



## NYC PRIDE - COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

JULY 28, 2020 @ 6:30 PM ET

END @ 9:00 PM ET

### 1. INTRODUCTION (6:35PM ET)

#### a. Moderator Welcome by André

- i. André introduces the Community Town Hall, the first in this series
- ii. NYC Pride condemns the actions of NYPD on June 28th, 2020 and explains that HOP is in the process of developing a community council, and examining ways we can responsibly reduce NYPD presence at future events, as well as better serve the LGBTQIA+ community in the future
- iii. NYC Pride will not be announcing any comprehensive plans before receiving community feedback at this Town Hall event

#### b. Intro from Krishna Stone

- i. Krishna explains her background/work with GMHC, and as a volunteer & announcer for NYC Pride

#### c. Grounding Moment by Nikkita (6:40 PM)

#### d. Moderators Open Space, Ground Rules (6:45 PM)

- i. André explains the logistics of tonight's evening, how to access ASL interpretation
- ii. For community speakers:
  1. If you need to sign up to speak, Q&A feature of Zoom will be used for this purpose
  2. There will be a 2-minute limit to speakers and clock displayed on the screen
  3. If your name is called three times with no response, we will move on to the next speaker
- iii. Notes will be taken at this evening's meeting, for accountability and follow up

### 2. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION (6:50 PM)

#### a. Jay

- i. Notes that the infographic (previously released) excludes NYPD's involvement of the Pride March Route, as well as the involvement of the marching band

#### b. Jake

- i. Concern that HOP "owns" so much of the Pride celebration in NYC, so it becomes difficult to navigate around it and create an event that feels more appropriate to the experience of the community
- ii. Suggestion that HOP "gives up" the March, as well as the trademark of "NYC Pride"

#### c. Saje

- i. Saje cites how heavily HOP has collaborated and involved the NYPD in the past and brings the following suggestions:
  1. NYC Pride should stop producing the NYC Pride Parade
  2. Current EB should give up their seats to working-class Black / Brown folx
  3. 50% of the EB should Trans, citing HOP has never had a Trans member of the EB
  4. New members should be Brown / Black, working class

#### d. Robert

- i. (Not present)

#### e. Rev Hernandez

- i. NYC Pride should reach out to the communities in each borough for feedback
- ii. Trans folx should be hired for more jobs

#### f. Blake

- i. Blake questions "who are you serving?"
- ii. Cites that corporate pinkwashing and NYPD are responsible for violence towards the community we claim to serve
  1. Corporations should redirect resources to mutual aid and Black/Trans Orgs, and that NYC Pride does not "own" Pride.

#### g. Jim



- i. (Not present)
- h. Lou**
  - i. (Not present)
- i. Wayne**
  - i. HOP has a history of being reactionary instead of listening to the community
  - ii. It seems clear that we can reduce the NYPD presence at events, while still respecting the members of the force who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community
    - 1. Additionally, reduce corporate presence at events while still respecting the employees of those organizations
  - iii. Once HOP fixes its 'internal strife', then it can have occasional listening sessions for the community
- j. Cathy**
  - i. Believes that many folks have said in the past that HOP has become too corporate and that it needs to focus more on grassroots orgs
  - ii. We should utilize our important TV spot to uplift activism and grassroots orgs, less corporate presence
  - iii. Believes that leadership is not stable, transparent, and open to feedback
- k. Ann**
  - i. Dislikes the current form of the parade, the rules, and the involvement of sponsors
    - 1. "Bring back the protest March, please"
    - 2. Believes NYPD will naturally fall back if we are producing a March that is more of a protest
  - ii. Transparency is key: HOP should share our process, plans, etc.
- l. Sarah**
  - i. (Not present)
- m. Tasha**
  - i. (Not present)
- n. Michelle**
  - i. It is of the utmost importance that community-driven POC be involved in the planning of the events, and should be able to speak about the issues that affect their communities
- o. Geeta**
  - i. (Not present)
- p. Mark**
  - i. Police reform has not been successful in the past, so they are now saying "Defund the Police"...the suggestion is to "Defund HOP", not "Reform HOP"
    - 1. HOP is no longer a protest March, it is too long
  - ii. Step away from the March, continue on with other programming (Dance, parties, etc.)
- q. Lolan**
  - i. AVP is excited to share in the revisioning of HOP and how to honor the legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion
  - ii. AVP has received many report calls on their hotline of police violence towards our community members
  - iii. Calls to action:
    - 1. Stop promotion of NYPD @ Pride:
      - a. Removal of NYPD from digital media, spotlights, interviews, Pride Guide ads for PBA or NYPD, marching band
      - b. Do not allow ICE, NYPD, or DOC to be involved in any events (info booths, marching, etc.)
      - c. Divest from Police presence
        - i. Only have unarmed peace officers, do not use NYPD as first responders
        - ii. Develop Community Responders
      - d. Increase quality/quantity of organizations that are led by / center BIPOC
        - i. Move those contingents to the front of the March
      - e. Use our relationship with the city to push them to also divest from the NYPD



