



## RTCNYC Tool 12.3.3.11 Facilitator's Agenda for the People's Tribunal on Evictions in NYC

### 1. Introduce the band

5:15/5:30pm

- a. **Note:** this intro should be done bilingually, consecutively since we won't have distributed the equipment yet.
- b. Good evening everyone, I'm one of your MC's for tonight! .
- c. We couldn't be more excited that you're here to join us for a night of resistance. For far too long landlords have controlled the courts, but tonight we are putting THEM on trial!
- d. The work of resistance is serious and hard----but it's also full of love. So before we begin, we wanted to take some time to get our spirits right, to remember all of who we are, and to enjoy and celebrate ourselves and our movements for coming together.
- e. So to do that, please join me in welcoming an amazing band

### 2. MC: Opening and welcome, 35 min-

5:45/6pm

- i. Note: Reserve the first 2 rows for folks with disabilities and sign language interpretation. Invite folks to sit in the front of the room.
- ii. Interpretation check (2 min)
- iii. Intros and Transition: (1 min)
  1. Let's give this amazing band one more round of applause!!!! We are full of so much spirit tonight!
  2. Again, welcome everyone to the People's Tribunal on Evictions in NYC!!! We are your facilitation team tonight!
- iv. Why we are doing the Tribunal: (3 min)
  1. We are part of the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition and we won the historic law making NYC the first in the nation to make it a right to have a lawyer when you are facing an eviction! Since we won that right, 3 more cities have passed similar laws, RTC is on the national stage, evictions are down and landlords are suing people less.
  2. But let's be clear. No eviction, with or without a lawyer, is just. We believe that NYC should be eviction free.
    - a. Chant: NYC Should be, Eviction Free!

### 3. MC 2:

- a. To do that we have to shift the narrative about evictions and we have to take and build our power! Evictions are not about rent. They are not about tenants' choices. And they are not about good or bad landlords. They are about power. And we know that certain landlords use housing court as part of their business model and the city and the state let them. Tonight, we are naming names, putting them on trial and we are releasing demands for the city and the state to follow to make NYC eviction free.
    - b. Tonight, we are also calling all of us to action. We aren't depending on the government to make NYC eviction free---we know that we can do it, if we organize. Because we know, when we fight, we win! When we fight, we win!
  - v. Land Acknowledgement: 5 min
    - 1. I now want to bring up x, who will help ground us in the history of the land that we are on tonight and the struggle that's come before us. acknowledgment/honoring of the land and the Lenape
  - vi. Presentation of Altar: 5 minutes
    - 1. chant/song/shared prayer?
- b. Presentation of our citywide demands (10 min)**
  - i. I now want to bring up tenants from across NYC to present our [demands](#).
    - 1. Demands 1&2: [Name]
      - a. Power to organize video
      - b. Pass out RTC petition
    - 2. Demands 3&4: [Name]
    - 3. Demands 5&7: [Name]
    - 4. Demands 6 &8: [Name]
    - 5. Demands 9&10: [Name]
    - 6. Demands 11&12: [Name]
- c. How the Tribunal will work (10 min)-**
  - i. MC 1: are we ready to get to the tribunal?!!!?!!! I now want to bring up a friend and ally of ours from X, who travelled all the way here as part of the International Tribunal on Evictions to bring us a message of solidarity.
  - ii. MC 1:
    - 1. I now want to bring up our amazing people's jury!!! Please welcome them to the stage!
      - a. Brief 1 minute bios of the judges
      - b. The jury's role is to listen, ask questions as they see fit, and to provide their undivided attention. At the end we will ask if the jury endorses our demands and also to issue their verdicts on the landlords, city and state.
    - 2. We do have time keepers tonight. We are doing this only to ensure we have enough time for everyone to speak. Based on

who signed up so far, we are asking that folks keep their remarks to 2 minutes. If less folks testify, then we will extend the time. Please thank our amazing volunteer time keepers for helping us ensure everyone can participate.

3. Interpretation Overview 4 min.

4. Testimonies:

- a. We are going to begin with 4 prepared testimony by groups of tenants living in buildings owned by the worst evictors and one testimony about the role of the state courts.
- b. After that, we'll open it up to the public, calling you up to testify based on the order in which you signed up to testify. We encourage folks to clap after each testimony, offering support to everyone brave enough to tell their stories!
- c. So let's get started. I now want to bring up the first group of tenants from Flatbush Tenant Coalition who are testifying against the worst evictor [Name]!

### 3. Tribunal begins!

6:30pm

- a. 6:30-7:15: RTC Prepared Testimonies (7 min each org):
  - i. BK--[Name]
  - ii. BX--[Name]
  - iii. BX--[Name]
  - iv. Queens--[Name]
  - v. OCA--- Brooklyn & Bronx Justice in Housing Court coalition.
- b. 7:15--8:30pm: MC opens up the Open Public Testimonies (3 minute limit=30 testimonies; 2 min=45 testimonies)-
  - i. Note: [Name] will run the cards up from the registration table to the MC's, as new folks sign up to testify. MC's will use the cards to call folks up. Maybe say 3 names at a time so folks know where they are in the order.

### 4. Launch/announcement of the eviction defense network

8:30pm

- a. **MC 2:** Wow, thank you all so much for your heartfelt and powerful testimonies. You are not alone. And we are powerful because of your courage to tell your stories. We promise, we won't be silent. We know all evictions are violent!
  - i. Chant: evictions are violent, we will not be silent!
  - ii. Estamos Presente, Los Desalojos Son Violentos!
- b. Call to action, Tenant Leader to do
  - i. Announce the eviction defense network.
    1. Over the last year, we have been thinking deeply about an eviction defense network. We've done multiple trainings on eviction blockades, rallied in support of tenants facing eviction, formed a legal support team and more. Over the course of many meetings, we developed the structure for an eviction defense network. And we are excited to finally announce the formation of this network tonight!!

- a. The Network is an alliance of activists, organizers, tenants, lawyers who believe that all evictions are violent and unjust and should be resisted with a multitude of tactics. The network is a direct action group that shows up to support blockades, pickets, rallies and rent strikes as well as provides legal support when local groups choose to use civil disobedience.
  - b. Eviction resistance shouldn't be relegated only to the courts or attorneys----we should resist evictions in our homes and on the streets and we hope the network will help inspire people to action and shift expectations about what's normal---evictions aren't normal.
- 2. Ask--who is ready to fight evictions with everything we have?! Raise your hands! All are welcome! No experience is necessary! The network will also provide regular trainings! To join, we're asking that you come to an orientation on 11/21, from 6-9pm! You should all have flyers for it.
- ii. To sign up, please sign a commitment card. You can sign up to: attend the orientation on 11/21, join the power to organize campaign, if they live in BK or BX, join the housing court reform campaigns, spread the word about RTC.

**5. Jury to issue indictments and endorse city wide demands 8:40pm**

- a. **MC 2:** I now want to welcome the jury back to issue their indictments. Esteemed members of the people's jury, based on everything you've heard tonight, do you endorse our demands? What other decisions do you have for us tonight?

**6. Closing Clap 9pm**

- a. (have this filmed by photographer)
- b. Put this on social media!

**7. Dance Party!**