

The Ursuline School Model United Nations Conference

# New York City: Ad-Hoc

Background Guide

## **Meet Crisis**

Hello delegates,

Welcome to the New York City Ad-Hoc Committee! I hope that you are as excited as Nicole and I are for this committee. Many hours of planning and research went into what will hopefully be a fun and enjoyable Model UN experience for everyone. Nicole and I are so thrilled to be your heads of crisis. Nicole and I are both juniors here at Ursuline and we have both been doing Model UN since middle school. You may remember us from TUSMUNC I: Nicole was the head of crisis for the Lorax committee and I was the head chair for the Captain America: Civil War committee.

Nicole and I are both native New Yorkers, and even though we both live in Westchester we love visiting and experiencing New York City. One of my favorite spots in New York City is Greenwich Village, which is in the lower east side of Manhattan. I also just love the borough of Queens because that's where I was born, and the Bronx.

On behalf of the rest of your chairs and crisis staff, and other conference staff, I sincerely hope that you all have a fulfilling experience here at TUSMUNC II. I can genuinely say that the people working on your committee are all dedicated individuals, committed to making sure that you enjoy your time with us. We look forward to growing with you both as delegates and as active participants in today's world. Good luck and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Alexandria Carson

## What is Ad Hoc?

“Ad Hoc” in Latin directly translates to “for this,” meaning this committee is directly formed for a specific purpose. However, unlike other committees, there are no specific topics included in the background guide and you must figure out the views of delegates. So, what do you research? For Ad Hoc committees, it is mainly based on extensive research on the position rather than plans or views on information included in the background guide. The topic or issue will be addressed the day of the conference, meaning delegates will have to adapt and fix them quickly. The purpose of Ad Hoc is to embody the position and be able to work efficiently. Ad Hoc is also a very fast-paced committee, as delegates are challenged to tackle crises before they get worse. To prepare for an Ad Hoc committee, delegates are encouraged to think outside the box. Delegates need to prepare themselves for any kind of situation or arising issue that could occur in the committee. Due to unknown topics or issues for this committee, we **do not require** a position paper. But, **we would strongly suggest delegates write and submit them for eligibility for awards**. If you have any questions about this committee please feel free to email us.

Nicole Lee

[leen2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org](mailto:leen2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org)

Alexandria (Alex) Carson

[carsona2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org](mailto:carsona2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org)

## **History**

In the 1600s, New York was established and claimed by the Dutch, creating New Amsterdam and New Netherland. The successful Dutch West India Company boosted economic growth within these new colonies. The Dutch would soon relinquish their power in North America as they surrendered their territory to the English. The English renamed the city “New York” after the Duke of York. New York flourished its economy as a trading port, centering around slaves. Then, in the 1700s, the American Revolutionary War began; the Americans defeated the British and becoming an independent state.

New York had become the national capital of the United States. Slavery was abolished in the 19th century, but discrimination was still evident. New York quickly began to expand on international trade as well as permit immigrants from Europe. In the mid-19th century, the American Civil War had occurred between the North and the South. It was not until the later part of the century that New York City had been fully organized, composed of Brooklyn, the County of Richmond, the County of Queens, and the County of New York (Bronx). Soon after the formation of New York City, subways, factories, and the city’s population boomed. Because New York is a metropolitan city, it was greatly affected by the Great Depression, with millions struggling to survive in poverty. World War II led to the establishment of Wall Street, one of the most prosperous places of economy in the world.

The United Nations Headquarters in New York was established in 1952, allowing New York to have a global political stance. Starting in the 1970s, crime rates and economic problems began and continued through to the 1990s. By the 2000s, New York City had reached a peak in its population. However, on September 11, 2001, New York faced one of the most tragic losses of human life and economic fault. Two airplanes that were hijacked by terrorists crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. However, the World Trade Center had been rebuilt and includes a memorial for those who lost loved ones on that day.