- r. **Brandon**
  - i. Moving forward, HOP must end collaboration with NYPD
- s. **Jevon**
  - i. Believes the Trans community has been 'pushed out' of NYC Pride
  - ii. Their organization was a recipient of the Pride Gives Back grant, was meant to have a commercial airing at the same time as their float in the March - their float was pushed back two years in a row
  - iii. Believes corporations have more importance than grassroots organizations
- t. **Alan**
  - i. HOP has not provided wheelchairs in the past to help people who were disabled, as Reclaim Pride did this year @ Queer March
  - ii. Corporation and NYPD is too involved in HOP
  - iii. End the March and make it a protest March
- u. **Brian**
  - i. (Not present)
- v. **Tym**
  - i. (Not present)
- w. **Darien**
  - i. Corporate entities water down the protest for civil rights message
  - ii. Reduce NYPD and corporations - go back to the main focus of pride
- x. **Elisa**
  - i. Has experience growing up on Christopher St., where the Pride March route was in front of their home
  - ii. Has the impression that Pride has always been 'white-washed', and HOP needs to do a better job of uplifting/centering Trans, POC
- y. **Kambiz**
  - i. (Not present)
- z. **Sheila**
  - i. Has issues with the way HOP treats volunteers; they are not appreciated
    - 1. Volunteers previously used to receive a certificate for volunteering
    - 2. Volunteers should be treated better because they are the core of the organization
- aa. **Michael**
  - i. A compromise needs to be made on police involvement
    - 1. GOAL colleagues should not be isolated
  - ii. Corporations can "adopt" a non-profit by contributing to that organization, less corporate visibility
  - iii. Parade / March is too long
  - iv. Front/beginning of the Parade / March should be the organizations, not corporate sponsors
- bb. **Angelika**
  - i. Needs to be more involvement of the Trans community in the planning/leadership
  - ii. There are many Trans/BIPOC -centered organizations here in NYC that need funding, more than some of the "larger" organizations that PGB has given to in the past
- cc. **Kevin**
  - i. Now is an amazing opportunity to honor the current events of our community and re-focus HOP
  - ii. It is great that corporations give money to community groups, but it would be great to see them more focused
    - 1. I.e. "Sylvia Rivera's Place float, Sponsored by XXX"
  - iii. HOP needs to be making demands of corporations and hold them accountable
- dd. **Tricia**
  - i. (Not present)
- ee. **Craig**
  - i. (Not present)



**ff. Natalie**

- i. Reclaim Pride Coalition brought together activists from various community groups and created 'demands' of HOP in 2018 such as: reducing corporate and NYPD presence
  1. HOP 'ignored' the demands, but 'allowed' RPC to March as a resistance coalition; RPC had to wait for hours that year to March
- ii. Corporations and NYPD use the platform of NYC Pride to improve their image while still causing harm to the most marginalized parts of our community

**gg. Robert (2nd call)**

- i. HOP can use corporate resources to produce educational and festive events, leave the March to grassroots organizations

**hh. Jim (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**ii. Lou (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**jj. Sarah (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**kk. Tasha (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**ll. Brian (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**mm. Tym (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**nn. Kambiz (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**oo. Geeta (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**pp. Tricia (2nd call)**

