinator.

Whereas NYC-DSA has already chartered and endorsed its in-house radio show, Revolutions per Minute (RPM) on WBAI 99.5fm. RPM has been continuously broadcasting since January 2019 and has produced 125+ episodes of original analysis and reporting on NYC-DSA and related campaigns. Since the restructuring of the Media Working Group in early 2021, RPM is without a formal home within NYC-DSA and under this amendment would become a Cultural Organization under the oversight of the Working Group Coordinator on the Steering Committee.

Whereas NYC-DSA members have organized since 2018 under the name Sing in Solidarity, regularly electing an Organizing Committee and holding semimonthly rehearsals. Sing in Solidarity has participated in the life of the local and national organization, lending their voices to branch meetings, NYC-DSA led actions, campaign events for our endorsed candidates (Marcela Mityanes, Brandon West), Julia Salazar's 2018 Inauguration, NYC-DSA annual convention (2018, 2019, 2020), a national priority campaign (DSA Ecosocialists - PRO Act Video), and virtual fundraisers (National DSA, NYC-DSA, EWOC).

Whereas Cultural Organizations are an existent part of NYC-DSA's fabric, this amendment provides language to formalize that relationship, and encourage new projects.

We propose to amend:

**Article V, Section 3, e**

e) The Working Groups Coordinator shall work with the Local's issue or campaign-based Working Groups, and Cultural Organizations, to make sure they have support from the Steering Committee, and shall be responsible for bringing new proposals to create issue or campaign-based Working Groups, and charter Cultural Organizations, to the Steering Committee. They shall also be responsible for keeping the Steering Committee and the membership informed of the issue or campaign-based Working Groups' projects. In the event that the Local hires a staffer this responsibility can be handed to them and the position left vacant.

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## **Make the Working Groups Coordinator a Campaign Coordinator Position**

**Submitted by:** The NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmbhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SBK), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Miko Brandini (B/UM), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Liz Skeen (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

**Rationale:** Since the creation of the Working Groups Coordinator position in 2017, our chapter has grown substantially in terms of our political sophistication, our electoral work, the ambition of our legislative program, and our organizational capacity. In light of this growth, it is key that our campaigns can seamlessly work together in a way that maximizes key peaks and lulls in campaign timelines, the legislative and budget sessions, and electoral cycles. To that end, this amendment proposes that the Working Group Coordinator become a Campaign Coordinator position that is tasked with the role of coordinating activities across all of the chapter's active campaigns and developing and executing strategies for better integrating activities across campaigns. This role will also be tasked with working with campaign and relevant working group organizing committees to ensure they have the resources they need from the Steering Committee and to ensure that the membership and chapter-wide leadership bodies are kept abreast of the progress of our chapter's campaigns.

Part of what makes this possible is that some of the fundamental tasks of the working groups coordinator, like fielding event endorsement requests and managing a directory of leadership are now done by the hired staffer.

### **Article V. Section 1a. of the Constitution shall be amended as follows:**

*The officers of the Local: the two Cochairs, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Membership Coordinator, and the ~~Working Groups Coordinator~~ Campaign Coordinator.*

### **Article V. Section 3. of the Constitution shall be amended as follows:**

Officers. The officers of the Local shall be two Cochairs, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Membership Coordinator, and a ~~Working Groups Coordinator~~ **Campaign Coordinator**.

**Article V. Section 3e. of the Constitution shall be amended as follows:**

e) The ~~Working Groups Coordinator~~ **Campaign Coordinator** shall work with the Local's **issue-based campaigns to ensure their campaign plans are executed in a way that maximizes each campaign's effectiveness at key points of escalation. The campaign coordinator shall also work with** issue or campaign-based Working Groups to make sure they have support from the Steering Committee, ~~and shall be responsible for bringing new proposals to create issue or campaign-based Working Groups to the Steering Committee.~~ They shall also be responsible for keeping the Steering Committee, **the Citywide Leadership Committee**, and the membership informed of the issue or campaign-based Working Groups' projects. ~~In the event that the Local hires a staffer this responsibility can be handed to them and the position left vacant.~~

*Amendment #1 to Constitutional Amendment #2*

**Proposed Amendment to the Campaigns Coordinator Amendment...Chartering New Working Groups**

**Author:** Annalisa Wilde, CBK

**Co-sponsors:** Devin McManus, CBK, Michael Whitesides, CBK, Susan Kang, Queens, Fainan Lakha, CBK, James Neimeister, SBK, Chi Anunwa, SBK

**Rationale:** It has historically been the task of the Steering Committee to charter new working groups and it is important to retain clarity in our constitution about what body has the power to do this.

**Amendment to the Amendment:**

Add additional language to Article V. The Steering Committee:

*Section 2: Responsibilities.*

a) The Steering Committee shall meet as a whole at least six times annually (in person or by conference call). It shall concern itself primarily with the development of political strategy and plans to be presented annually at the Local Convention for debate and vote. The Steering Committee will also be responsible for staffing, office space, and major Local financial expenses.

b) The Steering Committee will coordinate and direct all Local-wide activities in New York City, as well as oversee the Local's communications and media. It may delegate any of these activities to subcommittees or groups of NYC-DSA.

c) The Steering Committee is responsible for chartering new Working Groups.

⇒ d) The Steering Committee will be responsible for carrying out National DSA's priorities in New York City.

⇒ e) The Steering Committee, working with relevant committees, must publish or deliver an annual report describing the accomplishments of the previous year and setting forth the plans and goals for the Local in the coming year.

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### *Constitutional Amendment #3*

## **Integrating Priority Campaigns into Citywide Leadership Committee**

**Submitted by:** The NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar (CBK), Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmabhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Miko Brandini (B/UM)), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Kay G (Queens), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Liz Skeen (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

### **Rationale:**

Citywide Priority Campaigns (CPCs) have played a key role in developing and expanding our organization since its inception. We've built grassroots power by organizing around housing, healthcare, public power, and defunding the NYPD. We've engaged in power mapping, lobbying, and direct action against the forces of power in the New York City and New York State establishment. This organizing necessitates a commitment to strategic analysis towards how we can build working-class power and bring socialist politics to everything we do.

These strategy questions have become siloed from the work of our democratically elected leadership bodies. Increasingly, the role of the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) has solidified into that of a key deliberative

body in our chapter. Unlike in its previous iterations, the CLC has begun holding more frequent meetings in which the body focuses on discussing strategic questions rather than voting on resolutions. The Steering Committee invites representatives from our CPCs to speak at nearly every CLC meeting and the discussions serve to clarify our work as an organization.

**To formalize this practice, this amendment adds nonvoting CPC representatives to the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) — one for each campaign — and aims to integrate our leadership so as to better shape our discussions of goals and strategy as a chapter.**

Currently, CPCs are approved and defined by the CLC. As outlined in the [“Definition of a Citywide Priority Campaign” proposal](#) adopted by the Chapter in January 2018, CPCs currently have certain expectations and responsibilities. However, as our work grows more complex, we need to further develop not just what a CPC should look like, but also how a CPC fits into the larger structure of our organization.

This amendment would create four additional nonvoting positions on the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) with the possibility for more additional positions in the future:

- Healthcare
- Housing
- Defund NYPD
- Public Power

Each position would be appointed by the Organizing Committee of the respective CPC or working group within approximately one month of Convention, taking place concurrently with elections for the rest of the CLC. Since political conditions often determine when a CPC may need to be adopted, the timing of this CLC appointment process has been kept flexible.

Other efforts to formalize the role of CPCs in our chapter align with the spirit of this amendment. In addition, CPCs are currently represented on one of the key leadership bodies in our chapter, the [Socialists in Office Committee](#). To reflect and strategize on where much of our key organizing is taking place, this amendment will enable the Chapter to more effectively integrate our citywide organizing to our chapter’s democratic structure.

## **Amendment:**

### Article IV. Citywide Leadership Committee

*Section 1: Definition.* The Citywide Leadership Committee (Leadership Committee) shall consist of Delegates from each of the Branches, Citywide Priority Campaigns, and the officers of the Local. Young Democratic Socialists of America will be allotted two representatives, one of which will be the Young Democratic Socialists of America Representative on the Steering Committee. There shall be no more than 30 Branch Delegates on the Leadership Committee, not including the officers of the Local and the two Young Democratic Socialists of America Representatives. Each Citywide Priority Campaign will be allotted one nonvoting representative. Branch Representatives to the Steering Committee shall automatically be one of the Branch Delegates to the Leadership Committee for their Branch. The exact

number of Delegates allotted to each Branch shall be determined yearly by the Steering Committee within 20 days following the Local Convention and based on the membership numbers determined at the time of the convention. The exact number of Citywide Priority Campaign representatives shall be determined by the number of campaigns endorsed by the Local.

*Section 4: Elections.* Elections of Branch Leadership Committee Delegates shall be held in the Branches approximately one month after the Local Convention and after the Steering Committee has determined the number of Delegates for each Branch. These elections shall concur with Branch elections for Organizing Committee and Steering Committee Representative, except in circumstances where unavoidable or approved by a vote of the Steering Committee.

Each Branch shall also elect up to five Alternate Delegates at the time Delegates are elected. The number of Alternate Delegates to be elected for each Branch shall be decided by that Branch's Organizing Committee, as fits the needs of their Branch. The Alternate Delegates shall be ranked one, two, three, etc. Branch Alternate Delegates shall be called upon to replace absent Branch Delegates in the order that they are ranked.

Appointments of Citywide Priority Campaign Leadership Committee Representatives shall be made approximately one month after the Local Convention. Representatives will be appointed by the Organizing Committee of the respective Citywide Priority Campaign or working group. This process shall concur with Branch elections for Organizing Committee and Steering Committee Representative, except in circumstances where unavoidable or approved by a vote of the Steering Committee. In the event that a Citywide Priority Campaign is endorsed in between Conventions, the Organizing Committee of that campaign or working group will approve a representative approximately one month after the campaign is endorsed.

Delegates to the Leadership Committee may be removed from their position for malfeasance upon a two-thirds vote of the branch. In such case, the first ranked Alternate Delegate shall become the Delegate and so on and so forth.

*Section 5: Diversity.* In electing and appointing its delegation to the Leadership Committee, Branches and Citywide Priority Campaigns shall consider diversity and assure that their delegations are diverse in terms of racial and ethnic identity, gender and sexual identity, age, and class.

*Section 6: Quorum.* A quorum of the Leadership Committee shall be sixty percent of the voting body.

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## **Biennial Conventions**

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (Lowman) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmbhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Dana Buhl, Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilía Decaudin (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

### **Rationale:**

Convention is a unique opportunity for the entire chapter to consider the work that has been done in the previous year, strategize about the work that lies ahead, and determine what to prioritize as an organization. The Constitution currently requires that Convention take place on an annual basis.

However, having a delegated chapter-wide convention on an annual basis is a significant lift for our chapter which has raised structural problems. Devoting the time and resources required to plan Convention on an annual basis makes it difficult to organize meaningful deliberation and gather buy-in on important organizational questions.

To that end, this amendment removes the mandate for an annual delegated convention. It recommends tasking the Steering Committee with the responsibility of planning an alternative conference with the goal of providing space for political education, assessment of the organization's work, and strategic discussion. Should the need for constitutional changes arise, our current constitution allows for special meetings, which could be combined with the alternative event.

The rationale and language of this amendment was previously put forward by chapter leadership at our [previous Convention](#) (Constitutional Amendment #3). Due to the timing of the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent shift of Convention from March to August, the authors of that resolution chose to withdraw their amendment to allow for further debate.

This amendment also changes terms on the chapter's Administrative Committee to two years. These positions demand substantial political and organizational development, and require building relationships across the chapter over time to become effective. This change would go into effect in 2022 with that election for Administrative Committee officers becoming the first to have a two-year term.

Finally, this amendment would align our Convention frequency with that of the National organization. Particularly in odd years when we have both local and national conventions, two rounds of delegate recruitment, elections, and deliberative processes put strain on the most active layer of the organization and take time away from other organizing efforts.

#### **Amendment:**

### **Article III. Basic Organization and Conventions**

*Section 1:* General Membership. Conventions and Special Meetings of the Local, at which the General Membership shall be represented by elected delegates, shall be the highest body of the organization; providing that Special Meetings shall have the authority to deal with only those matters for which they may be called. Between Conventions, Special Meetings, and meetings of the Citywide Leadership Committee, the Steering Committee shall be responsible for the administration of the organization and the implementation of policies formulated by the General Membership and the Citywide Leadership Committee.

*Section 2:* Conventions. The Local shall meet in Convention ~~annually~~ in even-numbered years during the first six months of the year unless the Citywide Leadership Committee approves a later date. The Convention shall meet to elect officers and to debate and decide primarily, but not exclusively, Local issues, the political orientation of the organization, and program direction. The Convention date and all associated deadlines must be announced to the general membership at least 3 months before the date of the Convention. A process for proposal submission, proposal amendments, proposal reconciliation, and delegate election must be included in the Convention announcement.

*Section 3:* Chapter-wide Conference. In odd-numbered years, the Steering Committee will be tasked with planning a conference, or series of events, open to all members of the Chapter, with the goal of providing space for political education, assessment of the organization's work, and strategic discussion.

### **Article IV. Citywide Leadership Committee**

*Section 4:* Elections. Elections of Steering Committee Representatives and Leadership Committee Delegates shall be held in the Branches approximately one month after the Local Convention or conference and after the Steering Committee has determined the number of Delegates for each Branch. These elections shall concur with Branch elections for Organizing Committee and Steering Committee Representative, except in circumstances where unavoidable or approved by a vote of the Steering Committee.

## Article VI. Election of Officers

Section 1: Nominations. All Officers of the Steering Committee shall be elected at the Local's ~~annual~~ biennial Convention. Nominations to run for the Steering Committee must be submitted to the outgoing Steering Committee in advance of the Convention. Any member may nominate another member in good standing for elected position in the Local.

Section 2: Process. There shall be a separate vote for each contested office at the Local Convention in the order that the offices are listed in Article V. The Steering Committee will be responsible for ensuring that elections are held and for fulfilling the diversity requirements spelled out in Article V, Section 5.

Section 3. Election of Branch representatives. Representatives from Branches will be elected approximately one month after the Local Convention or conference, concurrently with elections for Branch Organizing Committee and Steering Committee Representative. They will serve for approximately one year. Branches shall have the right to recall their representative and replace them, and will also be responsible for replacing their representative should they no longer be able to serve on the Steering Committee.

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*Constitutional Amendment #5*

### Fall/Winter Convention

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmabhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Miko Brandini (B/UM), Kay G (Queens), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

**Motivation:**



Currently the constitution asks for conventions in the first half of the year, but this always conflicts with election cycles. Conventions in the second half of the year make more sense given our typical campaign cycle and the opportunities for assessment.

### **Article III. Basic Organization and Conventions**

*Section 1:* General Membership. Conventions and Special Meetings of the Local, at which the General Membership shall be represented by elected delegates, shall be the highest body of the organization; providing that Special Meetings shall have the authority to deal with only those matters for which they may be called. Between Conventions, Special Meetings, and meetings of the Citywide Leadership Committee, the Steering Committee shall be responsible for the administration of the organization and the implementation of policies formulated by the General Membership and the Citywide Leadership Committee.

*Section 2:* Conventions. The Local shall meet in Convention annually during the ~~first last~~ six months of the year unless the Citywide Leadership Committee approves ~~a later another~~ date. The Convention shall meet to elect officers and to debate and decide primarily, but not exclusively, Local issues, the political orientation of the organization, and program direction. The Convention date and all associated deadlines must be announced to the general membership at least 3 months before the date of the Convention. A process for proposal submission, proposal amendments, proposal reconciliation, and delegate election must be included in the Convention announcement.

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### *Constitutional Amendment #6*

## **Integrating Priority Campaigns into Citywide Leadership Committee**

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe

DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Miko Brandini (B/UM)), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Kay G (Queens), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Liz Skeen (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

### **Rationale:**

Citywide Priority Campaigns (CPCs) have played a key role in developing and expanding our organization since its inception. We've built grassroots power by organizing around housing, healthcare, public power, and defunding the NYPD. We've engaged in power mapping, lobbying, and direct action against the forces of power in the New York City and New York State establishment. This organizing necessitates a commitment to strategic analysis towards how we can build working-class power and bring socialist politics to everything we do.

These strategy questions have become siloed from the work of our democratically elected leadership bodies. Increasingly, the role of the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) has solidified into that of a key deliberative body in our chapter. Unlike in its previous iterations, the CLC has begun holding more frequent meetings in which the body focuses on discussing strategic questions rather than voting on resolutions. The Steering Committee invites representatives from our CPCs to speak at nearly every CLC meeting and the discussions serve to clarify our work as an organization.

**To formalize this practice, this amendment adds nonvoting CPC representatives to the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) — one for each campaign — and aims to integrate our leadership so as to better shape our discussions of goals and strategy as a chapter.**

Currently, CPCs are approved and defined by the CLC. As outlined in the [“Definition of a Citywide Priority Campaign” proposal](#) adopted by the Chapter in January 2018, CPCs currently have certain expectations and responsibilities. However, as our work grows more complex, we need to further develop not just what a CPC should look like, but also how a CPC fits into the larger structure of our organization.

This amendment would create four additional nonvoting positions on the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) with the possibility for more additional positions in the future:

- Healthcare
- Housing
- Defund NYPD
- Public Power

Each position would be appointed by the Organizing Committee of the respective CPC or working group within approximately one month of Convention, taking place concurrently with elections for the rest of the CLC. Since political conditions often determine when a CPC may need to be adopted, the timing of this CLC appointment process has been kept flexible.

Other efforts to formalize the role of CPCs in our chapter align with the spirit of this amendment. In addition, CPCs are currently represented on one of the key leadership bodies in our chapter, the [Socialists in Office Committee](#). To reflect and strategize on where much of our key organizing is taking place, this amendment will enable the Chapter to more effectively integrate our citywide organizing to our chapter's democratic structure.

**Amendment:**

**Article IV. Citywide Leadership Committee**

*Section 1: Definition.* The Citywide Leadership Committee (Leadership Committee) shall consist of Delegates from each of the Branches, Citywide Priority Campaigns, and the officers of the Local. Young Democratic Socialists of America will be allotted two representatives, one of which will be the Young Democratic Socialists of America Representative on the Steering Committee. There shall be no more than 30 Branch Delegates on the Leadership Committee, not including the officers of the Local and the two Young Democratic Socialists of America Representatives. Each Citywide Priority Campaign will be allotted one nonvoting representative. Branch Representatives to the Steering Committee shall automatically be one of the Branch Delegates to the Leadership Committee for their Branch. The exact number of Delegates allotted to each Branch shall be determined yearly by the Steering Committee within 20 days following the Local Convention and based on the membership numbers determined at the time of the convention. The exact number of Citywide Priority Campaign representatives shall be determined by the number of campaigns endorsed by the Local.

*Section 4: Elections.* Elections of Branch Leadership Committee Delegates shall be held in the Branches approximately one month after the Local Convention and after the Steering Committee has determined the number of Delegates for each Branch. These elections shall concur with Branch elections for Organizing Committee and Steering Committee Representative, except in circumstances where unavoidable or approved by a vote of the Steering Committee.

Each Branch shall also elect up to five Alternate Delegates at the time Delegates are elected. The number of Alternate Delegates to be elected for each Branch shall be decided by that Branch's Organizing Committee, as fits the needs of their Branch. The Alternate Delegates shall be ranked one, two, three, etc. Branch Alternate Delegates shall be called upon to replace absent Branch Delegates in the order that they are ranked.

Appointments of Citywide Priority Campaign Leadership Committee Representatives shall be made approximately one month after the Local Convention. Representatives will be appointed by the Organizing Committee of the respective Citywide Priority Campaign or working group. This process shall concur with Branch elections for Organizing Committee and Steering Committee Representative, except in circumstances where unavoidable or approved by a vote of the Steering Committee. In the event that a Citywide Priority Campaign is endorsed in between Conventions, the Organizing Committee of that campaign or working group will approve a representative approximately one month after the campaign is endorsed.

Delegates to the Leadership Committee may be removed from their position for malfeasance upon a two-thirds vote of the branch. In such case, the first ranked Alternate Delegate shall become the Delegate and so on and so forth.

