

Transcript: Mayor Eric Adams Launches bid for 2024 Democratic National Convention

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Andrew Kimball, President and CEO, NYC Economic Development

Corporation: ... president CEO of the city's Economic Development Corporation. It is my great pleasure to welcome you here today to the Summit at One Vanderbilt. We are literally on top of the city. We are on top of the world and we're going to feel even better when we win this DNC bid. So good afternoon. And thank all of you for joining us today. On April 2022, the Democratic National Committee released an RFP inviting cities to formally submit their application to host the 2024 Democratic National Convention. It's my pleasure to announce that New York City under Mayor Adams' direction and leadership will officially be submitting our bid to the DNC today ahead of tomorrow's deadline.

Kimball: I'm thrilled that we're joined today by such a broad group of supporters from city, state, federal elected officials, business and civic leaders, labor leaders, hospitality representatives, small business owners and uniform members of the NYPD and FDNY. In addition to Mayor Adams today, you'll hear from several members of our fantastic congressional delegation, leaders from our hotel industry, as well as representatives from our small business community. I also want to acknowledge Council Member Amanda Farías, who chairs the Economic Development Committee, Council Member Joe Borelli, Borough President of Manhattan Mark Levine. And we're joined today by so many of our partners in organized labor, Stuart Appelbaum, RWDSU and chair of the Democratic National Labor Council, Gary LaBarbera from the Building Trades, Henry Garrido from DC37. We're also joined today by Joel Fisher, EVP of Madison Square Garden, a critical player in this bid and Alan Steel, CEO of Javits.

Kimball: I also want to acknowledge Christine Quinn, vice chair of the New York State Democratic National Committee. We're also joined by my boss in addition to the mayor, but my more direct boss, Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer, and our sister agencies, Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue, DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, and SBS Commissioner Kevin Kim. A fantastic team that works together every day to make this

city better. We're here today to send a unified message to the DNC. New York City stands ready and eager to host the 2024 Democratic National Convention. We stand united as partners with the DNC to ensure New York City meets diversity, amenities, culture, along with our venue and hotel offerings, all unrivaled.

Kimball: Not to mention DNC 2024 will be good for NYC, especially our retail, hospitality, and cultural sectors still recovering from the COVID-19 epidemic. DNC estimates over 30,000 people will be coming to the host city for the convention. Not only will the convention have a great impact on our economy, especially for small businesses in a commercial corridor most hard hit by the pandemic. But it will also showcase on the national and international stage that New York City is back. First I'd like to introduce Mayor Eric Adams, New York City's biggest booster, relentless fighter for New York's economic recovery. A recovery that's not only robust, but inclusive and equitable. And there is nobody, I can assure you, nobody, more excited to bringing the convention to New York City than Mayor Adams, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Eric Adams: Thank you. And I am just going to be brief because I want you to hear from just our colleagues, our supporters. This is a Team New York moment. When I saw Henry Garrido here, to see the cross sections of unions, our electeds, our small business owners, we all benefit by allowing and bringing in the convention here to the city. And as smart as our Councilman Borelli understands, that this is not about Democrat or Republican, it's about how do we bring resources to our city. It's going to impact all five boroughs. This is an opportunity for us to wear one jersey, Team New York.

Mayor Adams: We're recovering, we're moving in the right direction, 80.5% of our hotels are up with occupancy. We want to expand to 100 plus. A hundred thousand new jobs since I took office. We are watching a decrease in shootings, a decrease in murders. We are on the right path, New York, and you don't have to only physically be at One Vanderbilt to realize it, you could know it no matter where you are. We're on top of the world, this is New York City. This is the best city on the globe.

Mayor Adams: In 22 days we put in the plan to appeal to the DNC to come to our city, in 22 days earlier than when it was supposed to be turned in. That's the type of coordination we're looking for. 2024 this is the place to be. And I thank this entire coalition that's here because we want to fill those hotels, right Rich? So the entire coalition that has come together, raised the money, send the right signal, New York

should be the place in 2024 for the DNC National Convention. Thank you [inaudible] team.

[Applause]

Kimball: As the mayor said, it was just 22 days ago that Frank Carone pulled together EDC, NYC & Company, and the City Hall staff to say we've got to deliver a product on time, maybe ahead of time. And it's really due to his leadership, the interagency coordination that resulted from that, really a hallmark of this administration, and the great work of all the people at those agencies. And I just want to thank them and have them get a round of applause. Because there was a lot of work in the last 22 days that went into this. And I'm going to turn it over to Frank.

