

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Castello, Chair
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
Paul Grindle
Robert Schuon
Karyn Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin Carman
Christopher Olenski
Richard Purtell
Michael Rebmann
Keith Redhead
Blay Tarnoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Daniel Castello, Chair. It was determined that quorum was not present.

The committee reviewed the platform drafted so far. Karyn Thompson requested that draft Article 3.1 be reviewed.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal BY to replace draft Proposal BV when quorum is present, which struck the word “minimum” in the second sentence.

3.1. The Right to Self-Defense. The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended. Individuals therefore possess the right to employ the reasonable force necessary to defend their rights, and therefore have the inherent right to protect themselves and their property from harm or aggression, whether from individuals or institutions.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal CC when quorum is present:

3. The Principle of Self-Arbitration in Dispute Resolution. The resolution of disputes resides at the individual and community level, in which individuals and groups have the right to freely arbitrate conflicts as they see fit, respecting the unalienable rights of all involved. Individuals may delegate certain rights to a mutually agreed-upon association of individuals, tasked with safeguarding fundamental rights such as life, liberty, and property, in cases where individual arbitration proves insufficient or ineffective. Specifically:

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal CD when quorum is present:

3.2. The Right to Voluntary Arbitration. Individuals and groups have the right and responsibility to seek voluntary means of resolution, including the right to choose arbitration, mediation, or other forms of conflict resolution that respect the autonomy of the individuals involved and avoid the imposition of third-party decisions.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal CF when quorum is present:

3.3. Delegation of Dispute Arbitration. In situations where conflicts among individuals and groups are not resolved through voluntary arbitration, the authority may be delegated to a mutually agreed-upon association of individuals.

The committee discussed the next portion of the platform to consist of planks pertaining to voluntary association and mutual agreements, which can include government. The entire revised platform including the planks that obtained consensus for future adoption were placed into ChatGPT to determine an idea for the next part of the platform and the following was generated as Proposal CH, but not reviewed:

4. The Principle of Voluntary Association and Mutual Agreements. The essence of a free society is the ability of individuals to form associations and enter into mutual agreements, including the establishment of governance structures. This reflects the core libertarian belief in the voluntary nature of all human interactions. Specifically:

4.1. The Right to Form Associations. Individuals have the inherent right to come together and form associations for various purposes, including social, economic, and political activities. These associations are based on the principles of mutual consent and shared interests.

4.2. The Right to Establish Governance Structures. Individuals and groups have the authority to establish governance structures based on mutual consent. This includes the creation of voluntary organizations or even governments, as long as their formation and operation are based on the explicit agreement and continuous consent of those governed.

4.3. The Principle of Contractual Governance. Governance structures, whether in the form of community organizations or formal governments, are seen as contractual entities. These entities are legitimate only as long as they operate under the principles of mutual agreement and respect for individual rights, and their authority is derived from the explicit consent of the individuals they govern.

4.4. The Right to Dissolve or Leave Associations. Just as individuals have the right to form associations, they also retain the right to dissolve them or withdraw their

participation. This ensures that participation in any form of association, including governance structures, remains voluntary and consensual.

4.5. The Principle of Decentralized Governance. To ensure the protection of individual rights and to prevent the concentration of power, governance structures should be as decentralized as possible. This principle supports the idea of localizing authority to the smallest feasible unit, ensuring that decisions are made as close to the affected individuals as possible.

4.6. The Right to Non-Coercive Interaction within Associations. Within any association, including governance structures, interactions should be non-coercive. This reinforces the idea that individuals should not be compelled to act against their will within associations, and decisions should be made based on consensus or the voluntary agreement of the members.

There was a concern brought about by Robert Schuon regarding outlaws and people operating outside of a mutual association. Andrew Kolstee suggested that we have an application section or separate document that takes issues to apply the platform. Daniel Castello suggested using these applications to communicate to individuals throughout the year for the party's communications and messaging strategy. Karyn Thompson suggested that "consent" be defined in the platform. There was agreement to create another section to limit the role of governments. Specifically, Robert Schuon suggested adding to the platform that governments should not engage in commercial enterprises.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Karyn Thompson to **adjourn** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee and passed without objection.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:29 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Secretary of the Platform Committee