*Section 5: Diversity.* In electing and appointing its delegation to the Leadership Committee, Branches and Citywide Priority Campaigns shall consider diversity and assure that their delegations are diverse in terms of racial and ethnic identity, gender and sexual identity, age, and class.

*Section 6: Quorum.* A quorum of the Leadership Committee shall be sixty percent of the voting body.

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**Resolutions Full Text**

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*Resolution #1*

## **Resolution to Articulate and Promote a Socialist Drug Politics**

**Submitted by:** Sessi Kuwabara Blanchard, Jacob Clary

**Co-sponsored by:** Evan Neuhausen (NBK), Alice Murphy (CBK), Garrett Y Reuscher (CBK), Ryan Price (SBK), Kay Gabriel (Queens), Julie Bowen (Staten Island), Eva L Sotomayor (NBK), Christopher Luke (CBK), Charlotte Albrecht (NBK), Jawanza James Williams (CBK), Nicodemus Nicoludis (Labor), Caleb De Jong (Queens), Seth Pollack (CBK), Simone Norman (CBK), Nazmus Saquib (NBK), Anna Duensing (NBK), Chelsea Pickett (NBK), Giovanni Saldarriaga (NBK), Amy Wilson (NBK), Christian Lillis (SBK), Madi Mornhinweg (CBK), Julia Salazar (NBK), Rebecca Harshbarger (SBK), Isaac Kirk-Davidoff (CBK), Jesse Ortiz (NBK), Tiffany Berruti (B/UM), Astrid Aune (NBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Re McBride (NBK), Jaslin Kaur (Queens), Peter Fitzgerald (NBK), Darcie Wilder (LowMan), Megan Kapler (SBK), Liz Vogt (CBK), Yoni Golijov (CBK), Daeha Ko (NBK)

**Whereas,** the “War on Drugs” is a War on People;

**Whereas,** the “War on Drugs” has failed to secure<sup>1</sup> its purported goal of creating a “drug-free” world through Prohibition, a strategy of regulating, surveilling, and policing psychoactive substances to facilitate the mass death of humans and ecosystems, the subjugation of nations and communities, the accumulation of capital, and the suppression of political dissent;

**Whereas,** Prohibition’s outcomes are exclusively harmful and guided by an “Iron Law”<sup>2</sup>: the harsher and more stringent the criminal-legal regulation, sanction, and enforcement, the more potent and volatile the drug, and the greater the harm for consumers;

**Whereas,** Prohibition’s primary harms are threefold:

- i)* social, political, and actual death produced by police terror and carceral control;
- ii)* widespread bodily vulnerability, degradation, and death by way of infectious disease, drug toxicity, and unsupported chaotic consumption; and
- iii)* the suppression of meaningful personal and communal autonomy;

**Whereas,** the movements for drug policy reform and harm reduction have made profound gains,<sup>3</sup> yet their political strategy and imagination are bounded by the paradigm of liberalism through three primary techniques:

*i)* To medicalize and pathologize what the State has criminalized;

*ii)* To advocate on behalf of the consumer, now portrayed as a pathological victim, while disregarding the worker responsible for production and distribution, who remains vilified as predatory and ruthless; and

*iii)* To react to the symptoms of Prohibition, such as overdose, at the moment of crisis, instead of transforming the underlying conditions that make possible the present mass fatalities;

**Whereas,** a socialist understanding of drug politics must be comprehensive, expansive, critical, and liberatory, proceeding through at least three strategies:

*i)* To support medical interventions, while bolstering non-medical resources that respect the autonomy and dignity of people who use drugs;

*ii)* To include everyone involved in and impacted by the drug economy in the struggle for justice; *iii)* To apprehend and intervene at the social, structural, and ecological intersections where drug politics meets abolition, racial justice, health justice, labor, feminism, immigration, anti-imperialism, indigenous sovereignty, political economy, bodily autonomy, and all emancipatory struggles;

**Whereas,** the organizing efforts of NYC-DSA against carceral control and imperialism, and in support of single-payer healthcare and guaranteed housing, take on aspects of the “War on Drugs” and Prohibition as a matter of incidence; but a comprehensive approach does not yet exist;

**Whereas,** NYC-DSA can most effectively win its goals by empowering and collaborating with an organized body of socialists who have expansive networks throughout the harm-reduction, policy-reform, and drug-user movements, as well as technical expertise in drug user health and drug control law;

**Therefore be it resolved,** a novel working group, entitled “Drug Politics Working Group” or “DPWG,” is hereby established in order to develop, to advocate for, and to educate DSA members, the public, and elected or potential politicians about socialist drug politics;

**Be it further resolved,** DPWG has the broad legislative goals of creating a program of Safe Supply for All, enacting supply-chain decriminalization, and building peer worker power,<sup>4</sup> as well as any emergent goals;

**Be it further resolved,** DPWG will accomplish these by working with DSA-endorsed political candidates and our elected politicians, among other strategies;

**Be it further resolved,** DPWG will respond to the present health and social crises produced by the “War on Drugs” and Prohibition by:

*i)* providing harm reduction education within and outside of NYC-DSA via the already-established NYC-DSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, a service certified by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

*ii)* building coalitions with NYC-DSA working groups and branches; other state chapters; national DSA

organizations; and non-DSA groups and individuals aligned with principles determined by DPWG;

**Be it finally resolved,** DPWG will provide the NYC-DSA Steering Committee with timely reports outlining accomplishments, current projects, opportunities for feedback and/or collaboration, and any other matter required to promote clear, productive communication and to prevent a siloing of the working group from the rest of NYC-DSA.

<sup>1</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, “National Drug Threat Assessment,” United States Department of Justice, 2020, [https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/DIR-008-21%202020%20National%20Drug%20Threat%20Assessment\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/DIR-008-21%202020%20National%20Drug%20Threat%20Assessment_WEB.pdf)<sup>2</sup> Leo Beletsky, Corey S. Davis, “Today’s fentanyl crisis: Prohibition’s Iron Law, revisited,” *International Journal of Drug Policy*, Volume 46, 2017, Pages 156-159, ISSN 0955-3959, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2017.05.050>.

<sup>3</sup> Harm Reduction International, “The Global State of Harm Reduction” reports, 2008 - 2010, <https://www.hri.global/global-state-of-harm-reduction-reports>

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## Resolution #2

### Constituent Organizing to Build Socialism in Our Districts

**Submitted by:** Cea Weaver (CBK), Karen Narefsky (CBK), James Thatcher (CBK), Justin Freeman (CBK)

**Co-sponsored by:** Fainan Lakha (CBK, Steering), Jeremy Cohan (NBK, Steering), Dev McManus (CBK, Treasurer), Paul Dougherty (CBK), Isaac Kirk-Davidoff (CBK), Colin Vanderburg (NBK), Daeha Ko (NBK), Jenny Zhang (SBK), Sam L (CBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan, Steering), Andrew Hiller (LowMan), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Aditi S. (CBK), Lena Afridi (Queens), Sumathy Kumar (CBK, Co-Chair), Chris Maisano (CBK), Jennifer Lenow (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Aaron Eisenberg (SBK), Aaron Fernando (Queens), Pete Martin (CBK), Maxwell Paparella (CBK), Sam Westley (B/UM), Lena Sradnick (CBK), Lichi D’Amelio (B/UM, Steering), Ada Jane McNulty (LowMan), Camilla Wasserman (CBK), Timothy Chu (Queens), Tom Reed (SBK), Erinrose Mager (CBK), Lazar Bloch (LowMan), Yoni Golijov (CBK), Elijah Stevens (CBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Chi Anunwa (SBK, Co-Chair), Kaarthika Thakker (Queens), Jay Wu (CBK), Ayat Hussein (Queens), Susan Kang (Queens), Elliana Pfeffer (Queens), Louis Minsky (CBK), Molly Hanessian (CBK), Kennan McClung (LowMan), Gerard Dalbon (CBK), Alex Pellitteri (SBK)

**Whereas,** there are 10 NYC-DSA members in federal, state, or local elected office in New York City, and we hope to increase that number, and

**Whereas,** many of those elected officials are also community organizers and ran on a platform of organizing working-class people, and

**Whereas,** many of the constituents in their districts come to the offices with organizable issues (tenant complaints, labor issues, etc.), and

**Whereas,** this represents an ideal opportunity to build the organized power of working people in districts represented by DSA members, and

**Whereas,** It is also an ideal opportunity to plug DSA members into a long-term base-building project, therefore

**Be it resolved,** candidate questionnaires should continue to explicitly ask about how, if elected, candidates will use their offices to organize their constituents to fight for socialism

**Be it resolved,** endorsed candidates who win office will work with DSA priority campaigns to develop organizing plans for their districts

**Be it resolved,** NYC-DSA branches and priority campaigns will direct interested members to this work with the offices on a consistent basis

**Be it resolved,** DSA members will work with the offices of our elected officials to build their capacity to respond to inquiries, organize residents, and bring constituents into DSA wherever possible

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*Resolution #3*

## **Mobilizing the Working Class through Voter Registration**

**Submitted by:** James I. (B/UM), Bill R. (B/UM), Aaron N. F. (Queens), Ansley P. (SBK)

**Co-sponsored by:** Miko Brandini (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Renee Greene Levitt (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Gayle Snible (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Chuck Gelman (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Lichi D'Amelio (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Desiree Joy Frias (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Jan (JC) Nova (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Jon Mermelstein (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), James Inniss (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Cori Marquis (Bronx/ Upper Manhattan), Gustavo Gordillo (Central Brooklyn), Emily Lemmerman (Central Brooklyn), Jack Gross (Central Brooklyn), Fainan Lakha (Central Brooklyn), Ashkan Jahangiri (Labor), Dana Steer (Labor), Honda Wang (Lower Manhattan), Hai Tu (Lower Manhattan), Nina Svirskey (Lower Manhattan), Andrey Chichagov (Lower Manhattan), Astrid Aune (Lower Manhattan), Bran Acton-Bond (North Brooklyn), Claire Valdez (North Brooklyn), Eric Thor (Queens), Elliot Colbert (Queens), Sarah Brady (Queens), Drashti Brahmhatt (Queens), Daniel Lynch (Queens),

Joseph Tejada (Queens), Sean Plackis (Queens), Kristin Schall (South Brooklyn), Danny Noest (South Brooklyn), Labiba Chowdhury (South Brooklyn), Paul Demuro (South Brooklyn)

**Whereas**, mass political participation is a necessary prerequisite to the formation of a mass workers' party in the US capable of posing a credible threat to the domination of capital;

**Whereas**, the Democratic Party's and the Board of Elections' consistent undermining of democratic processes necessitates socialists winning elections by attaining wide enough support from working-class voters, to build a mandate and decrease probability of a contested election;

**Whereas**, the Democratic Socialists of America 2021 National Convention adopted Resolution #4 to advance voting rights and access across all 50 states, districts, and US territories;

**Whereas**, many working-class people in communities of color in New York City have very low voter registration and turnout rates, and establishment candidates and incumbents benefit from this low voter engagement;

**Whereas**, because of [recent changes in the law](#), individuals who have been convicted of a felony are eligible to vote in New York State once they have either completed their sentence or been paroled, but often do not know that they are eligible and are therefore disenfranchised;

**Whereas**, voter registration allows for longer and deeper organizing conversations to take place, without the immediacy of upcoming elections, where the goal is to talk with as many people as possible, as quickly as possible;

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA, through its Electoral Working Groups and Branches, has capacity to increase the voter registration and participation of working-class voters, with the additional goals of collecting voter data, developing a presence beyond elections, and mobilizing working-class voters to vote for DSA-endorsed candidates in future elections:

**Be it resolved**, that the Brooklyn Electoral Working Group, Bronx/Upper Manhattan Electoral Working Group, Lower Manhattan Electoral Working Group, and Queens Electoral Working Group, in coordination with their respective branches, will be encouraged to research and target districts for voter registration drives;

**Be it further resolved**, that in order to get approval and buy-in from membership, Electoral Working Groups and their respective branches will be empowered to facilitate discussions and votes at their respective meetings;

**Be it further resolved**, that NYC-DSA will purchase the app Reach, which is estimated to cost at most \$750 per month, so that information on voters collected through voter registration can be utilized in future DSA electoral and issue-based Priority Campaigns;

**Be it further resolved**, that the NYC-DSA Citywide Electoral Working Group, Brooklyn Electoral Working Group,



Bronx/ Upper Manhattan Electoral Working Group, Lower Manhattan Electoral Working Group, and Queens Electoral Working Group will coordinate with the Voting Rights National Campaign Committee to advance voting rights and access in New York City;

**Be it further resolved**, that NYC-DSA will utilize political education materials from the Voting Rights National Campaign Committee while registering voters;

**Be it further resolved**, that NYC-DSA will also create materials with QR codes that direct people to online voter registration, and that include information on democratic socialism and Democratic Socialists of America, and distribute these at all voter registration events;

**Be it further resolved**, that communication between Branches, Electoral Working Groups, issue-based Working Groups, and Priority Campaigns will be encouraged to determine how materials can be integrated into NYC-DSA's active organizing projects.

*Amendment #1 to Resolution #3*

### **Proposed Amendment to Mobilizing the Working Class through Voter Registration...Amend to dedicate point people to administer Reach**

**Authors:** Dev McManus (CBK)

**Sponsors:** Daniel Lynch (Queens), Sarah B (Queens), Susan Kang (Queens), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Sam Ghitelman (SBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Bright Limm (Queens), Nathan Albert (CBK)

#### **Rationale:**

Because data collection tools like Reach have significant cost associated with them and are most effectively put to use with dedicated administrative support, this resolution will clarify that there needs to be dedicated point people who are responsible for the administration of Reach usage, in order to ensure that the chapter is able to best make use of the tool. Furthermore we should explicitly encourage Reach to be used by more than just the electoral working groups, given the \$9000 annual price tag.

This amendment also removes lines which direct the Electoral Working Groups (EWGs) to have a membership vote to take on this work and instead says that materials will be made available to EWGs who choose to take up this work. We should trust our EWG Organizing Committees (OCs) to decide whether they have the capacity to organize voter registration work on top of any existing electoral campaigns they may already have in the field.

Finally because The BOE has an inconsistent history of successfully registering voters through means other than physically handing paper registration forms directly to a BOE official at one of their offices, this amendment removes the text encouraging potential voters to register online through a QR code.

#### **Amendments:**

**Be it resolved,** that voter registration organizing materials will be made available to the Brooklyn Electoral Working Group, Bronx/Upper Manhattan Electoral Working Group, Lower Manhattan Electoral Working Group, and Queens Electoral Working Group, and their respective branches; ~~in coordination with their respective branches,~~ will be encouraged to research and target districts for voter registration drives;

**Be it further resolved,** that ~~in order to get approval and buy-in from membership, Electoral Working Groups and their respective branches will be empowered to facilitate discussions and votes at their respective meetings;~~

**Be it further resolved,** that in order for the chapter to purchase Reach there shall first be a committee of Reach administrators chaired by the Working Group Coordinator which will support the usage of reach through the chapter by electoral working groups, non-electoral working groups, and branches.

**Be it further resolved,** that NYC-DSA will also create materials ~~with QR codes that direct people to online voter registration, and~~ that include information on democratic socialism and Democratic Socialists of America, and distribute these at all voter registration events;

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*Resolution #4*

## **Establish a Citywide Mobilizer Program**

**Submitted by:** Claire V. (NBK), Haley W. (CBK), Kay G. (Queens), Tiffany B. (B/UM)

**Co-sponsored by:** Alice M. (CBK), Ben M. (CBK), Beverly S. (B/UM), Blair B. (NBK), Bran A-B. (NBK), Brandon W. (CBK), Bright L. (Queens), Cary T. (NBK), Charlotte A. (NBK), Christopher L. (CBK), Christopher W. (CBK), Daniela U. (Staten Island), Dustin R. (LowMan), Elijah S. (CBK), Eliot H. (CBK), Elizabeth G. (CBK), Elle B.-C. (Queens), Eric T. (Queens), Erinrose M. (CBK), Fainan L. (CBK), Gayle S. (B/UM), Gerard D. (CBK), Grace M. (CBK), Hershlay R. (NBK), Honda W. (LowMan), Jabari B. (CBK), Jacob C. (NBK), Jad J. (B/UM), Jorge R. (NBK), Josh F. (CBK), Juan E. (B/UM), Kallie G. (CBK), Kennan M. (LowMan), Kim W. (CBK), Leanna B. (CBK), Lena A. (Queens), Lindsey S. (Queens), Lisa T. (CBK), Luis F. L. (Queens), Maddy Z. (NBK), Mae S. (CBK), Marian J. (CBK), Matthew C. (CBK), Meg T. (LowMan), Michael H. (CBK), Michael W. (CBK), Nathan A. (CBK), Nazmus S. (NBK), Nicodemus N. (Labor), Nina S. (LowMan), Pete M. (CBK), Robert E. (NBK), Ronin W. (CBK), Sepehr M. (CBK), Steven D. (CBK), Stewart S. (NBK), Thomas C. (CBK), Wen Z. (CBK), Wes H. (NBK), Yuri K. (B/UM)

## **RATIONALE**

As NYC-DSA has expanded our membership—which grew by 30% in the past year—our political ambitions have developed to match, with our members spread across multiple competitive electoral contests, chapter-wide priority campaigns, and ongoing organizing within working groups and committees. But limited and competing organizational capacity, paired with widely differing levels of engagement among our membership, forms a major obstacle to our ability to achieve our strategic goals: While highly involved members can often feel pulled in multiple directions at once, new members and less highly engaged members frequently struggle to find their political home within NYC-DSA.

As the largest chapter of the largest socialist organization in the U.S., our ability to make real wins and to build power for the multi-racial working class will depend to a significant degree on expanding and deepening our collective capacity. Specifically, we need to expand our capacity by mobilizing ever more of our membership as active participants within the organization, as well as through intentional, strategic, and goal-oriented recruitment of new members; and we need to deepen our capacity by actively training our membership in organizing practices that are readily applicable to our projects of labor, tenant, electoral, and issues-based community organizing.

The establishment of a citywide Mobilizer Program, run by the Membership Coordinator and the citywide Membership Committee in coordination with branch OCs, will decisively confront this problem. It will create the necessary structures to intentionally mobilize, train, and develop NYC-DSA members into effective organizers capable of thinking dynamically, acting strategically, dedicating their time and energy to the organization, and intervening in situations of class struggle that intimately affect their lives. New members, many of whom are newly interested in socialism and may not have deep roots or connections in left organizations, often encounter NYC-DSA for the first time through branch general meetings, which have an uneven track record of engaging members in further work. People are likely to engage further in our chapter if they **(1)** already have or are able to establish a meaningful relationship with someone in DSA who can **(2)** ask them to put their energy towards a project they find politically significant, with winnable goals they have a personal stake in, and **(3)** feel equipped with the necessary skills to be an effective organizer, both within DSA and in class-struggle relationships elsewhere in their lives. Successful mobilization of new and current but passive members therefore means building out relational organizing with concrete asks that pull members into further political work and actively develop their own skills as organizers.

This proposal therefore establishes a citywide Mobilizer Program, housed within the citywide Membership Committee and led by the chapter Membership Coordinator, and sets the goal for every new NYC-DSA member to receive a 1:1 organizing conversation from someone who can meaningfully establish a relationship through that organizing conversation, make a concrete and doable ask of the new member that will lead them further into our chapter's ongoing political projects and culture, and help answer questions that the new member has about the organization. It also sets the goal of establishing a regular schedule of organizer trainings that can equip our members with the skills necessary for labor, tenant, electoral, and issues-based organizing. We can use this infrastructure to reactivate and mobilize longtime members of the organization and hold chapter-wide political education sessions that deepen our collective understanding of socialism, capitalism, and our contemporary political situation. Some work towards mobilization in these capacities is already being undertaken by certain branches and working groups, and we can draw on the expertise and practices of this work where it's currently

taking place, centralizing this knowledge through the Membership Coordinator and citywide Membership Committee, and establishing a baseline of mobilization and training that all DSA members will have access to.