[Applause]

Frank Carone, Chief of Staff to the Mayor: Thank you, Andrew. The mayor uses the word often, teamwork, and it was exactly that. An incredible effort. There was never any doubt, there was never any hesitation. The team got to work and we made it happen. Now we can only hope for the best. The mayor says over and over again, New York is open and a place which will continue to welcome people and events enthusiastically. This was evident this morning when the mayor welcomed the service men and women in uniform at Gracie Mansion for the kick-off of Fleet Week, first time in two years. There was a palpable energy in the room. It is that same welcome and energy we like to bring to the 2024 Democratic National Convention. And what will we say to the DNC, New York is ready to make this the smoothest, best run, and sophisticated National Convention they've ever seen. And we say that humbly.

Carone: The city will roll out the red carpet. We're going to build the best host committee, which we believe will raise the sufficient resources to make this happen. That is the mayor's commitment, that is my commitment, that is our administration's commitment and that is the city's commitment. As you can see, just by who was represented here, people representative of the business community, key agencies, uniform services, our world class hospitality industry. We have Democrats, Republicans, and independents. We're united here today to remind you there is no city that your delegates and staff will enjoy being more in.

Carone: And there is no city better prepared to do just that. It's significant if we are successful and the DNC grants us this convention. It marks the 100 year anniversary from the first convention in Madison Square Garden 1924. That is not only significant for the mark of the hundred years, but that era, 1924, was also coming out of a pandemic of 1918. And just like then, like now we'll be coming out of a pandemic. That event highlighted our cities and country's recovery. A century later, what better way to send that message of resiliency and recovery than to bring the 2024 convention to Madison Square Garden. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

Kimball: Thank you Frank. Next I'd like to introduce Representative Jerry Nadler of the 10th district of New York City and dean of the New York City Congressional Delegation. His district includes many of the proposed venues, hotels, and sites which will be so critical to delivering an outstanding DNC Convention. Congressman.

[...]

Kimball: Thank you. Next I'd like to call on Representative Carolyn Maloney of the 12th district, who like representative Nadler has so many of the key sites in her district that'll play a role in a successful convention. We look forward to working with you, congress member.

[...]

Kimball: Thank you. Next it's my honor to introduce Congressman Adriano Espaillat, the 13th congressional district, undoubtedly a critical partner through all of this and chair of my favorite congressional committee, the House Appropriations Committee.

[...]

Kimball: All right. Partnership with the state of New York is another critical part of this effort, and I'm excited to introduce Assembly member of the 55th district and secretary to the New York state party, Latrice Walker. Assembly member.

[...]

Kimball: Seeing as the DNC will bring tens of thousands of visitors to the city during the convention period, hotel accommodations are going to be a critical component of the planning process. More specifically, union hotel accommodations. We're thrilled to have the support of so many of our partners in labor, and I'd like to invite Rich Maroko, the president of the Hotel Trades Council, to say a few words. Rich.

[...]

Kimball: Staying on the hotel theme, we're thrilled to have the support of the Hotel Association of New York and look forward to working with them to create the best possible accommodation experience for the DNC. And I'd like to invite the hotel association president, Vijay Dandapani, to say a few words. Vijay.

[...]

Kimball: I'm thrilled that we're just joined by the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, representative Hakeem Jeffries of the 8th congressional district. Hakeem, would you like to say a few words?

[...]

Kimball: To close out our program, I want to go back to the top, where I mentioned that hosting the convention will be a boon to the city's economy, especially our retail, hospitality and cultural sectors who are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. And I'd like to introduce Simon Kim, the owner of Cote Steakhouse on 22nd Street and 6th Avenue. Go there, eat a lot, spend a lot. To talk about how an event like the Democratic National Convention will provide a boost to so many independent restaurants like his.

[...]

Kimball: Thanks, everybody. I believe we're going to be taking a picture of this group.

[Crosstalk]

Question: Mayor, do you have a sense of what other cities you'll be up against and how their front challenges compared to ours?

Mayor Adams: No, and I know I love this city and I just really feel sorry for other cities that want to compete with us. Have no idea – we are so ready. This is the place to be. Have no idea what their proposals will be, but we are pleased with ours.

Question: You were just at police headquarters yesterday, highlighting some of the guns that were seen in schools. Is that going to be an issue for the bid?

Mayor Adams: No, it's not. People are going to realize the resiliency of this city. We have the best Police Department on the globe. The issue of pervasive gun violence has become something that's an American problem, that we are all going to unite together across this country to solve together.