New York is located in the Northeast United States, near the Hudson River which flows into the Atlantic Ocean, providing for several harbors and seaports. The Bronx River is the only river in the city that contains freshwater. Due to New York City's densely populated city, several forms of public transportation, housing, streets, and lights fill the streets. New York City consists of five boroughs: the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. New York has a humid subtropical climate, meaning that the city experiences all four seasons: cold winters, hot summers, cool autumns, and sunny springs. The population of New York City is about 8.7 million with a very diverse population.

This committee will take place in New York City, in November of 2019. A city home to 8.7 million, New York City is a dream place to live in for many. It is a well-known city and tourist location all over the world. New York City has it all: delicious food, stunning fashion, amazing business and arts opportunities, and so much more. However, New York City isn't as perfect as it seems; there are many issues needed to be resolved in order to keep this city in its best condition. This committee is called on to help resolve the ongoing issues within the city, whether it be big or small. New York City is known to be a fast-paced city; it needs its issues to be resolved in a timely manner before it all falls apart.

## **Current Issues to Consider**

Throughout the course of this committee, be sure to keep these issues in mind, because they may or may not occur during committee. These issues may also affect the current crisis given during the committee. New York City is densely populated and overcrowded, which directly relates to the amount of pollution in the air. NYC has crime rates below average US cities, but recently many officers have been injured or killed during arrests. Specifically, an officer was killed in the Bronx by gangs. Officers along with many citizens have been struggling with mental health. The NYPD is attempting to take action to start a discussion about this topic and decrease suicide rates. Mosquitoes in two NY counties have been found to possibly have the deadly EEE virus and many citizens are being advised to wear long clothing. Recently, there have been several accounts of child abuse such as kidnappings and sexual abuse. Gun and weapon abuse are still present, with several stabbings and shootings made by adults and teenagers. Governor Cuomo plans on placing a ban on flavored e-cigarettes within the state of New York in hopes of improving the health of many New Yorkers. Many children in Harlem and Brooklyn have been tested positive for lead paint exposure and possible lead poisoning. Cuomo also recently has initiated the L train slowdown, in order to make improvements for the L tunnel. Due to this many locals feel inconvenienced, many turning to Uber or Lyft.

These are just a few to help guide you into how to handle crises during the committee and make sure that you are aware of current issues occurring in NYC. Feel free to research further in order to gain additional information and any controversies for your position. Be sure to keep these in mind when resolving crises during the committee.

## **Positions**

*Portfolio powers will be given the day of the conference. Make sure to study your position carefully, as well as others. Know who your allies are, and feel free to email the chairs for any questions regarding your powers. Position papers are strongly advised, as delegates will not be eligible for awards without them. Please submit position papers to*

*[leen2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org](mailto:leen2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org), [carsona2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org](mailto:carsona2021@ursulinenewrochelle.org), or [tusmunc@ursulinenewrochelle.org](mailto:tusmunc@ursulinenewrochelle.org).*

### **Andrew Cuomo (Governor of New York):**

Andrew Cuomo is the 56th governor of New York, he has been governor since 2011. His prior role to the governor was to serve as secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton. He supports and is currently working and is focusing his efforts on LGBTQ rights particularly marriage equality as well as women's rights, and economic improvements. Cuomo has also been accused of not doing enough to support fellow Democrats throughout the state. The Governor of New York State is constitutionally one of the most powerful governors in the United States. As the governor, your responsibilities are to implement state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

### **Bill de Blasio (Mayor of New York City):**

Bill de Blasio is the 109th Mayor of New York City. He has been mayor since 2014. He was New York City's public advocate prior to being elected. He has publicly supported a socially liberal and progressive discourse on the city's economy, urban planning, public education, police relations, and privatization. Mayor de Blasio has focused on trying to make New York City the fairest big city in America. As mayor, he is head of the executive branch of



the government of New York City. He also presides over council meetings, provides leadership, receives input from constituents, and makes business decisions for New York City.