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**Whereas** the membership of NYC-DSA, the largest chapter of the largest socialist organization in the U.S., grew by 30% in the past year to over 7,000 members in good standing; and

**Whereas** these members become active in the organization to widely varying degrees: While some become active leaders and cadre members, many others struggle to find their political home within the organization and rarely come to branch or working group meetings, vote in or run for internal elections, and/or volunteer for our priority campaigns; and

**Whereas** in order to successfully deliver real wins and build working-class power in New York, we need to dramatically expand and deepen our collective capacity; and

**Whereas** we can think of every member of DSA as a potential leader, effective organizer, and vector for socialism, capable of activating other people in class-struggle relationships in their lives and bringing them into strategic organizing projects both inside and outside DSA; and

**Whereas** DSA members are, in addition to their membership in the organization, frequently also active members of labor unions, rank-and-file caucuses, tenant unions, activist groups, and working-class community organizations; and

**Whereas** developing organizer skills for our membership, for political projects both internal and external to DSA, will enable our members to be effective organizers for working-class power; to align rank-and-file caucuses, labor unions, and community organizations with DSA; and to recruit new members from the multi-racial working class into the organization; and

**Whereas** in 2019 DSA's national convention passed Resolution 32, "Labor Strategy and the DSLC," which prioritizes the rank-and-file strategy nationally, and specifies the role of political education and organizer training to successfully pursue the strategy; and

**Whereas** in 2017 CLC passed the "Building an Army" proposal, which tasked individual branches with mobilizing the members in their area; this resolution had uneven results, with a limited number of mobilizers assigned a high volume of new members to onboard under the oversight of individual branch OCs; the present resolution seeks to address those issues by centralizing the knowledge and practices of mobilization into a citywide program that retains institutional memory through the Membership Coordinator role, rather than through several different branch OCs; and

**Whereas** some of the work of member training and mobilization is already ongoing in the chapter—the Membership Coordinator holds monthly new member orientations, and a handful of branches and working

groups have successful mobilizer programs—and will become significantly more effective if run in a centralized way; **therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that a citywide Mobilizer Program will be established, and that the Membership Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the program with the help of the Membership Committee; **and be it further**

**Resolved**, that in order to reach all new members and activate current members of the chapter, the Membership Committee will be composed of one representative each from all geographic branches and Labor branch as well as additional NYC-DSA members who will be invited to apply to join the committee; branch OCs will determine their representatives and applications to join the committee will be open to all NYC-DSA candidates in good standing; applicants will be selected by the current members of the Membership Committee and should be especially committed to mobilizing new and current members; **and be it further**

**Resolved**, that the primary goal of the Mobilizer Program will be to ensure that every new member receives a 1:1 organizing conversation with a mobilizer; the Membership Committee will set guidelines for an effective organizing conversation, which should consist of more listening than talking and end in a concrete, doable ask that brings the new member into further political work and culture of NYC-DSA; **and be it further**

**Resolved**, that the membership committee will seek to cultivate a group of mobilizers outside of the committee to be used during surges in membership; this option will be reflected in the application to be a part of the membership committee; **and be it further**

**Resolved**, that the Membership Committee will be responsible for establishing a regular schedule of organizer trainings, in collaboration with the Labor branch and the chapter's working groups and priority campaigns, focused on labor, tenant, electoral, and issues-based organizing; **and be it further**

**Resolved**, that the Membership Committee will consult with the leadership of Priority Campaigns and the OCs of the chapter's working groups on their active campaign needs so that mobilizers are aware of ongoing work across the chapter that they can plug new members into; **and be it further**

**Resolved**, that the Membership Coordinator will continue to hold monthly New Member Orientations, and the Membership Committee will follow up with attendees no more than two months after they attend an orientation to check how their involvement with the organization is developing; **and be it finally**

**Resolved**, that the Membership Committee, in collaboration with branches and working groups, will also establish regular chapter-wide political education events, where DSA members and people curious about NYC-DSA can collectively deepen our understanding of socialism, capitalism, and our contemporary political situation.

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## **Build Working Class BIPOC Leadership Through a Yearly Socialist Summer School**

**Submitted by:** Sumathy Kumar (CBK), Bianca Cunningham (Labor), Kara Clark (CBK)

**Co-sponsored by:** Susan Kang (Queens), Sam Lewis (CBK), Devin McManus (CBK), Cea Weaver (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Chi Anunwa (SBK), Ryan Bruckenthal (NBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan), Claire Valdez (NBK), Sam Westley (B/UM), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Hadass Wade (NBK), Abdullah Younus (SBK), Leslie Fine (Labor), Alice B (CBK), Garon Scott (CBK), Mary Clinton (Labor), Jabari Brisport (CBK), Saurav Sarkar (SBK), Jasmin Sanchez (LowMan), Robert Cuffy (Labor), Drashti Brahmbhatt (Queens), Maddy Zimmerman (NBK), Jeremy Cohen (NBK), David Wheatley (QNS), David Duhalde (CBK), Chris Brooks (Labor), Andrea Guinn (NBK), Julia Salazar (NBK), Zelig Stern (Labor), Aaron Eisenberg (SBK), Jazz Hooks (BUM), Elle Bisgaard-Church (Queens), Zohran Mamdani (Queens), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Elijah Stevens (CBK), Yoni Golijov (CBK), Marcela Mitaynes (SBK), Rafael Varela (CBK)

**Whereas,** NYC-DSA's membership does not yet reflect the racial and class makeup of New York City and,

**Whereas,** Organizing and base building in working class communities of color is essential to the long term success of the socialist project and,

**Whereas,** Our chapter currently lacks a unified organizing training program to recruit members and develop existing members, to teach them the skills and strategic analysis necessary to self-organize and,

**Whereas,** NYC-DSA endorsed elected officials are organizing and building political relationships with working class people of color through constituent services,

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Chapter will set up and run a yearly intensive organizing training program called the Ella Baker & Lucy Parsons Summer School.

**Resolved,** that the Ella Baker & Lucy Parsons Summer School will recruit 50% of its participants from constituent organizing projects within the offices of NYC-DSA endorsed elected officials, and the other 50% from active NYC-DSA members.

**Resolved,** that the Ella Baker & Lucy Parsons Summer School will take place during the summer, for 6 weeks, with 2 sessions per week.

**Resolved,** that these sessions will include both training and organizing strategy components as well as field work and practice via NYC-DSA campaigns.

**Resolved,** that the Steering Committee will appoint a committee to plan, recruit and facilitate the Ella Baker & Lucy Parsons Summer School. Applications for the planning committee will be open to chapter membership.

Primary sponsors of this resolution will work with the Steering Committee and Membership Coordinator to create and finalize the planning committee.

**Resolved**, that the planning committee will ask for collaboration with working groups to create the curriculum for the Summer School.

**Resolved**, that this committee will put forward a budget and fundraising proposal for the Ella Baker & Lucy Parsons Summer School no later than 6 months before the commencement of the program.

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### *Resolution #6*

## **Resolution: Creating Structures for Protest Response and Readiness**

**Submitted by:** Robert Cuffy (Labor), Yusuf A (CBK), Robert Espinosa (NBK)

**Co-sponsored by:** Isaac K (CBK), Garon S (CBK), Illapa S (LowMan), Saurav S (SBK), Dana Steer (Labor), Robert E (NBK), Alejandro Quryat (B/UM), Jamilah Elder (LowMan), Kate D G (red bloom), Lala Peñaranda (B/UM), Kara C (CBK), Sam P (CBK), Katie W (CBK), Haley Pessin (Queens), Eileene V (Queens), Nicole Zhao (CBK), Daniel Teehan (SBK), Timothy Chu (Queens), Rob Katz (NBK), 255077833 (B/UM), Natalia Tylim (Labor), Chris B (CBK), Hakan Yilmaz (LowMan), S. (CBK), Kennan M (LowMan), Jabari Brisport (CBK), Aaron A. (SBK), Shom Mazumder (NBK), Charles Post (Labor), Luis F L (Queens), Natasha P (Labor), Jasmin Sánchez (LowMan), Bingjie He (LowMan), Ronnie Almonte (Labor), Kit Wainer (Labor), Peter Allen-Lamphere (Labor), Yusuf A (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Jeff L (NBK), Amy W (NBK), Brian K (SBK), Irfan Ali (NBK), Katie Black (LowMan), Jonathan Bailey (Queens) Caleb De Jong (Queens) Daeha Ko (NBK), Pong M (SBK)

**Whereas**, The 2020 rebellion launched to protest the murder of George Floyd & Breonna Taylor was the largest protest movement in the history of the United States,

**Whereas**, Protests have been one of the key tactics that have been used in the strategic fight of working class and oppressed people on history,

**Whereas**, Whereas in the United States mass protests have achieved noticeable victories or have turned the tide of popular opinion on issues such as the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, the Sensenbrenner Bill (which threatened to make every undocumented immigrant a felon), and Black Lives Matter,

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA is a 7,000+ member organization of activists committed to fighting for a better world,

**Whereas,** NYC-DSA does not currently have any identifiable body which plans protest actions or contingents at other actions on behalf of the organization,

**Whereas,** NYC-DSA's protest marshal team Red Rabbits has a training requirement and vetting process for joining

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Chapter will set up a body made up of representatives from NYC-DSA bodies such as Branches, Working Groups, priority campaigns and any identity caucus (e.g AfroSocialist, Queer, DSA Latinos) that may wish to send representatives,

**Resolved,** that the body will be open to any NYC-DSA member in good standing,

**Resolved,** that the Protest Response and Readiness Group be consulted along with the Red Rabbits when in-person actions are being planned by the chapter, branches, WGs, priority campaigns and caucuses so they may lend logistical support, boost turnout and create a safety plan,

**Resolved,** that the Chapter, through the Steering Committee and Treasurer, will make funds available to the Protest Response & Readiness Group for jail support if comrades are arrested during actions,

**Resolved,** that the Protest Response Readiness Group, in consultation with the Red Rabbits, will hold trainings for NYC DSA members on the basics of protesting including: Safety (Marshalls, Medics, Jail Support), Public Speaking/Chanting, Material design (Banner/placard making), press outreach, etc.,

**Resolved,** that the Protest Response and Readiness Group will provide quarterly reports to the Steering Committee and the chapter on their assessment of street protest movements in NYC and NYC DSA's role.

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## *Resolution #7*

### **Resolution to Defend the Rights of NYC Public Housing Residents**

**Submitted by:** Kristin Hackett (DSA-Queens, Justice For All Coalition, & Citywide Public Housing Coalition), Ramona Ferreyra (Save Section 9 Coalition co-founder & DSA-B/UM), Cesar Yoc (NYCHA resident & DSA-B/UM), Jasmin Sanchez (NYCHA resident & DSA-LoMan), Dee Knight (DSA-B/UM)

**Co-sponsored by:** Elizabeth Oh, Johnny Rivera, Justine Medina, Jack Lundquist, Nazmus Saquib, Vanessa Thill, Joshua Barnett, Ryan Douglass, Elizabeth Adams, Jenny Dubnau, Samantha Isales, Gabrielle Giattino, Hallie McNeill, Stephanie Acosta, Jasmin Sanchez,\* Magda Napoleon,\* Desiree Hollingsworth,\* Adela Garcia,\* Desiree Joy Frias, Dennis Osorio, Paul DeMuro, Adam Dore-Young, Sharon Peters, Gregory Baggett, Naomi Schiller, Sarah Lazur, Yin Ho, Joshua Lubitz, Dave Dubnau, Jeanie Dubnau, Nick Pehlman, Consuelo Peña, Jeremy Kaplan, Robin Kilmer, Isaac KD, Jonathan Bailey, Ada McNulty, Kennan McClung, Julie Bowen, Daeha Scott Ko, Jennifer Chan, Michael Perles, Elizabeth Capelle, Amber Ruth,



Desmond Zantua, Lala Peñaranda, Robert Espinosa, Talli Somekh, Willa Glickman, Alex Crowley, Nicole Zhao, Noah Heau, Jack McClatchy (B/UM), Sami Disu (B/UM), Dannelly Rodriguez, Samelys Lopez(B/UM), Amanda Yaggy, Jenny Zhang, Emmit Mendoza-Gaspar (*\*DSA NYCHA Working Group*)

## **Background and Justification**

Public Housing is in crisis across the country, and ground zero for that fight is right here in New York City, home to the largest remaining public housing stock in the country. NYCHA – the New York City Housing Authority – needs more than \$40 billion for repairs and maintenance, the result of decades of willful underfunding. City, State and Federal governments have chosen to pursue private financing for this money, in spite of significant pending federal legislation to rescue and restore public housing, and legislation (the Green New Deal for Public Housing among others) that supports a prolonged future for public housing in NYC and nationally.

Privatization schemes, like RAD and the so-called “Blueprint for Change,” would end Section 9 funding -- the program that pays for public housing -- and replace it with Section 8 funding (the voucher system). This change would effectively end public housing in New York City, and decimate the national public housing stock. Moreover, the debt relations and introduction of predatory private actors would continue to put former public housing residents at risk of harassment, intimidation, displacement and possible homelessness. These privatization schemes open the door to even more defunding of public housing in the future, and would also lead to inconsistent quality of management across different private entities where some developments may have good repairs, others not, and others would have worse rates of evictions.

This transition would be devastating for society at large, intensifying economic and political inequality by reorganizing public subsidies around private interests and investors. This would exacerbate existing race and class inequities through more gentrification and displacement.

This threat comes at a time when housing is in a deep crisis in our city and across the country. Even before the pandemic, homelessness and housing insecurity were at all-time highs, and the looming end of the eviction moratorium threatens to make it much worse. Despite deteriorating conditions, public housing has provided stable housing, in some cases intergenerationally, especially for Black and Brown workers, and aging and disabled populations. Public housing is a critical and unique form of affordable housing that is worth fighting for, and the futures of hundreds of thousands of households are at stake.

NYCHA residents have been fighting to keep Section 9, win resident management of NYCHA buildings, and to get funding for needed repairs. A number of federal legislative initiatives could make this happen. The most significant solution is the Green New Deal for Public Housing (H.R. 332), introduced by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, which now has at least 99 co-sponsors in Congress. This resolution is also included in the THRIVE act, and much of the funds it calls for have been incorporated into the Infrastructure bills currently before Congress. This legislation also recognizes the need to hire more public sector union workers and residents as part of the plan to support and expand public housing. There is massive popular support for these bills, especially as opposed to privatization schemes like RAD and the so-called “Blueprint for Change.” Both of these schemes would not only devastate public housing residents, but also encourage union-busting.

Now is clearly not the time to give up fighting for public funds for public housing. Instead, this resolution calls on DSA to include the rights of public housing residents in its overall fight for tenants' rights. A significant number of DSA members are NYCHA residents, and many are part of a broad coalition to save their homes. Losing this fight would drastically increase homelessness in New York City, and would undermine the gains tenants have won in recent years.

DSA can and should be part of this movement, which would significantly increase the size and strength of the overall tenants rights movement. All working class tenants are a natural part of the social base for our socialist movement. It is critically important for DSA to include all tenants in its commitment to tenants' rights.

Given the social realities of public housing in New York City, 90% Black and Latinx, the fight for public housing is equally a fight for public investment in Black and Brown Lives. The privatization plans are a continuation of the lack of care in these communities which is longstanding and ongoing; halting this trajectory, and potentially reversing it, is a key battleground in halting the historical and ongoing dispossession of Black and Brown and working-class communities.

## **Resolution**

**Whereas**, There are more than half a million NYCHA residents in NYC, including a number of DSA members;

**Whereas**, NYCHA is threatened with privatization, which has already begun; this could cause residents to lose their homes;

**Whereas**, DSA is already committed to defending the rights of all tenants in NYC;

**Whereas**, NYC public housing residents are mobilizing to defend their rights and stop privatization, and need our support;

**Whereas**, NYCHA's so-called "Blueprint for Change" has been rejected by most NYCHA resident groups and tenant associations, and by NY State politicians, but NYCHA CEO Greg Russ continues to press for it. This plan would end Section 9 – long-term affordable housing for poor New Yorkers – and replace it with vouchers which can expire and cause homelessness. It would also place financial control in the hands of private financiers and developers;

**Whereas**, there are alternative sources of financing for NYCHA, most notably the Green New Deal for Public Housing, as well as housing funds included in the infrastructure legislation currently debated in Washington;

**Therefore we resolve** to commit DSA to support the rights of current NYCHA residents, oppose efforts to privatize NYCHA, and make the fight of NYCHA residents part of our overall fight for tenants' rights;

**We also resolve** to build a campaign to defend the rights of public housing residents and for a fully-funded and fully-public NYCHA (*e.g.*, through the Green New Deal for Public Housing), in coalition with the numerous NYCHA tenant groups (*e.g.*, Justice for All, CAAV, Residents to Preserve Public Housing, Council of Presidents, Redhook Initiative, Save Section 9 coalition, etc.) and their supporters (Sunrise Coalition, the Movement School, etc.) across the city.

**We also resolve** that this campaign and coalition may be an autonomous working group under the umbrella of the citywide housing working groups. We look forward to incorporating *more* NYCHA residents in the ranks of DSA members and supporters.

*Amendment #1 to Resolution #7*

### **Proposed Amendment to Resolution to Defend the Rights of NYC Public Housing Residents...Amend to Organize NYCHA Tenants**

**Submitter:** Karen Narefsky (CBK), Cea Weaver (CBK), Andrew Hiller (LowMan)

**Co-Signers:** Lazar Bloch (LowMan), Julia Salazar (NBK), Ada McNulty (LowMan), Devin McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Paul Williams (NBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Tascha van Auken (SBK), Daniel Lynch (Queens), Eric Thor (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Michael Perles (LowMan)

#### **Rationale for Amendment:**

- In March 2020, NYC-DSA's steering committee voted to create a NYCHA working group as a branch of the citywide Housing Working Group.
- NYCHA is in extreme disrepair and the buildings are far beyond their useful life, but as is, this resolution does not make clear mention of the severe health and safety threats NYCHA residents face every day. **As is, these conditions are leading to the increased likelihood of privatization and/or demolition of NYCHA properties, as well as eroding trust in public housing as an institution.** In order to fight for public housing, we need to address the urgent living conditions that NYCHA residents face. These conditions are critical and must be addressed through organizing NYCHA residents.
- NYCHA is fertile ground for organizing and is often organized by the political machine—a key opponent of NYC-DSA, our electoral strategy, and our whole political project. NYCHA residents often do not vote for our candidates, and we can face this head on through organizing. We therefore should organize NYCHA residents alongside our electoral priorities.
- The fight to build enough federal power for the Green New Deal for Public Housing is many decades away, but NYC-DSA has elected officials at the City and State level who have the power to direct more public resources towards public housing. Our efforts to organize for funding and improved conditions in public housing should consider solutions in the arena where NYC-DSA is currently best positioned to wield political power.

#### **Amendments:**

**We resolve** to build a campaign to defend the rights of ~~to organize~~ public housing residents and for ~~to improve living conditions in public housing through~~ a fully-funded and fully-public NYCHA (~~e.g.,~~

through the Green New Deal for Public Housing), in coalition with the numerous NYCHA tenant groups (e.g., Justice for All, CAAV, Residents to Preserve Public Housing, Council of Presidents, Red Hook Initiative, Save Section 9 coalition, etc.) and their supporters (Sunrise Coalition, the Movement School, etc.) partnership with organized NYCHA residents and groups across the city.

**We also resolve** to prioritize organizing efforts in NYCHA developments where there are active NYC-DSA members who are NYCHA residents, where we have active connections with NYCHA residents, within the districts of the socialists-in-office, or where NYC-DSA has active electoral campaigns. Where appropriate we will do this in collaboration with constituent services arms of socialists-in-office.

**We also resolve** that this campaign ~~and coalition may be an autonomous working group under the umbrella of which will~~ operate as an arm of the citywide Housing Working Group, as outlined in the Housing Working Group bylaws. We look forward to incorporating ~~more~~ NYCHA residents in the ranks of DSA members and supporters.

