

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

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CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVER REMARKS AND SEND OFF TEAMS
TO VACCINATE HOMEBOUND NEW YORKERS**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Tom Carrera, right?

Lieutenant Tom Carrera, FDNY: That's never a good thing for my full name to come out of the Mayor's mouth.

[Laughter]

Mayor: Tom Carrera, okay –

Lieutenant Carrera: That's never, never a good thing.

Mayor: Future game show host. What do you think?

[Laughter]

Are you with me?

[Applause]

Yes. Okay.

Lieutenant Carrera: I'm a little – I get a little shy.

Mayor: I feel like it's like America's Got Talent, like we found him here. Okay. When he's famous, just remember you knew him. Okay. Get your autographs now.

Lieutenant Carrera: From the great City of New York.

Mayor: Yeah. Well, you got – you got swagger. Okay. You're okay.

Everybody I'm really, really appreciative and really proud of all you're doing. And I want to just speak to you from the heart. This is absolutely beautiful, what you're doing for people literally in the greatest need in this whole city, right. Eight-and-a-half million people, eight-and-a-half million people, and the folks who are most vulnerable are those who have the coronavirus bearing down on them, but they can't leave their homes. They can't get to the vaccination. And unless you were there, they're going to be alone. They're going to be isolated. They're going to be

fearful. Their families are going to be fearful for them. But then you show up, you show up and you literally saved the day.

Sometimes we talk about heroes. Sometimes we overuse the word, but this is heroic. What you're doing is heroic. You are heroes because with that simple act, you change someone's life. You change a life. You save a life. You make a whole family feel peace. So, if not for you, a lot of folks would feel hopeless right now. But we're so glad that our friends in the media are here because the whole city is going to see that just because someone's homebound does not mean they're forgotten, does not mean that they're left out because you're coming to the rescue. And we want to make sure we reach each and every person. Anyone who needs this help, we're going to get to them.

This city – we all love New York City and one of the things that I always feel about this city is we may have a tough exterior, but behind that tough exterior beat hearts of gold in New York City. There's extraordinary compassion in this town. And this is what we think is the right thing to do. We don't ever leave anyone behind. So, I am so appreciative to all of you. You have vaccinated thousands of New Yorkers already. We're going to reach a lot more. I know with the great work with the Fire Department and Department for the Aging – and I want to thank Commissioner Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez and her whole team – we have reached thousands and thousands more homebound folks to let them know that an appointment is being made, help is coming. So, this is really something to be proud of. And everyone please, I'm going to turn to the Fire Commissioner, but I want to say to all of you, you're out there saving lives, you're out there protecting people, stay safe. I love the briefings. Tom, there was a lot of briefings, but they were very snappy. I want to give you that.

Lieutenant Carrera: [Inaudible] structure, organized –

Mayor: Very organized. Okay. That will serve you well on the game show. Okay. That you know exactly what's going on. You'll have little answer cards ready, you're going to be great. But everyone, stay safe because we need you to be safe so other people can be safe. And just from the bottom of my heart, really thank you, God bless you. And thank you all for what you're doing. And now our Fire Commissioner, Dan Nigro.

[Applause]

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro: Thank you, Mayor. I'm not sure I can be as entertaining as Tom and the Mayor, but I'll do my best. And I'll just repeat what Tom started us all out by saying, is that you're saving lives. And that's what the Fire Department's all about. Our firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, every day, save lives. We're happy to be part of this program. I'm happy that I have the talented people around you from our Incident Management Team that can put something like this together and manage it day-in and day-out for our great city. Because without them, without the skills that they possess and the – you said how quickly they came up here and got right to the point. That's what they do. It's because of their management skills that we can get this done and your skills and your dedication. So, I'm going to let you get out there and save lives. We want to do at least 300 vaccinations today, I think. And it's incredible work. It

is the most vulnerable, they are the most vulnerable people in our city that we're dealing with. So, thank you very much.

Mayor: I want to say, thank you so much, Dan. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you, Laura Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner. Thank you all for what you're doing. Fire Department, everyone in the Fire Department, thank you. You guys save lives all the time.

[Applause]

You save lives all the time, but a lot of New Yorkers don't realize all the different ways you save lives. Here's another example, the Fire Department going the extra mile, using your credible organizational skill to make sure that folks get vaccinated. So, God bless you all. So, everyone who is sitting, first of all, give a round of applause to everyone from the Fire Department. Let's thank them.

[Applause]

All right. Now, everyone, who's standing, look at these great health professionals who are saving lives and since we're standing, we're going to give them a standing ovation.

[Applause]

Tom, I realize we already had a standing ovation there. So, like I said, we can make this work.

Lieutenant Carrera: It's all right, Mr. Mayor [inaudible] –

Mayor: Okay. Take it away, Tom.

Lieutenant Carrera: You think a game show host makes more than a Lieutenant in the New York City Fire Department?

Mayor: I do, Tom.

[Laughter]

Tom, I would take that deal if I were you.

Carrera: I can't, this is a calling. I would never leave this great job ever. Well, maybe for Bob Barker's job, maybe I would do that.

Mayor: There you go. They're ready for you, Tom. They're ready for you.

Carrera: Thank you very much.

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