**Terence Monahan (Chief of New York Police Department):**

Terence Monahan is the 40th Chief of Department for the New York City Police Department. He has held the position as chief since 2018. Before he was chief of the department, he was chief of patrol, in which he was responsible for 17,000 uniformed officers in eight patrol boroughs and 77 precincts. He also further refined neighborhood policing as a patrol model and oversaw its implementation throughout the city. The chief is the department's highest-ranking uniformed police officer and the lead official responsible for operations. As the highest-ranking uniformed member of the NYPD, Monahan oversees approximately 40,000 uniformed and civilian members of the service in key operational areas. In Monahan's thirty-five years of service with the NYPD, he has been honored twenty-eight times for excellent police duty and eight times for meritorious police duty.

**Jacques Jiha (Commissioner of Finances):**

On April 8, 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Jacques Jiha to the position of Commissioner of New York City's Department of Finance. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Jiha was the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer of Earl G. Graves, Ltd., a multi-media company with properties in print, digital media, television, events, and the internet. Jiha was also the Secretary of the board of the New York State Dormitory Authority, which is one of the largest issuers of municipal debt in the country on behalf of public and private universities and medical institutions, and the State of New York.

Jiha is the head of the New York City Department of Finances (DOF). DOF is the revenue service, taxation agency, and recorder of deeds of the government of New York City.

**Veronique “Ronnie” Hakim (Metropolitan Transportation Authority Director):**

Veronique Hakim is the managing director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (also known as the MTA). Prior to being managing director of the MTA, Hakim served as Interim Executive Director of the MTA since January 2017. In 2015, she was named President of MTA New York City Transit, returning to the MTA after an earlier 23-year career at the authority. She previously served as the Executive Director of the NJ TRANSIT for a year and a half, and nearly four years as Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. As managing director, Hakim is responsible for the operation of the authority, including the implementation of Chairman Lhota’s New York City Action Plan for fixing the subways.

**Tom Finkelpearl (Head of Cultural Affairs):**

Tom Finkelpearl was appointed in 2014 by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the position of Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA). The Department represents and serves non-profit cultural organizations involved in the visual, literary and performing arts; public-oriented science and humanities institutions including zoos, botanical gardens, and historic & preservation societies, and creative artists who live and work within the City's boroughs. Prior to being Commissioner of cultural affairs Finkelpearl served for twelve years as director of the Queens Museum From 2002 to 2014. While serving as director, he hired community organizers to emphasize the diversity of the immigrant population. As Commissioner, Finkelpearl oversees city funding of nonprofit arts organizations and is leading

an effort to promote cultural diversity in arts programs citywide. Finkelpearl is also working with city authorities on efforts to provide affordable housing for artists living in the city.

**Dr. Oxiris Barbot (Head of Public Health):**

Dr. Oxiris Barbot is the commissioner of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, appointed in September 2018. She has over 25 years of experience in advancing health equity and actively advocates providing healthcare in urban communities. When she was nine, her father committed suicide, which drove her to study mental health, since at the time mental health was almost never discussed and had a dangerous stigma surrounding it. She previously worked as Baltimore's health commissioner, with tremendous success. Mayor de Blasio is in favor of Dr. Barbot and was pleased to appoint her as the official NYC Health Commissioner. She is expected by Mayor de Blasio to help provide the needs of the people, as a doctor, manager, and communicator when a crisis shall occur.

**Lisette Camilo (Head of Department of Citywide Administrative Services):**

Lisette Camilo leads the agencies that handle NYC's government estate, procurement, contracts, personnel, and Civil Service. She was appointed in January 2016, having a long history of public service. She is the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) and the Chief Procurement Officer (2014). Prior, she served as a Legislative Counsel to the NYC Committee of Contracts, Juvenile Justice, and General Welfare. She is highly experienced with public service and wants to provide the best for the public whether that be internships, business opportunities, and auctions. She is to help the people economically and provide the public with everything they need in order to live well within the city.

**Richard Carranza, (Head of Public Education):**

Richard Carranza is the Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education, responsible for educating 1.1 million students in over 1,800 schools. His parents came as Mexican immigrants and persisted in work to be able to access a better and higher education for the family. He previously worked as a superintendent in Houston, and a bilingual social studies and music teacher. He works to support students academically, socially, and emotionally. He also promotes parents to become involved in helping and strengthening children's education. He is to be an advocate for education and keep the youths in mind when thinking about the future of New York.