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## Resolution #8

### Prioritizing and Funding Working-Class Latino Organizing in NYC-DSA

**Submitted By:** Miko Brandini(B/UM), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK)

**Sponsored by:** Illapa Sairitupac (LowMan), Winnie Marion (LowMan), Alexandros Patsikos (LowMan), Renee Greene Levitt (B/UM), Jasmin Sánchez (LowMan), Charlie Baker (LowMan), Andrey Chichagov (LowMan), Honda Wang (LowMan), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Diana Moreno (Queens), Elizabeth Oh (Queens), Javier García-Torres (LowMan), Joseph Hart (CBK), Katia Porteira (LowMan), Cale Brookes (LowMan), Nick Martin (LowMan), Daniel Cheng (LowMan), Matt Biegler (LowMan), Ada Jane McNulty (LowMan), Stephanie Eche (SBK), Steven Wojda (NBK), Steve Fox (NBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Andrew Hiller (LowMan), Hai Tu (LowMan), Peter Harrison (LowMan), Chris Galardi (LowMan), Estefania Galvis (Queens), Zack Jones (LowMan), Stephanie Lemieux (CBK), Ryan Brady (Queens), Jeremy Green Eche (SBK), Robert Jereski (LowMan), Lawrence Wang (CBK), Eileene Vicencio (Queens), Lazar Block (LowMan), Danilo Jimenez (LowMan), Cori M (B/UM), Robert Espinosa (NBK), Abhiyant Singh (CBK), Eduardo Lalo Remes (CBK), Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar (SBK), Jacob Tidwell (LowMan), Joshua Kraushaar (Queens), Michela Galante (CBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Joseph Tejada (Queens), Claire Valdez (NBK), Phil Josselyn (LowMan), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Beverly Solow (B/UM), Robyn Haueisen (LowMan), Lichi D’Amelio (B/UM), Chuck Gelman (B/UM), Ximena B. (B/UM), Ashley Argoti (B/UM), Bill Reisman (B/UM), Samelys Lopez (B/UM)

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA lacks a working group with a focus on linguistic parity and strategic outreach to Latino workers.

**Whereas**, DSA recognizes the immense strategic importance of immigrant and undocumented workers both as a foundation of the US capitalist economy, and as a key component of any socialist movement seeking to challenge it.

**Whereas**, Latinos are now the largest minority in New York City, at 27.5% of the population (~2.49 million people) the majority of whom are young people. 32% of New Yorkers under 40 are classified as “Hispanic” by the census bureau; among post-millennials, that is 37%.

**Whereas**, there is immense linguistic and dialectal diversity among Latinos, organizers will have to experiment with different registers and political idioms to best engage Latino workers.

**Whereas**, amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, many Latinos have been excluded from state and federal aid because they are immigrant workers.

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA overwhelmingly uses English in our day-to-day communications and work.

**Whereas**, DSA Latinos Socialistas began as a series of conversations by Latinos during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, formalized into a national working group with an Interim Organizing Committee and began having online meetings in 2021, setting up subcommittees for political education and linguistic parity, holding Spanish phone banks for the Tax The Rich Campaign, and doing local NYC Chapter work like supporting DSA endorsed city council candidates. The local DSA LatSoc body responsible for organizing within NYC-DSA is known as DSA Latinos Socialistas de Nueva York (NYC-DSA LatSoc)

**Be it therefore resolved** that the New York City Democratic Socialists of America (NYC-DSA) will make it a priority to focus on recruiting, onboarding, and organizing working-class Latinos, which will be carried out by NYC LatSoc Working Group. The work will be carried out both independently and in coordination with existing staff and the Steering Committee (SC), with ongoing communication between NYC-DSA LatSoc and the Membership Coordinator in particular.

**Be it further resolved** NYC-DSA, in collaboration with NYC-DSA LatSoc, will make every effort to create Spanish-language materials.

**Be it further resolved** NYC-DSA will allocate \$5,000.00 for NYC-DSA LatSoc every year to purchase materials, services, and other relevant expenditures.. Examples of some of these will include but are not limited to flyers, posters, online content, translations, interpretation services, event spaces, and other materials connected to DSA campaigns and other priorities. DSA LatSoc will have final say in deciding how to spend the money.

**Be it further resolved** NYC DSA-LatSoc will have access to any future office or event space owned by NYC-DSA, in the same way a branch or priority campaign would. Examples of uses of the space could include general meetings, political education events, or general DSA campaigns NYC-DSA LatSoc is involved in such as electoral, ecosocialist, tenant organizing, etc.

**Be it further resolved** while DSA LatSoc acknowledges the importance of the Spanish language in communicating with Latinos, many individuals also speak other languages worth considering in our work such as Portuguese, Aymara, Guarani, and other indigenous languages. Latinos also often “code switch”, use Spanglish, or speak only English. In the face of the immense diversity of linguistic variants and registers, and of the political traditions carried over from different national, regional, class, cultural and ethnic contexts, DSA must recognize the complexity of the work of translation, and wherever possible, seek to collaborate on building its message with members of specific communities. DSA and DSA LatSoc will organize workshops on translation practices for Spanish-speaking members where context-specific approaches can be developed.

*Amendment #1 to Resolution #8*

**Proposed Amendment to Prioritizing and Funding Working-Class Latino Organizing in NYC-DSA...Amend to allow CLC to review funding after one year**

**Authors:** Dev McManus (CBK)

**Sponsors:** Bright Limm (Queens), Lichi D (B/UM), Drashti B (Queens), James Neimeister (SBK), Miko Brandini (B/UM), Stephanie Ech (SBK), Jeremy Eche (SBK), Ben Shanahan (Queens), Illapa Sairitupac (LowMan), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK)

**Rationale:**

Latino organizing is critically important for DSA and it is an important goal for the chapter to have, however the amended language has been submitted in order to have consistent standards in terms of accountability for the use of chapter funds and how these funds are made available to working groups.

**Amendment:**

**Be it further resolved** NYC-DSA will allocate \$5,000.00 for NYC-DSA LatSoc ~~every~~ over the course of the next year to purchase materials, services, and other relevant expenditures. Examples of some of these will include but are not limited to flyers, posters, online content, translations, interpretation services, event spaces, and other materials connected to DSA campaigns and other priorities in coordination with the working group coordinator. DSA LatSoc will have final say in deciding how to spend the money. After twelve months the LatSoc working group will report back to a CLC or convention meeting on how the funds were used and how this spending contributed to the success of the goals described throughout this resolution. The chapter will then assess whether to renew the \$5k allocation or to modify this allocation in some way.

**Be it further resolved,** that the Steering committee will assist the LatSoc working group in fundraising efforts with a dedicated fundraising page and assist the LatSoc working group in the creation of fundraising communications.

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## **NYC-DSA New Deal For CUNY Priority Campaign**

**Submitted by:** Alex Pellitteri (South Brooklyn, Hunter YDSA), Tatiana Mercer (Central Brooklyn, LaGuardia CC YDSA), Joseph Tejada Lizardo (Queens, Hunter YDSA), Jake Colosa (NYC DSA Steering Committee, NYU YDSA), Winnie Marion (Lower Manhattan, NYU YDSA), Jatnna De La Cruz (Bronx/Upper Manhattan, City College)

**Sponsored by:** Sulai Lewis (LaGuardia CC YDSA), Finn Malone (Hunter YDSA), Robbie Nelson (Central Brooklyn), Susan Kang (NYC DSA Steering Committee, Queens), Bill Reisman (Bronx/Upper Manhattan), Erin Lawson (NYU YDSA), Ross Oteri (Fordham YDSA), Jill Roberts (NYU YDSA), Becca Roskill (Columbia-Barnard YDSA), Karishma Chari (NYU YDSA), Gayle Snible (Bronx/Upper Manhattan), Kristen Cervero (North Brooklyn), Jenny Zhang (South Brooklyn), Jack Gross (Central Brooklyn), Isa Francisco (Lower Manhattan), Nina Svirsky (NYC DSA Steering Committee, Lower Manhattan), Fainan Lakha (NYC DSA Steering Committee, Central Brooklyn), Offer E. (Central Brooklyn), Paul DeMuro (South Brooklyn), James Neimeister (NYC DSA Steering Committee, South Brooklyn), Nick Martin (Lower Manhattan), Sam Westley (Bronx/Upper Manhattan), Nicodemus Nicoludis (Labor Branch), Andrey Chichagov (Lower Manhattan), Emily Lemmerman (Central Brooklyn), Ryan Bruckenthal (North Brooklyn), Jack McClatchy (Bronx/Upper Manhattan), Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar (South Brooklyn), Claire Valdez (Steering Committee, North Brooklyn), Kristin Schall (South Brooklyn), Danny Noest (South Brooklyn), Lindsay Pratt (Lower Manhattan), Pete Harrison (Lower Manhattan), Hai Tu (Lower Manhattan) Michelle Chen (Queens), Eduardo Segura (Queens), Javier B. Garcia-Torres (Lower Manhattan) Asher Ross (Steering Committee, South Brooklyn) Tascha Van Auken (South Brooklyn), Campbell Munn (NYU YDSA, Lower Manhattan), Jeremy Cohan (North Brooklyn, NYC-DSA Steering Committee)

### **Background**

#### **Historical Context**

The first CUNY Campus, City College of New York, was founded as the Free Academy of the City of New York in 1847. On its founding, the Free Academy's first president described its mission by saying "The experiment is to be tried, whether the children of the people, the children of the whole people, can be educated; and whether an institution of the highest grade, can be successfully controlled by the popular will, not by the privileged few."

During the Great Depression and the New Deal of the 1930s, the public colleges that would become the CUNY system were expanded significantly, largely through direct investment by New York City, and free higher education in New York became a key part of the city's working class infrastructure.

In the 1960s CUNY was once again a hotbed of social movement activity. While New York did not have de jure racial segregation, in the late 1960s the student body was 87% white even as 40% of high school graduates where

students of color. In 1969 a militant student strike and occupation at CCNY led to “open enrollment” - a policy that opened the doors of CUNY to tens of thousands of black, latino and working class white students who had formerly been excluded. Between 1969 and 1975 CUNY once again embraced its founding purpose as a world-class university providing a free education to “the children of the whole people”.

The history of CUNY since 1975 is the history of the neoliberal assault on working class institutions. Prior to 1975, New York had a fully-fledged social democratic welfare state, of which the largest public programs included 15 cent subway fare, 19 public hospitals, and the tuition-free public university system. The fiscal crisis forced New York to cut every possible public service provided to its residents. That included implementing tuition for CUNY students for the first time, just at the moment when New York’s Black and Latino working class had finally won entry to the system. Fearing that they might be next to experience financial ruin, other cities with formerly tuition-free public universities followed suit. This nation-wide fear-mongering paved the way for anti-union, pro-austerity figures like Ed Koch to rise into power, and for neoliberal developments in higher education that continue to this day.

CUNY is central to the history of the fiscal crisis because a high quality, tuition-free public university serving New York’s multiracial working class was an emblem of New York City’s once-powerful social democracy. DSA is pushing to rebuild those institutions in the present with anti-austerity campaigns such as Tax the Rich. A campaign that mobilizes the working-class students of CUNY will not only be fundamental for NYC-DSA, but also for rewriting the narrative surrounding local government spending for New York City and the entirety of the U.S.

### Contemporary Context

There is immense potential for working class socialist organizing at CUNY. Thousands of working class students struggle to pay tuition and fees, lack access to adequate mental health and advising services, and attend classes in dilapidated, overcrowded buildings. The CUNY student body is composed of the most disenfranchised New Yorkers, with 77% being people of color, 35% being immigrants and 53% working more than 20 hours per week and 61% being first generation college graduates. CUNY’s nursing, teaching and professional schools educate a substantial layer of New York’s unionized working class. CUNY’s professors also endure large class sizes, finite budgets, and unresponsive administrators, all of which hamper their ability to educate students. CUNY adjuncts face the additional challenges of poverty wages and having virtually no job security.

Despite these conditions, there is no mass, organized student movement for a free and fully funded CUNY. Existing advocacy organizations have proven unable to mobilize the necessary number of students, and existing YDSA chapters have not had a cohesive campaign to organize around. The New Deal 4 CUNY presents an opportunity to change these dynamics. A campaign with clearly defined objectives and targets such as ND4C allows us to build this mass movement. Our current political state is fertile for DSA organizing at CUNY. Several like-minded student organizations are also organizing for a ND4C. The upcoming gubernatorial election presents the opportunity for a more progressive governor. COVID has exposed the failures of the existing CUNY system, making many students hungry for change. At the same time, the cost of the ND4C (at \$1.7 Billion) is far cheaper than other universal reforms that NYC-DSA advocates for at the state level, making it far more realistic to win in the near future. Given the current political conditions, a DSA ND4C campaign will not just serve to organize several CUNY students and professors for socialism, it can lead to CUNY being free and fully funded for all students.



## **Campaign Overview**

### **Objectives**

1. Pass the New Deal for CUNY. Make CUNY tuition free and undo the exploitative system of adjunct labor. Establish a new working class entitlement for all New Yorkers.
2. Base Building. Make YDSA/NYC-DSA the major base organization for a revived, militant student movement at CUNY. This is a role we have not played in prior legislative campaigns.
3. Building a stronger labor movement. Build strong ties with left and progressive public sector union membership and leadership. Build public support for CUNY and for CUNY faculty and staff in their contract campaign.
4. Organize towards a mass student strike in 2023. CUNY has a long history of mass student strikes against racism and austerity. New York City's growing socialist movement should take leadership in reviving class struggle and mass action at New York's public universities.

### **Demands**

1. Make CUNY tuition-free: eliminate tuition for in-state undergraduate students and replace tuition income with public funds.
2. Increase the number of mental health counselors to meet the recommended national standards. 3. Increase the number of academic advisors to ensure student success.
3. Hire 5,000 additional full-time faculty to increase the ratio of full-time faculty to students. Professionalize adjunct compensation.
4. Invest in capital plan to address urgent issues of health and safety, accessibility, sustainability and maintenance of CUNY buildings.

### **Targets**

Primary targets:

1. NY State Governor
2. Majority Leader, NY State Senate, Andrea Stewart-Cousins
3. Speaker, NY State Assembly, Carl Heastie

Secondary targets: State legislative leaders, CUNY Chancellor and Board of Trustees, Mayor and City Council Speaker, CUNY Campus Presidents

### **Allies & Coalition Partners**

1. CUNY Rising Alliance coalition includes:
  - a. Labor
    - i. Core partners: PSC-CUNY, DC37
    - ii. Other coalition members: CWA 1180, New York Professional Nurses Union, NYC Central Labor Council, TWU Local 100
  - b. Community:
    - i. Core partners: New York Communities for Change

- ii. Other coalition members: Make the Road, Black Men Teach, Releasing Aging People in Prison, Street Corner Resources, Alliance for Quality Education, Black Youth Project 100 NYC, Citizen Action, Coalition for Educational Justice, College Access Consortium of NY, Cypress Hills Lower Development Corporation, VOCAL-NY
  - c. Student:
    - i. Core partners: NYPIRG, Young Invincibles, CUNY University Student Senate
    - ii. Other coalition members: CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities
- 2. Statewide Revenue Campaigns
  - a. Tax the Rich
- 3. Legislative Allies
  - a. Socialist State legislators and DSA 2022 Legislative Endorsements
  - b. New Deal for CUNY co-sponsors and champions in state legislature
    - i. State Assembly champions: Karines Reyes
    - ii. State Senate champions: Andrew Gounardes
    - iii. Other co-sponsors: Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris, State Senate Higher Education Committee Chair Toby Ann Stavisky, State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, State Senator Brad Hoylman, State Senator Robert Jackson, State Senator John Liu, State Senator Jessica Ramos, State Senator James Sanders Jr., Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair Deborah J. Glick., Assemblymember Khaleel M. Anderson, Assemblymember Brian Barnwell, Assemblymember Maritza Davila, Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, Assemblymember Richard N. Gottfried, Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, Assemblymember Michael Montesano, Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, Assemblymember Al Taylor, Assemblymember David Weprin
  - c. Elected Officials outside of state legislature
    - i. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
    - ii. Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President

## **Organizing Plan**

### **Field Plan:**

For the fall 2021 semester, YDSA will focus on raising awareness of the ND4C, starting CUNY YDSA chapters, and growing existing ones. A robust field program is crucial for this campaign and will be the primary way we build support for ND4C and recruit new members to YDSA. The main aspects of our field plan will be 1) tabling/canvassing 2) Class Raps 3) Mobilizing 4) Organizing Professors/Alumni 5) lobbying. The field subcommittee will be responsible for overseeing and organizing each of these components. The field subcommittee will continue to evaluate the field strategy throughout the campaign in order to determine what actions will be most effective for reaching our campaign goals.

### Tabling/Canvassing:

DSA and YDSA organizers will table, canvass and hang posters at CUNY campuses. These organizers will talk to CUNY students and professors about YDSA and ND4C. They will distribute a petition and develop a contact list of interested students and professors at each chapter. They will also identify potential people to start YDSA chapters at each school, who will be mentored by the mentorship sub-committee. Existing YDSA chapters will table and canvas their campuses with the goal of recruiting more members to their chapter. This includes dorm storms where YDSA members will go into dorms to canvas students and drop off lit.

### Class Raps:

The campaign committee will also develop materials for students to do class raps which is when students will request to speak to entire classes about ND4C and YDSA and distribute our petition to collect contact information.

### Mobilization:

YDSA will mobilize students for large city-wide or campus actions in support of ND4C and/or to pressure elected officials and CUNY campus presidents. The Campaign Committee will identify strategic targets, such as campuses that fall within electoral districts of incumbent DSA Electeds (to pressure campus Presidents) or campuses within the districts of key legislative targets. We will use our own contact lists for these events as well as do event-specific tabling and class raps.

### Organizing Professors/Alumni:

NYC-DSA has a large network of CUNY Professors, staff and alumni who can assist in organizing for a ND4C. YDSA will form relationships with DSA members who are CUNY professors and staff to involve them in this campaign. In addition to assisting with tabling/canvassing, CUNY professors can talk to their students about the ND4C, and recruit them to YDSA if deemed appropriate. They can also assist with forming new YDSA chapters and mentoring existing ones. We will also recruit professors who can talk to their co-workers about ND4C, bring them into DSA organizing and mobilize them for actions and events. Furthermore, we will work with DSA members of the PSC-CUNY union to support their efforts to build a stronger and more militant union. CUNY alumni make up a significant number of the NYC working class, but are not organized. We will recruit DSA CUNY alumni who can not only assist with this campaign, but also leverage their influence as alumni to pressure our targets to support this campaign. NYC-DSA will send a text survey to all members to evaluate how many of our current members are either CUNY students, professors, alumni, staff, or have another relationship to CUNY.

### Lobbying:

The campaign will organize meetings between constituents and strategic elected officials about ND4C. We will ensure CUNY alumni, staff, faculty and students meet with their elected representatives to discuss the importance of passing a ND4C. The campaign will also use the “empower” app to connect supporters to their elected officials and allow them to call their representatives in support of ND4C.

### Phonebanking/Door hanging:

Once the campaign reaches an appropriate number of members and the campaign steering committee finds it tactical, we will begin phone banking or door hanging. We will use DSA's past electoral data to strategically target people who are represented by an elected official who does not support ND4C. The goal of this will be to pressure elected officials to support ND4C and can be paired with other lobbying visits or protest actions. These efforts will conclude by April 1st which is both the New York State budget deadline and a crucial point in our 2022 electoral campaigns.

### **Budget**

#### Communications budget:

1. New Deal 4 CUNY Starter Website - \$200
2. Graphic design Program - \$200
3. Spoke Texts to DSA Members - \$150
  - a. October text bank to all NYC DSA members
    - i. Goals: announce newly adopted New Deal for CUNY priority campaign, administer a text survey to build a list of all NYC DSA members with a connection to CUNY
    - ii. Target: all NYC DSA members
    - iii. Example text: Send a 1 if you are a CUNY student, 2 if you are CUNY staff/faculty, 3 if you are CUNY alumni, and 4 if you have friends/family in CUNY
  - b. January mobilization text bank
    - i. Target: the campaign committee and steering committee will determine targeting for the text bank
  - c. March mobilization text bank
    - i. Target: the campaign committee and steering committee will determine targeting for the text bank

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#### Field Materials

1. Pressure campaign - the campaign committee will decide whether to coordinate phonebanking or in person canvassing based on COVID conditions
  - a. \$4,000 for phone banking technology or door hangers
2. Banner-Making Supplies - \$100
3. Tabling Supplies - \$150
4. Printed Tabling Materials
  - a. 500 11x17 Posters - \$600
  - b. 2000 4x9 Palm Cards - \$400
  - c. 100 1.25" Circle Button - \$250
5. Bus Rentals - \$4000

***Total Budget: \$9,500***

## **Campaign Structure**

The NYC-DSA New Deal for CUNY priority campaign should be carried out by DSA members deeply embedded in the union, community, and student organizing at CUNY, while remaining ultimately accountable to the political strategy set by NYC-DSA members and CLC, and carried out by NYC-DSA's Steering Committee.

