

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2020, 5:45 PM
CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON WSNR'S DAVIDZON
RADIO**

[Gregory Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Ari Kagan: Bill, are you here?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Can you hear me?

Kagan: Yes.

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Davidzon: Thank you for your time.

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: Thank you so much, Mayor, for finding the time to be on Davidzon Radio. We know that our listeners want to hear from you the most updated information the very serious times we live in.

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: The Mayor was many times in our studio, so everybody knows who Mayor Bill de Blasio is and you don't need to introduce him many, many times. You're well known to everybody, so it's time to ask you a question.

Davidzon: Yes. It's not a question, I think you have something to tell our people. So, go ahead.

Mayor: Yes. Thank you so much, Gregory. It's an honor to be back on Davidzon Radio, and I remember many good times there. And I want to say on this important day coming up, May 9th, I want to wish all your listeners a Happy [Victory Day]. And a reminder of the strength of the community, the people who fought through war are also the same people who now will fight this enemy of this disease, and we will be triumphant again.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: Mayor, we know that you have a major announcement to make about the new testing center that was just open in southern Brooklyn. Could you say a little bit more about it?

Mayor: Absolutely. I'm very excited to let all your listeners know that because of the great efforts of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and Councilman Mark Treyger, we have now opened up a testing site for people in southern Brooklyn. It's the Ida G. Israel Clinic in Coney Island, and the tests are being given for free, and anyone can walk up to the clinic and get the coronavirus test.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: Gregory Davidzon has said that, first of all, he congratulates all elected officials who worked very hard to make it happen, and he also believes that we need to invite to Davidzon Radio a director of this testing center, or chief medical officer of this clinic, or Coney Island Hospital – a person who is professional who knows very well how this testing center is operating and what the criteria is for anybody to go there. So, the person who is a professional doctor who knows more about this testing and how does it work, who should come, and how long the person should wait, etcetera.

Mayor: Well, we certainly want to make sure that you get all the information about this new center. I can tell you that the hours are 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Saturday, and the address is 2925 West 19th Street. But I want to make sure the medical personnel go on the show as well to give you all the details and what it means for the members of your community, and emphasize that the test are for free. The person I'm going to ask to join the show is the CEO of Coney Island Hospital, Svetlana Lipyanskaya. I'll make sure she joins the show in the next few days to explain to people everything that is available in terms of testing at the clinic.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: Mayor, we have a few more questions, would you be able to answer at least a few of them?

Mayor: Of course.

Davidzon: Very quick –

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: Mayor, we're getting phone calls on our radio station from seniors, listeners of Davidzon Radio, many of them are registered with 3-1-1 and other programs in the City of New

York to receive home delivery – food home delivery, but many of them feel they did not get it. What could you advise them to do to find – receive a food package at home?

Mayor: It's very important that all our seniors get the food they need. This crisis is causing people to not have the things they need and the City of New York will step in to provide food and make sure no one goes hungry. Now, we have a new system at 3-1-1 where a New Yorkers can call and reserve food deliveries for a whole month at a time. So, anyone who called previously and is no longer getting deliveries should call again and make sure that they request the deliveries for as long as they need. And now, we will make sure that those deliveries happen quickly.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: As you well know, the federal government [inaudible] billions and billions of dollars to help small businesses in these tough times, but, as the Mayor of this large city, so many businesses [inaudible] are suffering right now, many of them are closed – the majority of them are closed. What could the City of New York [inaudible] authorities do to help small business owners to survive the difficult times?

Mayor: The first thing we have to do is make sure we continue to show discipline with social distancing and the shelter in place, because this is how we defeat this disease and then can open up the small businesses. We're also going to have a very aggressive testing and tracing program to also further reduce the disease, and that's the most important way to get to the point where the businesses reopen. The second thing is that people can all 3-1-1 and we will help small businesses to access the federal money that has now been made available, which is hundreds of billions of dollars. And we want New York City businesses to get that money. The City of New York will help individual small businesses to be able to access that money. That's the best resource we have.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: And the last question for the Mayor, nobody knows better than you, Mayor, what is the current situation and what can people expect in the next several weeks – when will we start the gradual reopening of the New York City economy?

Mayor: Well, we have some more work to do, but I'm very hopeful, because I do believe the worst is behind us and that New Yorkers have done an amazing job of turning the tide of this disease, because they have been so good about the social distancing and the shelter in place. It's going to take some more weeks of evidence that the disease is being reduced in this city before we can start to loosen the restrictions. Some states and cities are making the mistake of going too fast. We have to be careful, but I'm hopeful by the end of this month we'll have some better news and then we'll be in a position to start discussing which restrictions can be loosened up.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

[Davidzon speaks in Russian]

Kagan: Gregory Davidzon wishes you to stay healthy and safe, also to wear masks appropriately. Also, he emphasizes it's very important that you're in charge and that you stay in strong faith and healthy.

Mayor: Thank you so much. And I want to say thank you to Davidzon Radio for all you do for the community. And to all of your listeners, please, everyone, keep staying safe. Let's particularly look out for our senior citizens. And anyone who needs help, remember, your city is always there for you. You can call 3-1-1, whether it's for food or other help you need and we will be there with a helping hand.

[Kagan speaks in Russian]

Davidzon: *Dasvidaniya.*

Kagan: Thank you so much.

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