**Vincent Sapienza, (Head of Environmental Protection):**

Vincent Sapienza is the Head of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), joining the DEP in 1983 and becoming commissioner in October 2017. His goal is to provide services to promote health and wellbeing to all of the city residents. He is an advocate for protecting and improving NYC's water infrastructure and takes pride in the improvements within the DEP. The DEP has decreased street flooding and cleaned beaches, rivers, and bays. The DEP is responsible for the water supply, aqueducts, combined sewer systems, and wastewater treatment plants. They are also responsible for preserving land, water, air, and public health. They follow the Clean Water Act rules accordingly and manages city conservation programs. He is required to keep a steady and healthy environment for the city's citizens and be able to provide the natural resources they need to survive.

**Steven Banks, (Head of Human Resources Admin and Social Services):**

Steven Banks is the Commissioner of the NYC Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Service (HRA) and was appointed by Mayor de Blasio in

2014. He is head of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and head of joint management of the Department of Social Services (DSS). His goal is to help improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers, with the Legal Aid Society, and helping the most vulnerable residents (seniors, survivors of domestic violence, immigrants, people living with HIV/AIDS). As head of the HRA, he strives to give social services that help individuals and families to achieve self-reliance and to reinforce the quality of life for all. He is a representative of the lower class society, as he constantly works with them first hand. He makes sure that the government involves the lower class, and strives to resolve their specific issues.

**Samir Saini (Head of Information Technology & Telecommunications):**

Samir Saini, a Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DoITT) and the Citywide Chief Information Officer (CIO), was appointed by de Blasio in January 2018. Saini is responsible for providing technological solutions to over 100 agencies across the city to allow them to empower millions of New Yorkers. He has worked with public and private sectors building, streamlining, and IT systems. He has used his skills to expand the service portfolio and partnerships and be able to improve most of the city's technological systems. Saini previously worked in Atlanta, where he was the CIO of their Housing Authority and modernized several agencies. He is expected to continue his modernizing efforts in technology in order to lift up more New Yorkers, for example, popularizing the 911 system. He is also responsible for all technological processes in NYC and controls the core infrastructure of the city as it relies on technology.

**Rubén Díaz Jr. (Borough President of the Bronx):**

Rubén Díaz is the Borough President of the Bronx going for a third term. Díaz won this recent election with more than an 88 percent vote. He has worked on economic development, housing, health and wellness, public safety, and education throughout the Bronx. Many developments have happened because of his public service. As Borough President, Díaz can appoint officials and participate in many acts of public service.

**Eric Adams (Borough President of Brooklyn):**

Eric Adams is the borough president of Brooklyn and a member of the Democratic Party. He is the first African-American male to hold this position and has held it since 2013. Before being Borough President, he was a New York Senator from 2007-2013. In his election for Borough President Adams ran as the Working Families Party Candidate. Since his election, he has worked on supporting affordable housing, education enrichment, and repairing the relationship between citizens and police.

**Gale Brewer (Borough President of Manhattan):**

Gale Brewer is the Borough President of Manhattan and is part of the Democratic Party. She took office in 2014 and passed the “Fair Chance Act” to help people in New York of all types to have a fair chance of applying for jobs. In 2018 she was the Chair of the Large Cities Council of National League of Cities and named a member of the 2019 Human Development federal advocacy committee. She served on City Council for 12 years as a founding chair of the Technology Committee and worked as Chief of Staff under Ruth Messinger. She works hard as an advocate for the people and has generous amounts of experience in her field of work.

**Melinda Katz (Borough President of Queens):**

Melinda Katz was born and raised in Forest Hills, Queens, and was elected as Borough president of Queens in 2013. She is a graduate of the public school system, with her alma mater being the University of Massachusetts. Melinda is a dedicated public servant and has been for 20 years, being in key governmental positions. She has served as Director of Community Boards for Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, helping create city budget motives, plan economic development projects for Queens, and assign sites for city facilities.