To that end, the ND4C priority campaign will be organized as follows:

1. A Campaign Steering Committee of 5-10 members, including the YDSA Steering Committee Representative, will be approved by the NYC-DSA Steering Committee by mid-October to lead the ND4C priority campaign and modify its campaign plan as necessary.
  - a. Subcommittees will be formed to carry out specific areas of campaign work and chairs of subcommittees will be on the larger campaign steering committee. The following subcommittees will be formed:
    - i. Mentorship subcommittee: members will mentor new leaders we identify and recruit through this campaign with the goal of forming new YDSA chapters. A YDSA mentorship structure will be built out, requiring DSA members to take on roles developing designated chapters. The mentorship recruitment will prioritize CUNY campuses, however, this goes for all chapters of NYC YDSA, including high schools and private institutions. Mentors will ideally be experienced organizers from every DSA branch who can devote a majority of their organizing efforts to building YDSA through ND4CUNY. The mentorship subcommittee will be responsible for assisting chapters in onboarding through the campaign. This subcommittee will support chapters in providing ongoing political education about the campaign.
    - ii. Field subcommittee: members will be point people from NYC DSA branches and YDSA chapters who are coordinating weekly tabling/canvasses on CUNY campuses and across NYC. Branches will be able to plug into the campaign through their individual mobilizer programs by assisting to lead field actions and training new YDSA members to do the same. Similarly, CUNY professors and alumni will be recruited as field leads for individual campuses.
    - iii. Communications subcommittee: will be responsible for coordinating press and social media for the campaign. This subcommittee will be responsible for determining our central messaging around New Deal for CUNY and publicizing that through campaign materials and public communications.

The narrative goals of ND4C are to focus on the importance of education and increasingly unmanageable student debt that provides no alternative option for working-class students. Lack of educational funding is a central tenet of austerity budgets, so in order to win other budgetary demands, we must start with education. After the COVID-19 crisis, it is more advantageous than ever that we provide secondary education to working-class students so that our city can financially recover.

1. Any member of the committee can be removed at any time or for any reason by a majority vote of the campaign steering committee.
2. The campaign steering committee can add new members with a majority vote.
3. To the greatest extent possible, the committee will comprise active NYC-DSA members deeply embedded in labor, community and student organizing at CUNY. To the greatest extent possible, the committee will comprise members representing relevant NYC DSA branches, working groups and YDSA chapters.
4. The New Deal for CUNY Campaign Committee will work with CUNY YDSA to organize regular organizing meetings open to DSA and YDSA members.

### **Timeline**

The timeline for a New Deal for CUNY priority is centered around two key dates - the expiration of the PSC-CUNY contract on February 28, 2023 and the deadline for the 2023 State budget on April 1, 2023.

### **Key Political and Legislative Dates:**

- Spring 2022
  - January, 2022 - Start of state legislative session
  - January, 2022 - Governor releases executive budget
  - April 1, 2022 - State budget deadline
- Fall 2022
  - June 2022 - Democratic primary for governor and state legislators
- Spring 2023
  - January 2023 - Governor and new legislature sworn in
  - January 2023 - Start of state legislative session
  - January 2023 - Governor releases first executive budget of term
  - February 28, 2023 - CUNY Contract Expires
  - April 1, 2023 - State Budget Due

### **Measurable Goals for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters:**

6 new YDSA chapters formed with 2-3 core organizers and 10 active members each

3 existing CUNY YDSA chapters strengthened by recruiting and developing 3-4 core organizers and 20 active members each

25 new YDSA leaders recruited and developed

Build capacity to mobilize 1000 people (NYC residents, especially CUNY students, staff, and faculty) for actions like rallies and civil disobedience

Recruit and train 6 new YDSA mentors

**Measurable Goals for the Fall 2022, Spring 2023 semesters:**

The following goals will need to be amended after April 2022 based on our progress after the next state budgetary cycle:

6 new YDSA chapters formed with 2-3 core organizers and 10 active members each

9 existing YDSA chapters strengthened with 25-30 active members each

50 new YDSA leaders recruited and developed

Build capacity to mobilize 10,000 people (CUNY students, staff, faculty, and DSA members)

Recruit and train 6 new YDSA mentors

**Campaign Timeline:**

**August through October 2021: Base Building**

Prior to the Citywide Convention, NYC-YDSA will host a weekly reading group series for Y/D SA members to learn more about ND4CUNY and read introductory socialist texts. The current campaign members will create a series of 20-minute teach-in style presentations on ND4CUNY and our tactics to win that we will use to speak at branch and working-group meetings. NYC DSA branch organizing committees will each coordinate at least one weekly tabling event for the New Deal for CUNY campaign. The tabling events can be organized on CUNY campuses or in strategic locations with high foot traffic that will be determined by the campaign committee and relevant branch organizing committee.

**November/December 2021: Begin Budget Campaign**

Action mobilizing NYS residents and CUNY students, staff, and faculty to influence CUNY budget request and executive budget.

**January through April 2022: State Budgetary Session**

Action mobilizing NYS residents and CUNY students, staff, and faculty for actions such as: Testimony public hearings.

Targeted Lobbying.

Protests at CUNY.

Protests in Albany.

Civil Disobedience.

#### April through June 2022: Gubernatorial Primary

Continuing actions targeted at getting gubernatorial candidates to commit to passing ND4C in 2023.

#### August through December 2022

Redouble base-building efforts.

#### January-April 2023

Another series of escalating actions towards the April 1 budget.

Moving thousands of students to militant mass action.

#### *Amendment #1 to Resolution #9*

### **Proposed Amendment to NYC-DSA New Deal for CUNY priority campaign...Amend Allies and Coalition Partners**

**Author:** Chris O'Brien (Labor)

**Co-sponsors:** Peter Allen-Lamphere (Labor), Natalia Tylim (Labor), Mel Bienenfeld (Labor), Boyda Johnstone (Labor, RAFA-PSC), Nicodemus Nicoludis (Labor, RAFA-PSC), Robert Cuffy (Labor, DC37 Progressive caucus), Hakan Yilmaz (Lower Manhattan, RAFA-PSC)

Amend Allies & Coalition Partners section. Add new item (1) along with text in bold:

“Allies & Coalition Partners

**Rank and file groups:**

**Rank-and-file Action (RAFA-PSC)**

**DC37 Progressive Caucus**

CUNY Rising Coalition includes...”

List continues with CUNY Rising Coalition now as item (2). All else in resolution remains the same.

#### *Amendment #2to Resolution #9*

### **Proposed Amendment to NYC-DSA New Deal For CUNY Priority Campaign...Amend Campaign Structure**

**Authors:** Jacob Clary

**Sponsors:** Kay G, Nikhil S, Kennan M, Anna D, Jessica M

The “Campaign Structure” section is amended as follows:

1. ~~Any member of the committee can be removed at any time or for any reason by a majority vote of the campaign steering committee. Removal from the committee must follow a process to be designed by the Campaign OC to facilitate airing and documentation of grievances, rationale, and accountability to~~



membership and to citywide decision-making bodies.

2. The campaign steering committee can add new members with a majority vote, after formal decision and rationale for adding new members is declared and documented in a process to be designed by the Campaign OC to facilitate communication and accountability to membership and to citywide decision-making bodies.

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*Resolution #10*

## **Create Strong Issue Campaigns through a Rigorous Citywide Priority Campaign Adoption Process**

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee, Grace Mausser (CBK), Cea Weaver (CBK)

**Co-sponsored by:** Christie O. (CBK), Maia R. (NBK), Josh Y (NBK), Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (Lowman) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Steven Dube (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Kay G (Queens), Lindsay Pratt (Lowman), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Liz Skeen (CBK), Garon S, Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

### **Motivation**

NYC-DSA has significantly expanded its ambitions over the last year. Between the 2020 convention and the present one, we successfully elected five socialists to the State Legislature, organized hard-fought campaigns to pass the New York Health Act and Build Public Renewables; we worked to Cancel Rent and win permanent eviction protections, we moved concretely towards Defunding the NYPD; we ran six City Council campaigns in

some of the toughest electoral conditions we have faced in years; and we mounted a massive campaign to Tax The Rich, which resulted in New York's first budget in decades to not cut but rather expand social services.

These ambitions reflect the wide-ranging interests and strengths of our organization. We know that capitalism has created inequity and injustice across all facets of our lives. There are many frontiers in our fight, but we must choose our battles wisely.

The purpose of this resolution is to help our organization do just that. The authors of this resolution aim to create a process that will create stronger issue-based non-electoral Citywide Priority Campaigns (CPCs), by incentivizing rigorous CPC proposals and creating a voting structure that encourages mass member buy-in to these campaigns.

**This resolution creates a CPC endorsement process modeled on the Chapter's process for our electoral campaigns — some of the strongest organizing work we do as a chapter — and requires working groups and/or branches seeking priority status to submit campaign plans for endorsement through the branches prior to reaching a Citywide Leadership Committee vote.**

Our electoral work benefits from two things: a thorough, highly-publicized, chapter-wide endorsement process and a well-defined and time-bound campaign objective. The first condition means that chapter stakeholders — from paper members to Steering Committee representatives — are encouraged to learn about the electoral campaign and participate in the endorsement process. This makes it easier to recruit organizers at every level of a campaign — from campaign managers to field leads to weekly canvassers. Every level is engaged in endorsement so more members are aware of the campaign and feel more ownership over, and commitment to, the campaign.

The second condition means that electoral organizers have a clear mandate to guide their work: to win the race. NYC-DSA's electoral strategy steers us away from paper endorsements and requires us to commit fully to a campaign. Electoral campaigns also have a clear target (the opponents/voters), scope (the district), and timeline (Election Day). Many of these guidelines are externally imposed and widely understood by members; this is part of why electoral work can be easier, though not more important, to organize.

This resolution updates the [“Definition of a Citywide Priority Campaign” proposal](#) adopted by the Chapter in January 2018 and amended by the CLC in December 2019. The authors of this resolution believe that this rigorous process has produced strong campaigns in the electoral area and that our issue campaigns can learn from these guidelines and create them for themselves.

Currently, CPCs are approved by the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC). While the CLC is a representative and deliberative body, adoption by the CLC alone does not lead to wider member awareness or buy-in. **By requiring the Branches to debate and vote on adopting a CPC, more members will understand and support a CPC. In turn, this will mean CPC's can more easily engage with and recruit members, leading to more members actively organizing around our priorities and more opportunities for leadership development.**

**Requiring CPC proposals to meet a more rigorous standard, including explicit campaign goals, a scope, how Branches should be involved, a plan for creating a Campaign Committee that will direct the CPC, and a timeline of no more than a year, will give CPC organizers a clear mandate for their work and provide the**

**organization with tools to evaluate a CPC.** Concrete objectives will make it easier to develop and retain leaders, because, though the work will not be easier, it will be clearer and more accessible to new organizers.

**Finally, this resolution will enable the Chapter to more effectively prioritize our campaigns.** Undoubtedly, as our ambitions have grown we have often stretched ourselves too thin. When the membership does not have a holistic picture of our goals and campaigns, it can be easy for us to overcommit our Chapter's resources. We must choose our battles carefully and go into them with all of our resources and talents at our disposal. We should adopt campaigns that present a clear plan for how we win and make a compelling strategic case for how a win will bring us closer to a socialist state. This resolution incentivizes the Chapter to collectively commit to campaigns that will help us win the world we deserve.

—

**Whereas,** issue-based campaigns are critical for advancing socialist demands, building the skills and power of NYC-DSA, and maximizing the impact of our electoral wins, and

**Whereas,** the current Citywide Priority Campaign process does not adequately engage membership across the chapter and, frequently, these campaigns have less clear objectives than electoral campaigns, and

**Whereas,** Branches and Working Groups ought collaborate in order to build strong issue-based campaigns that fully utilize the Chapter's resources, engage members, develop organizers, and deliver socialist wins,

**Therefore be it resolved,** that in addition to Electoral Endorsements outlined in Article VII of NYC-DSA's Constitution, the Chapter may adopt Citywide Priority Campaigns (CPCs) only through the multi-stage, democratic process outlined in this resolution; and be it further,

**Resolved,** that a CPC proposal must include goals, targets, how Branches should be involved, a plan for creating a Campaign Committee that will direct the CPC, and a timeline of no more than a year, based upon the formula laid out the the "Definition of a Priority Campaign" [resolution](#) passed through the CLC in January 2018 and updated with this resolution; and be it further,

**Resolved,** the authors of this resolution must present this resolution to the CLC in order to update the "Definition of a Citywide Priority Campaign" process to bring the Chapter's process in line with what is laid out in this resolution; and be it further,

**Resolved,** that any NYC-DSA member in good standing may bring forward a CPC proposal to the relevant geographic Branches after at least 35 Branch members in good standing in each branch targeted for presentation sign onto the proposal as co-sponsors, except upon appeal to the Steering Committee; and be it further,

**Resolved,** that CPC proposals with the requisite signatures should be brought to the Organizing Committees of all geographic Branches, who must then circulate the plan, including details for branch specific engagement, among Branch members prior to holding a Branch vote to recommend adoption of the CPC proposal; and be it further,

**Resolved**, that Branches must hold these voting meetings in a timely fashion, and may be directed by the Steering Committee to hold an early meeting for this purpose,

**Resolved**, that in order for the recommendation to be valid, the adoption must be recommended by simple majority of members voting, quorum shall be a number of members equal to the average attendance of the last 4 branch meetings, notice must be sent to members of each relevant Branch at least a week in advance that an adoption will be considered at a branch meeting, and no online vote may commence until the adoption has been discussed at the branch meeting; and be it further,

**Resolved**, that once at least three of the geographic branches proposal recommend adoption, it must be voted on within four weeks at an Endorsement Meeting of the Chapter or by the Citywide Leadership Committee, as defined in Article VIII, Section 4 of the NYC-DSA Constitution; and be it further resolved,

**Resolved**, that a simple majority of voting members or delegates at an Endorsement Meeting must vote in favor to adopt a CPC proposal; and be it further,

**Resolved**, that once adopted, a CPC will be prioritized in chapter-wide communications and be given \$5,000 of chapter funds for the campaign, which will be available without additional oversight from CLC or the Steering Committee, though the Treasurer will monitor spending; and be it further;

**Resolved**, that after the timeline in the CPC proposal lapses, the CPC must go through another adoption process in order for the campaign to remain a Citywide Priority Campaign; and be it further,

**Resolved**, that all previously designated CPCs lose their status after the existing term, defined as one year from last CLC adoption, and must go through the above process to become a recognized CPC and receive the associated benefits; and be it further,

**Resolved**, that failure of a proposal to become a CPC does not prevent Branches or other bodies from organizing around a proposal or issue, and Branches and Working Groups are encouraged to create and utilize a similar process to adopt Branch-specific projects; and be it further,

**Resolved**, that this resolution must be put on the NYC-DSA website along with clear explanatory materials so that any member can easily determine how to initiate a CPC.

*Amendment #1 to Resolution #9*

**Proposed Amendment to Create Strong Issue-Based Campaigns...Require at least half minus one branches recommend adoption**

**Submitted by:** Kay G. (Queens)

**Cosponsors:** Grace Mausser (CBK), Nikhil S. (CBK), Jess M. (NBK), Charlotte A. (NBK), Ben M. (CBK), Khalil S. (CBK), Hadass W. (NBK)

**Rationale:**

The text of the resolution as currently written requires that CPCs will go before CLC for a vote after three branches vote in favor. But Resolution 17 would establish three new branches for the chapter, and even if R17 doesn't pass, it's likely we'll add more branches in future. Therefore, we'd like to move to amend the language to reflect the possible, and likely eventual, change in the number of branches. Three branches is currently half the geographic branches, minus one, so the updated language would preserve that mathematical relationship.

### Amended Language

**Resolved**, that once at least ~~three~~ **half** of the geographic branches ~~minus one~~ recommend adoption **of a CPC proposal**, it must be voted on within four weeks at an Endorsement Meeting of the Chapter or by the Citywide Leadership Committee, as defined in Article VIII, Section 4 of the NYC-DSA Constitution; and be it further resolved,

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### Resolution #11

## Stronger Mandates for Yearly Reports by Priority Campaigns

**Submitted by:** Isaac KD (CBK)

**Co-sponsored by:** Jeremy N (CBK), Lane S (Queens), Maxwell P (CBK), Cliff C (CBK), Camilla W (CBK), David A (CBK), Amanda Y (B/UM), Daeha K (NBK), Mitch E (CBK), Dee N (B/UM), Jack L (CBK), Ada M (LowMan), Josh K (CBK), Ben M (CBK), Elijah S (CBK), Simone N (CBK), Tiffany B (B/UM), Nikhil S (CBK), Kay G (Queens), Natalia T (Labor), Charlotte A (NBK), James T (CBK), Noah H (Queens), Andy R (CBK), Paul D (CBK), Mac P (LowMan), Amy B (B/UM), Erinrose M (CBK), Jacob C (NBK), Robert C (Labor), Cea W (CBK), Yusuf A (CBK), Jack G (CBK), Avi G (B/UM), Kennan M (LowMan), Karen N (CBK)

### Background

The "Definition of a Priority Campaign Proposal" adopted by the Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC) in 2018 stipulates the following:

Citywide Priority Campaign (CPC) organizers should make lessons from the campaign available to the membership as a whole at the end of the campaign. This should be done via a written report for the general membership that includes:

- Whether your objectives were met, and how.
- What you learned from the campaign.
- What relationships you built through the campaign, and how the campaign strengthened NYC-DSA.
- Areas for NYC-DSA to improve that you identified through the campaign.
- Anything else you think the general membership should know.

Campaign organizers are also encouraged to hold events or give presentations (Zoom calls, Branch meeting visits, Citywide meetings, etc) open to the general membership the cover the above.

Despite this stipulation, no such public written reports have been produced. As an alternative, campaigns have sent short paragraph-long updates to the CLC. These paragraphs are written late at night in the midst of a campaign by an overstretched OC and are barely glanced at by the wider membership. Additionally, these reports are written with the knowledge that future funding and priority status may be dependent on what is written – a clear structural hindrance against honest reflection. A better climate for writing these reports would be at the end of a campaign, when organizers have the rare opportunity for some time and perspective to look back at the past year and draw some conclusions on what must be done in order to move forward.

While we should give our comrades the time and space necessary to produce these reports, we must also recognize that it is a responsibility of leadership to allow for public reflection on the decisions they made and the quality of wins or losses that those decisions produced. That reflection is essential for a democratic, member-run institution. If we as a chapter are to move towards a stronger emphasis on priority campaigns, we must ensure our comrades get the chance to discuss and learn from the successes and failures of each campaign. That is why this resolution requires that CPCs produce these reports before they are renewed by the CLC.

A major influence for this campaign was Metro DC DSA's Stomp Out Slumlords project's report [\*No Job, No Rent: Ten months of organizing the tenant struggle\*](#). This report is an excellent, honest work of political and strategic analysis written in an engaging and agitational style. It has a clear use for purposes both internal (members got the chance to reflect and summarize the lessons of organizing in the pandemic) and external (wider lessons about organizing methods and political conceptions could be shared with DSA and the movement as a whole). I encourage comrades to read this report and imagine co-creating and sharing such a report about their past year of organizing.

**Whereas** the CLC previously stipulated that Citywide Priority Campaign (CPC) organizers should produce a written report on lessons of the campaign for the general membership, but this stipulation has not been followed through.

**Whereas** the end of a campaign offers an excellent chance to look back in order to create lessons our chapter can use in order to move forward.