- i. (Not present)

**qq. Sheila**

- i. Highlighting the importance of volunteers

**rr. Saje**

- i. Accountability - HOP has caused harm to the community by calling the cops on members of the community - how is HOP going to repair this?
- ii. Community council needs to be paid for their labor
- iii. Setting up a patronage system ("adopting a nonprofit") means HOP still has control over the funds
  1. Many community groups do not have the privilege of being a 501 c3 org
  2. HOP needs to develop a more meaningful way to empower community groups
- iv. No Cops on this call or any other calls at HOP

**ss. Travis**

- i. We should be looking to the future where there is room for everyone to be involved in the March, corporations can sponsor charity organizations

**tt. Wayne**

- i. Asks HOP to address the recent resignations on the HOP executive board, and how will HOP ensure that the EB will be more diverse and representative of the LGBTQIA+ community in the future

**uu. Ann**

- i. Many corporations are also giving money to Republican politicians who are doing destructive and discriminatory things to the Trans, LGBTQIA+ community
  1. HOP should be doing a better job of vetting corporate partners

**vv. Harish**



- i. Believes that HOP is not able to diversify because of toxicity in HOP, blacklisting, etc.
- ii. Suggests that any and everyone can participate at the same level in the March, no large floats

**ww. Maria**

- i. HOP needs to honor activists and the members of our community who have worked, given their life to the LGBTQIA+ liberation movement
- ii. HOP should honor these people all year round, not just in June

**xx. Ashley**

- i. The March Broadcast this year was 'tone-deaf, white-washed' in comparison to the Queer Liberation March
  - 1. The Queer Liberation March was much more poignant to the current moment of the LGBTQIA+ community

**yy. Kyle**

- i. HOP is deflecting comments, and not answering concerns
- ii. Membership requirements actively discourage marginalized, disenfranchised members of the community from joining
  - 1. I.e. having meetings at a time where only folks with 1 job can attend
- iii. Asks: what are you doing to attract gender diverse, Trans members of the community

**zz. Shep**

- i. NYPD should not be invited to the March considering they are the ones who started the Stonewall Riots
- ii. Barricades should be removed
- iii. HOP is too heavily bureaucratized; meetings are too long

**aaa. Jake**

- i. Nothing that is being said on tonight's call is 'new'; for years HOP has been hosting these feedback calls
  - 1. The structure of the organization prevents flexibility for change
- ii. HOP does not need to be a grant-giving organization, we can instead direct funding directly to organizations who need them

**bbb. Q& A QUESTIONS (READ ALOUD):**

- i. *In light of a recent article published a few days ago, how does NYC pride going forth plan to represent the diversity in our community? The said article I'm asking about stated recent additions to membership were majority white cis males as well as corporate sponsor reps?*
- ii. *How many interpreters do you have? And how did you create this countdown?*
- iii. *From Robert Croonquist: Robert Croonquist couldn't attend but would like to recommend HOP leave the march to Reclaim Pride and do a month of festivities and educational programming. Coming from someone who first did gay liberation work on my college campus in 1968.*
- iv. *Why are no trans people on your board?*
- v. *I'd like to recommend that one of the future town halls be specific to law enforcement presence/engagement. It should be an opportunity for law enforcement to have a listening session with the LGBT Community to better understand the needs of the population, and to see how we can bridge differences together.*
- vi. *Why does it cost money to march?*
- vii. *Do you have an accountability team? Do you have plans to give full responses to the questions going unanswered right now?*
- viii. *Why are all not questions being read, assuming you're going in the order they were received? How many participants are online?*
- ix. *I have been a volunteer for many years. Nobody ever gave me information to be a member or board participation. I would like to submit to participate. How do I go about this?*
- x. *How many members do you have at the moment?*
- xi. *I didn't ask what current membership requirements were. My question is: Are you going to or even consider changing your membership requirements so that it is not gatekeeping and more accessible?*
- xii. *You mentioned you donate money to nonprofits through grants- Can you talk a little more about that?*

**3. CLOSEOUT by Krishna Stone & André Thomas (9:00 PM)**