**Whereas** our membership has a stake in both the creation and summation of our campaigns.

**Whereas** NYC-DSA is part of a larger ecology of radical groups, mass movements, and working class self-activity, and should strive to be in open communication with organizers and rebels across the world.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that all CPCs must produce a public, written summation of lessons from the campaign after a year of the campaign's existence.

**Resolved** that the campaign committee should make a reasonable effort to consult the general membership involved in the campaign with methods including, but not limited to, making an open call for writers, incorporating interviews, and submitting a draft for feedback from the campaign.

**Resolved** that these reports will be primarily political documents focusing on subjects such as the results of political assumptions and organizing tactics; quantitative and qualitative assessments of successes and failures; membership engagement, and movement building.

**Resolved** that the campaign committee will present and discuss these documents in relevant branches and working group meetings.

**Resolved** that the reports will be sent to the citywide comms committee for further distribution and preservation.

**Resolved** that a campaign will lose its priority status if it does not complete such a report within 14 months since the CLC granted such status. The campaign may not re-apply for a priority designation until it produces such a report.

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## *Resolution #12*

### **Increasing Organizational Transparency**

**Submitted by:** Émilie Decaudin (Queens)

**Co-sponsored by:** Drashti B. (Queens), Miriam B. (Queens), Sarah B. (Queens), Elliot C. (Queens), Steph C. (Queens), Marva K. (Queens), Aleda G. (Queens), Melquiades G. (Queens), Hailie K. (Queens), Stylianos K. (Queens), Bright L. (Queens), Shawna M. (Queens), Eric T. (Queens), Ben S. (Queens), Katie W. (Queens), Elizabeth A. (NBK), Isabel A. (NBK), Steve F. (NBK), Steven D. (CBK), Peter H. (CBK), Alex Le. (CBK), Alexander La. (CBK), Fainan L.. (CBK), Saje L. (CBK), Dev M. (CBK), Seth P. (CBK), Paul H. (SBK), Christian L. (SBK), James N. (SBK), Dan Z. (B/UM), Nina S. (LowMan), Honda W. (LowMan), Natalie J. (Labor), Dana S. (Labor)

#### **Justification**

The Democratic Socialists of America, including the New York City Chapter of DSA, is a democratic organization. Democratic governance requires transparency surrounding organizational structure, how decisions are made, and who makes those decisions.

Currently, the leadership composition of the NYC Chapter's Citywide Leadership Committee, Branch Organizing Committees, Working Groups, etc., is not consistently publicly accessible by rank and file members.

The Democratic Socialists of America, including the New York City Chapter of DSA, is a democratic organization. Democratic governance requires transparency surrounding organizational structure, how decisions are made, and who makes those decisions.

Currently, the leadership composition of the NYC Chapter's Citywide Leadership Committee, Branch Organizing Committees, Working Groups, etc., is not consistently publicly accessible by rank and file members.

### **Resolution**

The composition of the NYC Chapter's Steering Committee, Citywide Leadership Committee, Branch Organizing Committees, Working Groups Organizing Committees, the Socialists in Office Committee, and the leadership bodies of any other recognized sub-groups of the Chapter shall be listed on the respective sub-group's website or page.

If any such sub-group does not have a website or page of its own, its leaders shall be listed on the website or page of the closest "parent" body. For example, if the Queens Animal Rights Working Group did not have a website or page, its leaders would be listed on the Queens Branch's website or page.

The list of leaders need not include contact information nor the full names of individuals, if they have privacy concerns about their information being made public.

The Citywide Leadership Committee shall be responsible for doing the work required for this resolution. It shall delegate the tasks to the Branch Representatives on the CLC, who will be responsible for the sub-groups of their respective Branch, and to the Chairs of the Working Groups and other sub-groups.

### *Amendment #1 to Resolution #12*

### **Proposed Amendment to Increasing Organizational Transparency...Amend to only include SC and CLC roster on website**

**Submitted by:** Nathan Albert (CBK)

**Sponsored by:** Andrea Guinn (Queens), Cea Weaver (CBK), Lindsay Pratt (LowMan), Liz Skeen (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Michael Whitesides (CBK), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Julian Graham (SBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Daniel Lynch (Queens), Dev M (CBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Nolen Scruggs (Queens), Offer E (CBK), Kay G (Queens), Jad J (B/UM)

### **Rationale:**

DSA members should be able to enter into leadership roles and become prominent local organizers without appearing on an online org chart and building a traceable internet presence.

DSA has been and will continue to be targeted by right wing interests online that take interest in doxxing members, threatening their personal safety and employment. We should neither make it easy for them to do so, nor potentially scare away future leaders in the organization because of this requirement. NYC-DSA's website would become a constantly updated repository of ~100 names if Resolution #12 passes in its unamended form.

No similar list that includes all working group organizing committee members exists in the national organization, or in large city chapters (LA, Chicago, Austin, SF, East Bay, Philly, etc.).



In the interest of transparency, working groups should be encouraged to (and in many cases continue to) introduce OC members in emails and in meetings. Since CLC does not have regular public meetings, it is far more difficult for a rank and file DSA member to learn who is on that body, so listing their names on the website is a reasonable compromise that achieves the aims of this resolution.

### **Resolution Text:**

The composition of the NYC Chapter's Steering Committee, ~~and Citywide Leadership Committee, Branch Organizing Committees, Working Groups Organizing Committees, the Socialists in Office Committee, and the leadership bodies of any other recognized sub-groups of the Chapter~~ shall be listed on the ~~respective sub-group's chapter's~~ website or page.

If any such sub-group does not have a website or page of its own, its leaders shall be listed on the website or page of the closest "parent" body. For example, if the Queens Animal Rights Working Group did not have a website or page, its leaders would be listed on the Queens Branch's website or page.

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### *Resolution #13*

## **Resolutions Compendium**

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar (CBK), Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Winnie Marion, Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Steven Dube (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Miko Brandini (B/UM), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

**Whereas,** The NYC-DSA chapter has developed an effective practice of testing out different approaches through resolutions such that we can avoid making permanent changes to our constitution until we have determined the most effective approach (e.g., working groups, priority campaigns), and

**Whereas,** it is currently difficult to know what CLC resolutions have passed.

**Therefore be it resolved that** The NYC-DSA Steering committee will create and maintain a compendium of resolutions available to the general membership.

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### *Resolution #14*

## **Strengthening Communication Between CLC Delegates and Branch Members**

**Submitted by:** Daniel Cheng

**Co-sponsored by:** Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Emma Claire Foley (SBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Michael C (LowMan), Stephen Maples (SBK), Miranda Kalish (B/UM), Carissa Smith (LowMan), Caitlin Kelmar (LowMan), Lindsay Pratt (LowMan), Charlie Baker (LowMan), Illapa Sairitupac (LowMan), Nina Svirsky (LowMan), Leslie Roeder (LowMan), Alexandros Patsikos (LowMan), Michael Matloob (LowMan), Isa Francisco (LowMan), Nick Martin (LowMan), Andrew Hiller (LowMan), Drake T (B/UM), Gayle Keleman Snible (B/UM), Susan Kang (Queens), Daniel Lynch (Queens), Bill Reisman (B/UM), Ashkan Jahangiri, Lazar Bloch (LowMan), Sam Westley (B/UM), Honda Wang (LowMan), Andrey Chichagov (LowMan), Javier Garcia-Torres (LowMan), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Cale Brooks (LowMan), Rafael Varela (CBK), Liz Skeen (CBK)

**Whereas** the CLC has already passed a [resolution](#) requiring branch discussion of CLC agenda items in the past.

**Whereas** enforcement of this previous resolution is inconsistent.

**Whereas** the only way CLC delegates can be accountable to their constituents is for branch members to know their positions on political questions.

**Whereas** for CLC delegates to be democratic representatives of their branch, they must hear their constituents' views on CLC agenda items.

**Whereas** rank-and-file member discussion on important questions increases democracy and member engagement.

**Whereas** the current CLC Google Drive is only accessible to current CLC members so regular members cannot access passed resolutions or roll call votes.

**Whereas** the current CLC bulletin system offers transparency, but does not centralize the history of passed resolutions on the CLC in an easily accessible location.

**Be it therefore resolved**, branch OCs are strongly urged to dedicate discussion time to CLC agenda items at branch meetings prior to CLC meetings.

**Be it further resolved**, given time constraints, branch organizing committee members may exercise discretion in which CLC agenda items are discussed, but must to their best judgement prioritize CLC items that are politically substantial and likely to be controversial.

**Be it further resolved**, any CLC delegates or alternates who will attend the upcoming CLC meeting are strongly urged to attend the branch meeting where CLC agenda items are discussed, communicate their position on the agenda item (which can be undecided), and respond to direct questions and feedback from membership.

**Be it further resolved**, branches will take a straw poll on bulletined CLC votes discussed at the branch and publicize the results.

**Be it further resolved**, branch OCs will communicate to membership when CLC delegates are replaced permanently (i.e. when a CLC delegate has decided to leave the CLC, not when a substitute CLC delegate is simply substituting for a regular member at a particular meeting).

**Be it further resolved**, all future CLC votes and passed resolutions must be compiled into an online database such as Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. that is easily accessible to all dues-paying members. Members may request CLC meeting notes from the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be expected to fulfill such requests unless there are specific concerns regarding privacy and security.

**Be it further resolved**, CLC agenda items must be circulated to membership prior to CLC meetings.

*Amendment #1 to Resolution #14*

### **Proposed Amendment to Strengthening Communication Between CLC Delegates and Branch Members...CLC Reps to Participate in the Life of the Branch**

**Authors:** The South Brooklyn Branch Organizing Committee

**Co-Sponsors:** David Vibert, Kristin Schall, Paul DeMuro, Asher Ross, Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar, Rob Santos, Amy Khoshbin, Xin Li, Lindsey Eckenroth, Danny Noest, Labiba Chowdhury, Ansley Pentz, Sam Ghitelman, Abdullah Yunus

**Whereas** NYC-DSA local branches elect and maintain an Organizing Committee of democratically elected organizing members, one of whom is an elected representative to the NYC-DSA Steering Committee.

**Whereas** NYC-DSA and the Democratic Socialists of America are a volunteer, dues-paying membership organization whose membership and their representatives democratically determine the direction of the organization.

**Whereas** organizing committees are unpaid volunteers meeting weekly to organize a monthly branch meeting and many, increasingly complex organizing efforts within and of the branch and are increasingly overcommitted and their energy exhausted.

**Whereas** branches democratically elect members to the citywide leadership committee as representative members of their branches, however CLC reps do not currently meet the branch OC or the membership, or regularly update the branch membership on the efforts of the CLC, or participate in the organizing of the branch.

**Whereas** the South Brooklyn DSA OC has determined that in our branch, the next major challenge of the branch is to effectively organize the branch membership, strengthen our organizing, and build a base of support, membership and organizing in South Brooklyn, and to build socialism in South Brooklyn.

We propose amending the proposal text in the following manner to include the following text:

**Be it further resolved** that elected delegates to the CLC will be encouraged to participate in the day-to-day organizing of their branch and will be required to meet regularly, on a monthly basis, with their branch organizing committee to assist in organizing efforts, to organize communication with branch membership, and to update the branch organizing committee and membership of decisions and matters before and made by the CLC.

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*Resolution #15*

## **Branch Visioning Proposal: Branch Sections**

**Proposed by:** Madi M (CBK), Ben M (CBK), Elijah S (CBK), Nathan P (CBK)

**Co-sponsors:** James N (SBK), Tiffany B (B/UM), Kristin S (SBK), Rob K (NBK), Kay G (Queens), Liz G (CBK), Dustin R (Lower Manhattan), Erinrose M (CBK), Luis F L (Queens), Christopher L (CBK), Pablo O (B/UM), Brian K (SBK), Simone N (CBK), Kennan M (Lower Manhattan), Lindsey S (Queens), Stewart S (NBK), Phil J (Lower Manhattan), Isabel A (NBK), Alice M (CBK), Hadass W (NBK), Michael H (B/UM), Gerard D (CBK), Jacob C (NBK), Isaac K-D (CBK), Sessi K B (NBK), Alexandra W (Queens), Robert E (NBK), Evan G (SBK), Haley W (CBK), Landry L (CBK), Jordan B (CBK), Charlotte A (NBK), Rosa P (CBK), Mitch J (NBK), Nikhil S (CBK), James T (CBK), Brendan O (CBK), Jessica M (NBK), Khalil S (CBK)

## **Background**

DSA continues to make gains throughout the city and state through our campaigns and working groups. However, the organization is facing a crisis of membership recruitment, retention, and development. We need an organizational form that both consolidates our often siloed work, and provides room for new leaders to grow. There have been long-standing challenges within NYC-DSA about the role and purpose of branches that have deepened as our issue-based campaigns have matured and grown in Working Groups, and have been exacerbated by the shift to virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Branches have, in many ways, become clearing-houses for new members to send them into working groups, rather than spaces of political development and deliberation. Additionally, Branches currently function autonomously, with little to no coordination between, creating undue labor for Branch leadership and uneven programming and lack of focus throughout the chapter. While chapter leadership, and even general membership, recognizes these challenges, there has not been a clear path set forward, or meaningful action taken, to address them.

These two proposals offer a common-sense consolidation, following in the footsteps of splitting the Brooklyn Branch in 2017, but preserve key democratic functioning of our Chapter, by breaking Branches down into Sections, while preserving quarterly Branch meetings, and creating greater coordination and cohesion between Branches. Sections can give members stable political homes, with key advantages outlined below. Sections also provide a path forward for DSA to grow in a more diverse fashion than we have in the last five years. Meanwhile, Branch OC coordination can reduce administrative and programmatic burdens while increasing cohesion. Finally, our hope is that the Sections model will provide members with an orientation that transcends volunteerism, and shapes the way we see ourselves: towards political organizers that can take action in our neighborhoods, homes, industries, and workplaces.

## **Motivation**

As we return to in-person meetings, we have an opportunity to supplement our branches and redefine their role in our organization. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the immense need for community in our lives, and there has been a growth in tenant associations and mutual aid groups, and more informally, neighbors have increasingly interacted. Yet NYC-DSA remains, for the most part, disconnected from these local-level relationships, and the connections that do exist are not well-integrated into the organizational structure. The branches should be built out to simultaneously offer more opportunity for organizing embedded in the daily lives of members, and provide more space for engaged, collective, political decision making.

In an effort to answer the ever-present question ‘what is a branch for?’, this proposal seeks to consolidate the different parts of our organization -- political education, democracy, and external campaigns -- into a single political home for our members. Within, we propose that sections should be political homes, organized under the branch. Political homes should make seamless our goal of diverse recruitment, membership development, political education, deep engagement of our members, and strategizing how to bring campaigns into a given neighborhood/ workplace. This proposal speaks to the diverse needs of the chapter, and attempts to meet them with a solution of smaller ‘sections’ comprising roughly 20 people that meet on a monthly basis, feeding into the Branches, where democratic decision making will be made central.

Under this model, instead of constantly programming for Branch meetings, Branch OCs will practice the work of organizing their members into capable and engaged bodies, providing clear direction and materials for members at the Section level, including an agenda for the monthly section meeting that features meaningful political education, discussion of the big questions facing our chapter, and the ability to participate in external facing campaign work. In consolidating these often siloed off dimensions of our organization, we might make it easier for working class people to become full members of our movement, deeply engaged not only as volunteers to priority campaigns but well-rounded socialist organizers.

Section meetings will effectively supplant branch meetings, with the exception of quarterly branch meetings to convene as a body, plus as-needed ad-hoc campaign endorsement meetings. That said, sections are a place to build out branches, not replace them.

Section meetings will create smaller nuclei that will serve as the primary home and gateway for the membership to engage with the wider movement, which has utility in a few ways:

1. **Member Retention and Development:** By operating on a smaller scale, it dramatically increases the likelihood that members will create meaningful connections to other comrades in the movement, encouraging the bonds that keep us coming back. By creating meaningfully small and geographically convenient bodies, tied to members' daily lives - their neighborhoods, community institutions, workplaces, etc - sections will be able to better retain and develop our members, as opposed to the impersonality of our current large-branch structure.
2. **Accountability:** Operating at a smaller scale means that members can build in more accountability for the kinds of work that they commit to doing. Members will not see their participation in the movement as a series of anonymized commitments, but rather concrete actions that we are taking in conjunction with others; ones that we can follow up on, strategize about together, and follow up with collectively within sections. This is in some ways taking heart from the way the Labor Branch currently functions: providing small breakouts where each member can troubleshoot their organizing conditions and workplace dynamics. One potential improvement to the Labor Branch model is keeping these groups consistent to allow for aforementioned follow-up and create institutional knowledge of the group's collective dynamics, intersections, and power. Additionally, the Sections model can take cues from the Mobilizer program, creating spaces in which members encourage each other to turn out for DSA priority campaigns, canvasses, protests, picket lines, and engage with each other around local tenant organizing, environmental injustice issues, and so forth. At issue here is an attempt to shift the way we see our participation in the movement: not as activists, but as organizers who can bring our commitments to bear in our daily life.
3. **Making Section Meetings Organizing Opportunities:** At the moment, it is difficult to do organizing work at the branch level. The branches organize at a large scale and cover broad geographical areas, and see uneven attendance from meeting to meeting such that a new member may not see the same face twice in a row. Branch meetings have historically been packed, and center on programming and reportbacks rather than engaging our membership in

advancing an organizing project. This means that all of our organizing work tends to happen in working groups, independent campaigns, or other places outside of the branch. This creates a disconnect between our spaces of deliberation and internal democracy, and the spaces where the 'organizing' happens. This makes the organization more opaque to members, and it means that new members may have to attend many more meetings in order to plug into the organization. By working at a smaller scale, sections could meaningfully take up organizing during their meetings. That organizing could look like but is not limited to the following: canvassing; phone banking; phone zapping; tabling; flyering; walking a picket; mutual aid deliveries; and finally, strategizing, committing to, and following up on actions members take in their neighborhoods, communities, and workplaces as related to DSA campaigns and priorities.

4. **Increased Deliberation:** Smaller sections could increase the level of democratic deliberation within the Branch. To follow the comings and goings of the organization requires a great deal of investment as well as membership in an ideological caucus or advancing to a certain tranche of leadership. Smaller sections allow for issues that may be up for a vote at CLC or branch or city endorsement to be discussed and make legible the ideas, debates, and strategic arguments surrounding important decisions, such that they are more informed and better equipped to make decisions at the Branch level.
5. **Political Education:** Smaller sections would also allow for us to do more engaged and deliberate political education with our members. Currently, each branch engages in valuable, yet optional, reading groups, study events, and political education series that should be included in every member's experience of NYC-DSA. By establishing smaller section bodies, members will be able to read, view, discuss, and deliberate questions of theory and practice together as a regular element of section meetings.
6. **Recruit, develop, and engage different sections of the working class:** Each section should seek to establish the language spoken, format, meeting time, meeting cadence (at least once a month), and collective needs of the body. DSA has attempted a variety of ways to be a multilingual organization, from our translation network to as-needed translation. DSA has similarly attempted to be welcoming to those with work schedules that do not align with open availability for meeting times in the evening. Additionally, DSA has accounted for childcare needs relatively successfully, but those resources are still unevenly utilized. Because all of these initiatives act as a service to be met, rather than the foundation of the group itself, these services are unevenly used, and place a high demand on the bodies themselves. Leaving open the possibility of organizing sections around the needs of particular groups of members would allow for a more diverse and representative chapter.

This resolution makes clear the purpose of a branch. The sections will become the place where members develop, provide a clearer way to plug into organizing commitments, and allow for the relationships and follow up that is required to build a lasting socialist organization. On the other hand, the branches become the primary place of democratic decision making for the organization's membership. It is in the branch, meeting on a quarterly basis, that we will vote on campaigns and candidates. It is here that we will vote for leadership to send to local and

national conventions and citywide leadership. Branches will be deliberative bodies that will serve the needs of democratic decision making across the chapter. By making branch meetings less frequent and concentrating these democratic processes, it will make it easier for rank and file members to weigh in and take charge of the direction of our movement.

Instead of constantly programming for monthly meetings, the Branch OCs will pivot to providing resources to sections. In turn, this can open the door to creating new layers of leadership in the organization both by providing members, such as mobilizers who already do a great deal of member development, to help lead sections.

## **Resolution**

Be it resolved that:

- Following the passage of this proposal, one branch will implement the Sections structures, in order to finesse this model before full citywide adoption.
- The Steering Committee will identify one branch to implement the Sections model, in consultation with Branch leadership to ensure efficacy & eagerness, in advance of Branch OC elections.
- After six months of implementation in one Branch, the Branch OC will report to the CLC their findings and put forward a proposal outlining best practices and identifying resource needs in order to implement citywide, with the aim of full implementation before the end of the 2022 calendar year.

Be it resolved that:

- Starting with one Branch, Branches will be segmented into smaller 'sections' comprising ~20 people that meet on at least a month basis (skipping during full Branch meeting months)
- Sections will be segmented based on geographic, political and strategic factors, including voting districts, train/bus stops, concentration of DSA members, etc.
  - Branch OCs shall be responsible for segmentation and communication to Branch membership about their new Sections
  - Branch OCs should use member data to identify geographical locations of membership, and segment the data similar to past/existing DSA projects, such as cutting canvassing turf, developing mobilizer programs, and creating neighborhood groups (as was done in North Brooklyn).
- In creating sections, Branch OCs shall prioritize active DSA members, based on the OCs' discretion with regards to the definition of "active," in order to ensure participation
- Sections will have the flexibility to self-define their preferred language, meeting space, meeting method, etc.
- Chapter funds can be requested by Section leaders for use for meeting space, if necessary.

Be it resolved that:

- Branch OCs will identify experienced organizers within Sections, leveraging existing mobilizer systems, to be point persons for those sections, prioritizing women & non-binary people, and people of color organizers.
  - Section leaders will be tasked with:
    - Facilitating monthly section meetings



■ Facilitating communication between section meetings

- These point people will lead monthly section meetings initially, followed by an election for each set of section leaders (at least one, but two leaders, if possible) after six months of the formation of the Section.
- Branch OCs will be responsible for helping to oversee Branch Sections, with the Sections evenly divided between Branch OC members
  - Oversight includes providing assistance, communication between each Section and the OC, and troubleshooting if necessary
  - Oversight does not require Branch OC members to attend all meetings for Sections they are responsible for

Be it resolved that

- While geographic segmentation is the primary basis for sections, additional sections can be formed on other bases, including workplace/industry, language, social activity, etc.
- Members can request to form non-geographic sections, such as a language section or industry section, with the understanding that Members should participate in just one section
- New sections can be proposed by members at any time and will then put to a vote within the Branch OC
- New sections should be formed, by Branch OCs, when sections grow beyond 30 members
- Sections can be dissolved, combined or reformulated by a vote within the Branch OC

Be it resolved that:

- Branch OCs will establish monthly programming to be utilized across sections, including but not limited to: political action taken on a relevant and timely priority campaign (such as calling/emailing a legislator or phone-banking for an endorsed candidate), political education, discussion of upcoming chapter decisions, and skills trainings.
  - Programming will be designed by the Branch OCs, to be facilitated by Section Leaders, and can be tailored to any specific needs of the sections.
- Time can be allotted in Section meeting agendas for Section-specific discussion (for example: a strike at a neighborhood grocery store, a tenant association forming in a member's building, etc)
  - Sections will use this time to share notes and strategize; sections will not form their own campaigns independent of the branch.

Be it resolved that:

- Branches as a whole will meet quarterly to deliberate and vote on campaigns, candidates, and other proposals relevant to the branch and chapter
- Branch OCs can call full branch meetings more frequently to hold deliberation and voting, if necessary.

Be it resolved that

- The Steering Committee, Branch OCs, and Branch Commission 2.0 (if approved, outlined below) will be expected to help facilitate the transition from existing branch structure to branch sections and quarterly branch meetings.
- Branch OCs will additionally have at their disposal the [Branch OC handbook](#), compiled by the Branch Commission 1.0 in order to equip themselves and their section leaders with past practices.

Be it resolved that:

Branches and sections will operate by common bylaws proposed by the Branch Commission 2.0, as outlined in the proposal entitled “Branch Commission 2.0” and to be ratified at the CLC  
Sections will operate by a shared [Code of Conduct](#), previously ratified by the CLC.

#### *Amendment #1 to Resolution #15*

### **Proposed Amendment to Branch Visioning Proposal: Branch Sections...Change to 1 year implementation period**

**Submitted by:** Nathan P (CBK), Madi M (CBK), Ben M (CBK), Elijah S (CBK), Haley W (CBK)

Amendment:

#### **Resolution**

Be it resolved that:

- Following the passage of this proposal, one branch will implement the Sections structures, in order to finesse this model before full citywide adoption.
- The Steering Committee will identify one branch to implement the Sections model, in consultation with Branch leadership to ensure efficacy & eagerness, in advance of Branch OC elections.
- ~~After six months of implementation in one Branch, the Branch OC will report to the CLC their findings and put forward a proposal outlining best practices and identifying resource needs in order to implement citywide, with the aim of full implementation before the end of the 2022 calendar year.~~
- After one year of implementation in one Branch, the Branch OC and Branch Commission 2.0 (if approved) will report to the CLC their findings and put forward a proposal recommending either adoption, rejection, or further experimentation with branch sections.

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#### *Resolution #16*

### **Branch Visioning Proposal: Branch Commission 2.0**

**Proposed by:** Madi M (CBK), Ben M (CBK), Elijah S (CBK), Nathan P (CBK)

**Co-sponsors:** James N (SBK), Tiffany B (B/UM), Kristin S (SBK), Rob K (NBK), Kay G (Queens), Liz G (CBK), Dustin R (Lower Manhattan), Erinrose M (CBK), Luis F L (Queens), Christopher L (CBK), Pablo O (B/UM), Brian K (SBK), Simone N (CBK), Kennan M (Lower Manhattan), Lindsey S (Queens), Stewart S (NBK), Phil J (Lower Manhattan), Isabel A (NBK), Alice M (CBK), Hadass W (NBK), Michael H (B/UM), Gerard D (CBK), Jacob C (NBK), Isaac K-D (CBK), Sessi K B (NBK), Alexandra W (Queens), Robert E (NBK), Evan G (SBK), Haley W (CBK), Landry L (CBK), Jordan B (CBK), Charlotte A (NBK), Rosa P (CBK), Mitch J (NBK), Nikhil S (CBK), James T (CBK)

#### **Background**

NYC-DSA previously established a Branch Commission to address the challenges, needs, and potential restructuring of branches. However, due to a vague statement of purpose governing the previous Branch Commission that offered no clear mandate to authority, there was insufficient political will to make bold changes to the branches. Additionally, the shift to virtual meetings in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic completely, and understandably, overrode guidelines set forward by the Branch Commission.

### **Motivation**

This proposal seeks to address the weaknesses of the previous branch commission, and by providing a statement of purpose here, this proposal seeks to provide a mandate to a Branch Commission 2.0 to investigate specific and clear changes to the branch structure, as laid out in the proposal “Branch Sections.” Additionally, it is a long-needed need for Branch leadership to coordinate and communicate across the chapter to reduce administrative burden, and cohere Branch programming. The establishment of a Branch Commission would offer the opportunity to address challenges with both the past branch commission and existing Branch activities.

### **Resolution**

- Be it resolved that NYC-DSA will create a committee (Branch Commission 2.0) composed of all Branch OC members (inclusive of Branch Reps to SC) across the Chapter as well as a Steering Committee member from the Administrative Committee (as selected by AC members). The committee will be established to execute the following:
  - Researching the resources that would need to be allocated to this restructuring. Resources include but are not limited to: funding, staff, space.
  - Helping facilitate branch OCs in rolling out Branch Sections in coordinated, relatively uniform manner.
  - Helping Branch OCs identify branch members who can be point people for their Branch Sections
  - Observing, analyzing and reporting back from Branch Sections, through their own experiences and in communication with Branch OCs and point people in Branch Sections
  - Updating and adding to the [Branch OC Handbook](#) with current best practices.
  - Creating common bylaws, to be proposed to the Citywide Leadership Committee
- Be it resolved that the Branch Commission shall meet at least quarterly, in advance of Branch meetings
- Be it resolved that if the Branch Commission proposal is passed without the Branch Section being passed, the Branch Commission can help Branch OCs experiment with different models for potential restructuring, and put forward resolutions and constitutional amendments at the 2021 Convention regarding Branch structure, purpose, and role.
- Be it further resolved that, if the Branch Commission 2.0 proposal is passed without the Branch Section being passed, the Branch Commission 2.0 will investigate restructuring models, beginning with the model put forward in the Branch Sections proposal before researching alternatives.
- Be it further resolved that, if the Branch Commission 2.0 proposal is passed without the Branch Section being passed, the Branch Commission 2.0 will coordinate and communicate between branches on meeting programming and communications.

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*Resolution #17*

## **Make a Goal of Three New Branches for NYC-DSA**

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-sponsored by:** Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (Lowman) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmabhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Jahan (NBK)

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA has grown significantly in the past two years and,

**Whereas**, the Chapter has not added additional branches in that time and,

**Whereas**, Branches are the main way the Chapter expresses its presence geographically and,

**Whereas**, there are challenges in simply setting up Branches in a manner that will lead them to be functional and,

**Whereas**, winning socialism in New York will require presence throughout the city, especially in working-class neighborhoods,

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA has expanded its organizing into Flatbush, Eastern Queens and the Bronx in the last two years,

**Therefore**, be it **Resolved** that, the Chapter affirms an intention to set up three new Branches in the next year

**Resolved** that, the Steering Committee will be tasked to work with Branches to set targets and create plans to develop the new Branches

**Resolved** that the Steering Committee will be empowered to recognize new interim *Neighborhood Committees* that will serve as an intermediary step before full recognition and enfranchisement as Branches

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## Resolution #18

### Tasks for the Branches

**Submitted by:** NYC-DSA Steering Committee

**Co-Sponsors:** Sumathy Kumar, Central Brooklyn (CBK), Dev McManus (CBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Susan Kang (Queens), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Asher Ross (SBK), Nina Svirsky (LowMan) (Lowman), Claire Valdez (NBK), Jeremy Cohan (NBK), Jake Colosa (Lowman), Michael whitesides (CBK), Jack Gross (CBK), Rachel Himes (CBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Lichi D'Amelio (B/UM), Wes Higgins (NBK), Megan Svoboda (CBK), Andrey Chichagov (Lowman), Jacob Tidwell (Lowman), Yoni Golijov, (CBK), Drashti Brahmbhatt (Queens), Chris Maisano (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Jared Watson (SBK), Daniel Cheng (Lowman), Brian Sullivan (CBK), Grace Mausser (CBK), Carrington Morris (NBK), Ashkan Jahangiri (CBK), Daniel L (Queens), Laura Bartkowiak (CBK), Eric Thor (Queens), Osman Chaudhary (CBK), Liz goetz (CBK), Sam Lewis (CBK), Isa Francisco (Lowman), Honda Wang (Lowman), Karen Narefsky (CBK), Steven Dube (CBK), Nathan Albert (CBK), Labiba Chowdhury (CBK), Rafael Varela (CBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Dana Steer (Labor), James Neimeister (SKB), Lauren Phillips (CBK), Emily Lemmerman (CBK), Stylianos Karolidis (Queens), Dana Buhl, Jasmin Oppenheimer (SBK), Paul Horowitz (SBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Joe DeManuelle-Halle (SBK, Labor), Maia Rosenberg (NBK), Miko Brandini (B/UM), Annalisa Wilde (CBK), Wen Zhuang (CBK), Ciarán Finlayson (CBK), Andrew Hiller (Lowman), Émilie Decaudin (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Jahan (NBK)

**Whereas**, the Constitution identifies Branches as the heart of NYC-DSA's democratic decision making and strategic organizing and,

**Whereas**, the current orientation of the branches is under-defined and places an emphasis primarily on holding monthly meetings and,

**Whereas**, branches do important work as sites of member representation, communication about and turnout for chapter priorities, discussion and reporting on decisions made by leadership bodies, and welcoming new members into the organization, all of which could be more consistent across the city,

**Whereas**, the Branches also cover large geographic regions that face different economic and social conditions -- i.e., B/UM includes the wealthiest and the poorest Congressional Districts in the Country -- creating difficult conditions for Branches to engage with class formation, base building, and leadership development;

**Whereas,** in order to effectively develop strong relationships with members of the multi-racial working class and bring them into DSA -- as well as to effectively develop leaders within DSA -- the branches need to more clearly define target geographies for organizing

**Whereas,** the Branches should clearly identify target, working class areas for base-building and engage in targeted outreach around specific and well defined political projects;

**Whereas,** the Chapter has relatively few projects which carry out class formation, base building, and leadership development in working class communities in a targeted way, and

**Whereas,** the development of a working class base is a fundamental task for the building of a working class party,

Therefore, be it **resolved** that, the branches will more consistently recognize and strengthen their current core aspects where they use meetings and newsletters to:

- Serve as the foundation of our member democracy by running endorsement meetings and serving as the site for member representation on leadership bodies
- Turn out members to the chapter's priority campaigns through regular communications, mobilizer programs, and meetings
- Discuss and report on strategic perspectives and decisions being taken up by leadership bodies like the CLC, SiO, and SC
- Welcome new members into the organization through basic political education, plugging them into work on priorities, and giving opportunities for them to meet and socialize with the broader membership in their geographical area
- Strengthen the ties between members in our big tent through regular social events

And **resolved** that, the branches will aim to expand their organizing scope by taking on the following projects:

- Develop geographically specific organizing projects, ideally in coordination with branch-based or citywide priority campaigns and develop campaign strategies that emphasize continued political engagement in a geographic region
- Clearly identify a building, block, election district, work-site, or otherwise geographically distinct target area for outreach, class-formation organizing, and leadership development
- Developing regular, local outreach tied to that geographical space, especially through door-knocking
- Intentionally commit to leadership development, identifying potential leaders and giving them successively greater responsibilities while supporting their success, including within the context of priority campaigns
- Collaborating in carrying out such organizing in partnership with the offices of DSA Socialists in Office where possible
- Holding ongoing gatherings for members on at least a bi-monthly basis to activate and coordinate branch activities
- Holding at least bi-monthly social events to build solidarity between the broad membership

And **Resolved** that, the Branch OC members will recognize the above mentioned organizing projects as their primary responsibility;

And **Resolved** that, Branch OC application questionnaires and process will reflect the above mentioned goals, focusing on questions about how candidates will seek to implement these goals, and that applicants are encouraged to speak about proposed plans for campaign turnout and organizing projects in the branches as a central element of their campaigns;

And **Resolved** that, the Steering committee and priority campaign committees will provide guidance on agendas for Branch gatherings on a monthly to quarterly basis, with flexibility built-in for branches;

And **Resolved** that, this guidance for Branch gatherings should include a rotating agenda of priority campaign actions, political education events, and deliberative meetings including items on the upcoming agenda for the Citywide Leadership Committee;

And **Resolved** that Steering Committees shall provide two weeks notice on CLC agendas for the purposes of branch discussion;

And **Resolved** that, the Steering Committee will convene a two day organizing school retreat for all Branch OC members within 2 months of OC election;

And **Resolved** that the Chapter will raise funds to support childcare for OC members who need it for the retreat.

#### *Amendment #1 to Resolution #18*

### **Proposed Amendment to Tasks for Branches...Functional Local Branch Committees**

**Authors:** The South Brooklyn Branch Organizing Committee

**Sponsors:** David Vibert, Kristin Schall, Paul DeMuro, Asher Ross, Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar, Rob Santos, Amy Khoshbin, Xin Li, Lindsey Eckenroth, Danny Noest, Labiba Chowdhury, Ansley Pentz, Sam Ghitelman, Abdullah Younus

**Whereas,** local branches of NYC-DSA elects and maintains an Organizing Committee of several democratically elected organizing members, one of whom is an elected representative to the NYC-DSA Steering Committee.

**Whereas,** NYC-DSA and the Democratic Socialists of America are a volunteer, dues-paying membership organization whose membership and their representatives democratically determine the direction of the organization.

**Whereas,** local branch organizing committees are unpaid volunteers meeting weekly to organize monthly branch meetings and many, increasingly complex, organizing efforts within and of the branch, and are increasingly overcommitted and their energy exhausted.

**Whereas**, the South Brooklyn DSA OC proposes that the next major challenge of our branch is to effectively organize the branch membership, strengthen our organizing, and build a base of support, membership and organizing in South Brooklyn, and to build socialism in South Brooklyn.

**Whereas**, branches can be organized into smaller geographic areas of focus– Red Hook, Sunset Park, Park Slope Bay Ridge, etc.– some branches, including ours, are quite small and this sort of organization may not solve our organizing issues immediately.

**Whereas**, a large number of local branch OC’s organizing duties and branch memberships are functional: communications, field, membership retention and mobilization etc.

**Whereas**, specialties and skills in field, communications, member retention, and more are both transferable across priority campaigns and opportunities to be involved in these functions invite member participation in the branch.

**Whereas**, NYC-DSA’s membership has grown, and new members must be given useful tasks; opportunities to learn, grow and lead; and the ability to plug into campaigns beyond field.

**Be it resolved** to include these priorities within branch organizing by amending the proposal text to include the following resolution:

And **Resolved** that branches should seek to create functional, voluntary subcommittees of branch membership within each branch, with each subcommittee helmed by an OC member and committees focusing on the following duties:

- Communications
- Political Education
- Field Organizing
- Membership & Mobilization

Functional subcommittees should not be designated for one particular campaign, but instead be transferable, continually building knowledge and sharing skills across priority campaigns.

*Amendment #2 to Resolution #18*

## **Proposed Amendment to Tasks for the Branches...Branch Participation in Electoral Recruitment**

**Author:** David Vibert

**Sponsors:** Asher Ross, Kristin Schall, James Neimeister, Xin Li, Lindsey Eckenroth, Danny Noest, Labiba Chowdhury, Sam Ghitelman, Abdullah Younus



**Whereas** electoral organizing has become a major part of NYC-DSA's front-facing and internal organizing and has become an important factor in how the public at large interact with us as well as in engaging our membership,

**Whereas** electoral organizing is a major point of political engagement for many working class constituents,

**Whereas** electoral working groups, being composed of the most electorally-minded and experienced members of NYC-DSA., spearhead the recruitment of candidates and the beginning of the electoral endorsement and campaign process,

**Whereas** local branch organizing committees are required to do major lifts during the endorsement voting process and campaign process, including volunteer recruitment, event organizing, and front-facing communications with local constituencies and partner organizations,

**Whereas** local constituents and some branch membership see the endorsement process as part of branch and citywide organizing and find the electoral working groups impenetrable,

**Whereas** prior Brooklyn electoral recruitment cycles have included no input from branches during the electoral working groups recruitment process, with unscreened rank and file members, rather than OC members, participating in the recruitment of candidates and even interviewing potential candidates, with no report back to local OCs or communication during this process,

**Whereas** the lack of participation and information by local OC Members in the candidate recruitment process leaves OCs unable to answer questions from branch membership or the public at large about the recruitment process,

**Be it resolved to amend the proposal resolution such that the following text is included:**

**And Resolved** that local branch organizing committees will participate in the recruitment, intake, and screening of local electoral candidates by their local electoral working groups and that local electoral working groups must include in their candidate recruitment and interview process one or more representatives from branches covering the districts involved in the relevant race or candidate under consideration; branch representative(s) to the electoral recruitment process will be selected by the local branch organizing committees.

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*Resolution #19*

**Boycott Chinese-American Planning Council to End the 24-hour Workday and Fight Racial Violence**

**Submitted by:** Caitlin Kelmar, Kathy Lu, Jihye Simpkins

**Co-Sponsors:** John Antush (Labor/CBK), Andrea Asprelli (CBK), Jonathan Bailey (Queens), Tuhfa Begum (BUM), Patrick Boblin (LowMan), Lorenzo Brea (Queens), Cliff Connolly (CBK), Alex Crowley (Queens), Kathryn Dale (Queens), Cam DeOrdio (Queens), Mitch Ellmauer (CBK), Tracey Fu (Queens), Joshua Goodman (LowMan), Taeka Haraguchi (Queens), Gary He (Queens), Nick Irvin (LowMan), Caitlin Kelmar (LowMan), Marty Kirchner (NBK), David Lee (Queens), Margaret Lee (LowMan), Kathy Lu (Queens), Kennan McClung (LowMan), Macartney Morris (Queens), Thomas Muccioli (Queens), Raksha Muthukumar (LowMan), Amanda Nabors (CBK), Zishun Ning (LowMan), Vicki Niu (LowMan), Elizabeth Oh (Queens), Michelle Rosenberg (LowMan), Rob Ruenes (CBK), Nazmus Saquib (NBK), Jihye Simpkins (Columbia/Barnard YDSA), Naomi Schiller (LowMan), Matthew Thomas (Queens), Desmond Zantua (Queens), Yolanda Zhang (NBK), Nicole Zhao (CBK)

### **Boycott Chinese-American Planning Council to End the 24-hour Workday and Fight Racial Violence**

Whereas, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) forces Asian and Latina immigrant women home attendants to work 24-hour days caring for sick and elderly patients, days on end, depriving workers of their sleep, health, family relationships, and lives! [This is physical and mental violence against women of color workers.](#)

Whereas, CPC only pays workers for 13 of the 24 hours worked.

Whereas, home attendants have been fighting CPC to end the 24-hour workdays and recover stolen wages for six years, and CPC has used expensive lawyers to fight their workers and maintain the violence. Although NY state law ([Court of Appeals 2019](#)) says CPC's wage theft -- not paying the full 24 hours of wages even though workers don't get at least 5 hours of sleep at night -- is illegal, CPC even colluded with SEIU 1199 to change the workers' collective bargaining agreement so workers can no longer sue nor strike over CPC's illegal wage theft.

Whereas, superexploitation of a racial underclass of workers is the root of racism in our capitalist society. Superexploitation hurts ALL workers as a class, as we are pitted against each other in competition for worse and worse working conditions in a race to the bottom.

Whereas, the [NYC DSA steering committee voted](#) in July 2021 to [Boycott CPC](#), condemn CPC's abuse of home attendants, support home attendants' demands:

- 1) End the 24-hour workday IMMEDIATELY
- 2) Pay back the full amount of stolen wages
- 3) Publicly apologize to the traumatized home attendants!

Whereas, in response to the workers' demands and boycott, CPC lies and says it cannot stop the violent 24-hour workday unless the state pays them more money to do so and have led legislators, including some DSA electeds, to call for increased state funding and deflect from CPC's violence. CPC covers up the fact that the Medicaid system is privatized in NYS and already, insurance company heads and CPC have become very rich on the backs of home care workers and by stripping care from working people who need it.

Whereas, DSA electeds Jabari Brisport, Emily Gallagher, and Julia Salazar continue to side with CPC against CPC's home attendants, due to the influence of Carlyn Cowen, CPC's lobbyist.

Whereas, sweatshop boss lobbyists like Carlyn Cowen being members of DSA makes DSA a pro-sweatshop organization. No workers who are fighting their sweatshop bosses will ever want to join DSA.

Whereas, we will never win socialism if workers do not unite as a class to fight from the bottom and end superexploitation, starting with ending the 24-hour workday and wage theft.

Whereas, DSA will never become a multiracial working class organization by siding with multiracial sweatshop bosses over workers.

**Be it therefore resolved** that NYC DSA will unite in struggle with superexploited workers by:

1. Mobilizing DSA comrades and Socialists in Office to participate in the upcoming September 26 action, and future actions, against CPC's superexploitation and violence.
2. Formally requesting comrade State Senators Jabari Brisport and Julia Salazar, and comrade State Assemblymember Emily Gallagher to publicly condemn CPC's violence against home attendants by signing onto the pledge: [tinyurl.com/boycottcpc](https://tinyurl.com/boycottcpc).

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## Resolution #20

### Resolution to Articulate and Promote a Socialist Drug Politics

**Authors:** Sessi Kuwabara Blanchard, Jacob Clary

**Co-sponsors:** Evan Neuhausen (NBK), Alice Murphy (CBK), Garrett Y Reuscher (CBK), Ryan Price (SBK), Kay Gabriel (Queens), Julie Bowen (Staten Island), Eva L Sotomayor (NBK), Nikhil Shimpi (CBK), Christopher Luke (CBK), Charlotte Albrecht (NBK), Elijah Stevens (CBK), Jawanza James Williams (CBK), Nicodemus Nicoludis (Labor), Caleb De Jong (Queens), Seth Pollack (CBK), Simone Norman (CBK), Nazmus Saquib (NBK), Anna Duensing (NBK), Chelsea Pickett (NBK), Giovanni Saldarriaga (NBK), Amy Wilson (NBK), Stewart Stout (NBK), Christian Lillis (SBK), Madi Mornhinweg (CBK), Julia Salazar (NBK), Rebecca Harshbarger (SBK), Isaac Kirk-Davidoff (CBK), Jesse Ortiz (NBK), Tiffany Berruti (B/UM), Dana Steer (Labor), Astrid Aune (NBK), Aaron Narraph Fernando (Queens), Re McBride (NBK), Jaslin Kaur (Queens), Peter Fitzgerald (NBK), Darcie Wilder (LowMan), Megan Kapler (SBK), Liz Vogt (CBK), Yoni Golijov (CBK), Daeha Ko (NBK), Gerard A Dalbon (CBK)

The first bullet point of the Platform Plank 'End the Carceral State' is amended to read as follows: *Decriminalize the possession, distribution, and production of all recreational drugs listed drugs immediately and*

~~direct resources wasted on the drug war towards empowering people involved in the formerly-criminalized drug economy to self-determine their health and livelihoods, public health resources for and economic empowerment programs for people who use formerly criminalized drugs. Fully legalize marijuana for adult use with appropriate regulation to ensure that the industry benefits communities harmed by the drug war and does not become a capitalist enterprise. Release all prisoners of the drug war, prisoners must be released.~~

The tenth bullet point of the Platform Plank 'End the Carceral State' is amended to read as follows: Invest in programs and resources to ensure all are guaranteed low-barrier, high-quality permanent housing, end homelessness. Provide effective mental health and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ treatment, including drastically increasing non-coercive, harm-reduction-based inpatient services for all New Yorkers.

The twelfth bullet point of the Platform Plank 'End the Carceral State' is amended to read as follows: Intervene against the health harms of Prohibition ~~the opioid epidemic and other substance abuse issues as public health problems not crimes~~ through a harm-reduction model that includes measures such as non-medicalized safe supply, low-barrier agonist medications, naloxone, safe consumption injection sites, the wide availability of naloxone, and any other evidence-based interventions led by people with lived drug-consumption experience.

A new section, entitled "End the Global Drug War" is added to the Platform Plank 'Anti-Imperialism' and is to read as follows:

- Immediately withdraw from all prohibitionist international treaties, including but not limited to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;
- Work to develop new international treaties guided by socialist drug politics and the leadership of people who use drugs;
- End all US foreign aid that supports the enforcement of anti-drug laws and policies that solely promote abstinence, do not involve harm reduction, and subjugate the autonomous decisions of people who use drugs to policy makers and medical practitioners;
- Develop policies and programs to support workers in the global drug economy to own and manage the means of production and distribution for coca,<sup>1</sup> poppy, and other products.

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## Officer Candidate Statements

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Officers of the Steering Committee are elected at the annual convention. The officers of the Local include: two Cochairs, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Membership Coordinator, and the Working Group Coordinator.

Our 2021-2022 Officer candidates are as follows:

### **Co-Chair**

Farudh Emiel Majid

Jeremy Cohan

Sumathy Kumar

### **Working Group Coordinator**

Fainan Lakha

### **Secretary**

Jack Gross

### **Treasurer**

Devin McManus

### **Membership Coordinator**

Tiffany Berruti

Claire Valdez

**Co-Chair** Farudh Emiel Majid (Queens)

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Endorsed by: Tanesha Grant (B/UM), Hadass Wade (NBK), Kay Gabriel, (Queens) Lauren Wilkinson (LowMan), Lindsey Yoo (NBK)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

Emigrating from Guyana, I saw how a scam, the “American Dream” is for a poor working-class family. I realized how not only important identity is to the system, but me. I am Guyanese, Queer, and working-class; of a lineage deemed property to the British Empire. My roots are more than just labels, they are of liberation; proof that if we organize, we will transform the realities we live in.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

Currently, I serve as the Co-chair of the NYC-DSA Racial Justice Working Group where I have engaged in a spectrum of organizing initiatives within the DSA such as but not limited to the creation of committees (#FreeThemAll + Police-free Schools), fundraising, onboarding new membership, and leading empowered initiatives on the basis of community, collaboration, and comradeship.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

Our chapter will be organizing under a mayoral administration like no other that has stated plans to engage in war with us. We must develop a chapter that is empowered like no other:

- 1) Build a chapter centering the voices of the most marginalized, Black and brown voices. Lived experiences over academic experts.
- 2) Activate & build power in Black and Brown communities that we have failed as a chapter to do; from Southeast Queens to the Bronx.
- 3) Transform our chapter like our movement depends on it, under an Adams administration it does. Radical love is also accountability.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I am a dedicated organizer for Southeast Queens serving as the Director of Mutual Aid for Southside Action Pact, and Lead Organizer for South Ozone Park Community Fridge, where I engage in building people power through engaging community members in the radical act of mutual aid.

**Co-Chair** Jeremy Cohan (NBK)

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Endorsed by: Chi Anunwa (SBK), Sumathy Kumar (CBK), Justin Charles (NBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Zohran Mamdani (Queens)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

I am a longtime socialist; am a discussion moderator by profession; am a veteran of projects with wide & deep chapter buy-in like our electoral work, CLC, and NBK night school; am practiced in regular report backs to our membership, e.g. to the NBK OC and branch; am always organizing (eg in my building); work hard; am cool in the face of a crisis and am good at seeing an issue from different sides

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

I have been an active member of DSA since 2016 and have served in a bunch of different leadership roles. From the most recent: Steering Committee, NBK rep; Socialists In Office Committee; Citywide Leadership Committee; NBK Night School organizer; a coordinator for our uprising mobilizing network in summer 2020; foot soldier for our electoral, tax the rich, healthcare & housing campaigns; NYU-YDSA co-founder; co-wrote pamphlet on Queer Socialism.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

To support strong, externally-focused campaigns; to put everything we have into winning primaries; to expand our labor work in the chapter & deepen our ties to the labor movement; to put down roots in the multiracial working class by organizing out of our new office & with SIO offices; to strengthen strategic discussion in our leadership spaces; to develop our program into a coherent, ambitious, winnable vision for class formation & power; to maintain NYC-DSA as a wonderful, non-factional & serious org. NYC should support other chapters esp. through an electoral residency program & GND work

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I am a professor; my dissertation was on neoliberal education reform in Chicago and the teacher strike of 2012; I teach on power, politics, society, and art. When I was in graduate school, I was a member of UAW Local 2110 and then Local 7902. I also love to sing and am a member of a choir.

**Co-Chair** Sumathy Kumar (CBK)

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Endorsed by: Chi Anunwa (SBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Sam Westley (B/UM), Drashti Brahmabhatt (Queens), Nina Svirsky (LowMan)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

After 18 months as co-chair of the chapter, I am really excited to run again! I think my skills as an organizer and a clear communicator will help me continue to serve. I try and keep a clear and calm head in crises and think I am well suited to maintain and build relationships with our endorsed elected officials, our coalition partners and non-endorsed politicians.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

I first joined DSA through the Afrosocialists and Socialists of Color Caucus and served on its organizing committee and then on the organizing committee of the Central Brooklyn Branch. Since I became co-chair, I have helped create and run the Socialists in Office Committee that connects our chapter with our endorsed state level electeds. I've also worked to support different campaigns in the chapter like Defund NYPD, Housing and Tax the Rich. As part of being co-chair, I represent the chapter to reporters, elected officials and coalition partners.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

My biggest goal for the chapter next year is to deepen our capacity to base build in working class communities of color and develop new leaders in the chapter to strengthen and sustain our work. I hope to do that by starting a yearly organizing school for DSA members and constituents we recruit through the district offices of our endorsed electeds.

I also want to continue to work with our Socialists in Office to refine how our endorsed electeds can move collectively and in concert with our chapter. I hope to bring the process and culture we've created on the state level to the city council.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I have worked as a tenant organizer in Crown Heights and Brownsville. Currently for work, I am the campaign organizer at Housing Justice for All, a statewide coalition fighting for tenants rights and an end to homelessness.



**Working Group Coordinator** Fainan Lakha (CBK)

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Endorsed by: Julian Graham (SBK), Cea Weaver (CBK), Christie Offenbacher (CBK), Andrea Guinn (Queens), Rachel Himes (CBK)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

My personal qualifications for this role are the same that I've brought to all of the wonderful organizing projects I've joined. I have been an organized socialist for more than 7 years, I have wide campaign experience, I understand the value and need for administrative work, and I am very serious about thinking about strategy and the moment's politics and encouraging others to do the same.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

My first project was the Hakeem Jeffries Medicare for All pressure campaign. I followed up on that work as a field coordinator and then Campaign Manager for Jabari Brisport's victorious campaign for State Senate in an overlapping area. I have since served as the Steering Committee Representative for Central Brooklyn where I have played a very active role, and have helped significantly with the Socialists in Office Committee. I helped set up the Tax the Rich campaign, and helped develop the infrastructure for our phonebank campaign especially. I'm a member of the National Electoral Committee.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

I would like NYC-DSA to continue on its path of building a proto-party with a wide base among all working people. To do that, I think we need to continue to run strong, outward facing campaigns for reforms and for elected office, and I think it is important that we win these campaigns in ways that demonstrate our ability to help working people. In addition, I believe our branches should become community organizing hubs, at the center of strong local political campaigns. We should also seek to use the resources of elected office to put out our politics and organize more people.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I have worked in unionized settings in the context of LGBT healthcare, as well as tenant organizing and legal advocacy--in both as a member of 1199 SEIU. I have worked as Campaign Manager for State Sen. Jabari Brisport, and now work as Deputy Chief of Staff for AM Phara Souffrant Forrest.

**Secretary** Jack Gross (CBK)

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Endorsed by: Chi Anunwa (SBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Ciaran Finlayson (CBK), James Inniss (B/UM), Fainan Lakha (CBK)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

I have experience coordinating time-intensive and complex campaigns at the chapter and national levels, which I think makes me well-suited for the role of Secretary. I have enjoyed organizing with chapters at really different places politically and organizationally, and I am excited about the opportunity to develop strategy with comrades across the chapter for the coming year.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

Chronologically: Field Lead for Jabari Brisport State Senate campaign; Field Coordination for NYC-DSA's Tax the Rich campaign; Steering Committee for GNDCC and DSLC's PRO Act Campaign; Steering Committee for the GND for Public Schools Campaign.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

For NYC-DSA: dynamic internal communications structures to facilitate political and strategic thinking about our many projects—and in particular, our Socialists In Office. For national: robust national campaigns that facilitate chapter development around ambitiously structured on-the-ground organizing projects. NYC-DSA is in many ways the most developed chapter in our organization, but we shy away from national work. Our chapter can and should play a greater role in spreading the lessons we have accumulated to help other chapters build sustainable structures for building working class power.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

Did anti-deportation work in NYC for several years before getting involved with DSA. My current job is as the editor of a publication focused on history and political economy.

**Treasurer** Devin McManus (CBK)

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Endorsed by: Sumathy Kumar (CBK), Chi Anunwa (SBK), Fainan Lakha (CBK), Tascha Van Auken (SBK), Gustavo Gordillo (CBK)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

I have a proven history of being an effective organizer within DSA and have served as a leader at the working group, branch, and admin committee level which I think is important when it comes to relating to the priorities and concerns of other members within the org. I care deeply about the success of DSA and am willing to put in the hours of work per week needed to bottom line projects.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

On the steering committee I have:

- Revamped chapter finances for more detailed accounting history and simplified our reporting process
- Directed the fundraising activities of our local staffer (local dues drive, socialists.nyc/merch page), doubling our monthly local dues from \$5k/mo to over \$11k/mo

Prior to that I was:

- Co-chair of Brooklyn's Electoral Working group
- Co-coordinator of the electoral working group's data committee - Canvasser for Khader El-Yateem's city council campaign.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

As treasurer I would like to spend more time over the next year working with branches and working groups OCs to make it easier for them to manage their own finances. It may be time to consider separately incorporating from the national once the umbrella tax exemption from the new chapter affiliation agreement has been implemented.

More broadly I think we need to figure out how to effectively organize our priority campaigns such that they are not competing with each other. My hope is that we will have a cohesive vision and timeline for the next year+ coming out of this convention.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I work for the Communications Workers of America in a non-political role (managing member data, dues, and financial information).

**Membership Coordinator** Tiffany Berruti (B/UM)

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Endorsed by: Kay Gabriel (Queens), Jazz Hooks (B/UM), Nazmus Squib (NBK), Haley Weiss (CBK), Simone Norman (CBK)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

I've been an organizer for six years, and a DSA member for four. I specifically have experience in facilitating organizer trainings, poli-ed, and in engaging in one-on-ones with new DSA members. I believe that in order to build power, we must actively develop our members into effective organizers, able to build class power in their communities and workplaces.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

I am the outgoing co-chair of the Socialist Feminist Working group. I joined DSA back in 2017, as a student at Hunter college, and helped form a YDSA chapter there. I later became one of the co-chairs of NYC YDSA, represented then existing CUNY branch on SC, and worked on the "Free CUNY" campaign. In 2018, I joined the Red Rabbits marshal team, and later served on the body's OC. In 2019, I was elected to the B/UM branch OC. Recently, on a national level, I was a member of the "resolutions and platform" committee, the group responsible for drafting the org's first political platform.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

DSA's main strength, as well as what makes us unique, is that we are a mass, member-run org. We need to conceptualize members not as volunteers with disposable time, but as socialist organizers, each capable of leadership in the org. Specifically, I'd work on the following:

1. Help establish the citywide mobilizer committee, as articulated in "Establishing a Citywide Mobilizer Committee", to ensure every new member gets a one-on-one conversation.
2. Provide frequent organizer trainings for our members and elected leadership.
3. Organize regular community tabling.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I am a member of the Emerge caucus, a marxist and abolitionist formation local to NYC. I worked as a community organizer for Planned Parenthood from March, 2018 to April, 2020.

**Membership Coordinator** Claire Valdez (NBK)

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Endorsed by: Gustavo Gordillo (CBK), Chi Anunwa (SBK), Sumathy Kumar (CBK), Honda Wang (LowMan), Jeremy Cohan (NBK)

**What personal qualities and skills do you have that make you a well suited candidate to be on the next Administrative Committee?**

I'm organized, thoughtful, and invested in creating enduring chapter structures. I work to make NYC DSA accessible, approachable, and welcoming to new members. I have a deep appreciation for the administrative work required to run the chapter and the care needed to move interested volunteers to committed socialist organizers.

**What organizing experience do you have within DSA?**

I've been a member of NYC-DSA since 2019. For the past year I've served as Membership Coordinator on the Steering Committee; on SC, I ran monthly new member orientations, chaired the citywide Membership Committee, and served as the chapter's 100k captain. Previously, I served on NBK's OC, where I was a point person for last summer's daily protest alerts and continue to be a branch mobilizer. I was a canvasser for TTR, Bernie, Jabari, Phara, and Mike; and a field lead for Julia's re-election campaign.

**What concrete goals do you have for the chapter, the national organization? (If you have a website or platform page, this would be a good place to link it.)**

To increase our chapter's capacity, we should pass the Citywide Mobilizer Proposal to welcome and activate members, and grow the Membership Cmte. We should continue to provide member development and poli ed that clearly relate to ongoing campaigns and tie members' work to material outcomes. Our branches should be sites of meaningful political debate, and places for deep, local organizing (in tandem with electeds' offices!). We should continue to run campaigns that win non-reformist reforms, materially improve the lives of working-class NYers, and demonstrate a positive socialist program.

**Please tell us about any work history or organizational affiliations that would be of interest to the voters.**

I'm a university administrative assistant, a rank and file member of UAW Local 2110, and a student at the CUNY School of Labor Studies program. I am a member of Bread & Roses caucus.

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