Question: Hi. I just wanted follow up on Emily's question. Is there anything that you're addressing in the bid itself about gun violence? I realize it is an issue nationwide. Is that something that you have to address to the DNC? And what would be your message or delegates who are concerned about subway safety?

Mayor Adams: Yeah. Do we have anything in the bid on that?

Kimball: Just say one of the... And I've lived in New York my whole life, and we not only have the finest police force here, but for an event like this, this is a national security event that brings law enforcement from every level of government. And New York has a track record of executing on these size events, with safety for all the participants. We're very confident that the delegates and the DNC as they review our bid, will look very favorably on our security plan because NYPD will be in the lead of that.

Question: Can you address subway safety about all this? Has that been an issue?

Mayor Adams: Well, when you deal with security plans, everything is brought into it. Just as we have Fleet Week here now, one thing we are the best at doing, and that's hosting large events. And the security plan is going to deal in its totality of everything we're going to do to make sure not only visitors are safe, but everyday New Yorkers are safe.

Question: There yet? Bernadette. [inaudible] Mr. Mayor, really you addressed the business leaders this morning. And then my understanding you just-

Mayor Adams: We're going to come back to you, Bernadette. We want to do on-topics so I can free up the crew.

Question: Sure. Mayor, there was mention of both The Garden and the Javits Center. Under the plan. Where would the convention be? And if it's at The Garden, what role would the Javits Center play?

Mayor Adams: You want to?

Kimball: Yeah, The Garden, as everybody here knows, has executed on these kinds of events many times in the past, so has that track record. That's where the convention will be. The Javits will be absolutely critical because you're required to have additional exhibition hall, media center and event space, and that'll be the Javits' role.

Question: Any what shuttle buses or transportation?

Kimball: Absolutely. Very quick, 15 minutes back and forth, shuttle buses.

Question: I understand the economic benefit this would bring but to see from a political perspective, wouldn't it make more sense to have a convention in a swing state?

Mayor Adams: No.

Question: Yeah. Sure. Mayor Adams, is this in keeping with the raising of your profile nationally and the political advantage to you virtually [inaudible] convention here?

Mayor Adams: I'm the mayor of New York. My profile is already where it needs to be. You could run America from New York City. This is New York. Look at the head of the conference, Hakeem. Look at these leaders that are here, heading major committees in the entire Congress. This is it, right here in New York City. I was president already in Brooklyn. Why do I want to do something else?

[Crosstalk]

Question: [Inaudible].

Mayor Adams: The meeting went great this morning. And what is unique here is not only did we do a meeting with over 100 ... I think it was close to 115, 120 corporate leaders today. But I was not introducing myself to them.

Mayor Adams: This is one of probably four meetings that I had from the time that I won the Democratic primary to the time leading up to taking office after office. I am fostering a real relationship with my corporate leaders to say, "We're going to keep you up to date. We're going to have a partnership and answer specific ways that we can work together to really keep our city safe."

Mayor Adams: That specific incident that happened on the subway system, now people see why I am focused on removing people off the system that are dealing with mental health illnesses. So all the pushback that I have been giving shows today in that video, this is what Mayor Adams is talking about of getting in that system, removing people off the system that are dealing with mental health issues.

Mayor Adams: Putting them in safe haven beds, wraparound services, where they get the services they deserve. And that's why we're going to continue to do that. That video's really concretized why I'm doing what I'm doing.

Question: [Inaudible].

Mayor Adams: Well, first the goal of the meeting. The goal of the meeting is to continue our communication and say to them, "Here's what we are doing. We rolled out our summer plan. We show what we did around retail thefts and what we want to continue to do."

Mayor Adams: The announcement that was made today with the AG. Many of the retailers wanted to know about the arrests that we made. We also wanted to show them how they could help us in the future.

Mayor Adams: Everybody knows about my campaign. We need to be lifting up police, public safety in our city. I'm asking them to do everything from book billboards, to newspaper ads, sign on letters. We need to lift up public safety in our city. We have not been doing a good job with doing that.

Mayor Adams: Then we want them to buy into, I told them I need them to buy into my paid internship programs. A lot of these young people who are finding themselves on the wrong path, we need to have them part of corporate America and we wanted to really give them a layout of what our summer plan is going to be civilianizing, putting officers out of patrol back in uniforms, reallocating police officers that are at friendly parades to have them do real assignments.

Mayor Adams: Focusing on the 40 precincts where much of our gun violence is coming from. We wanted to show them what we are doing so they can go back to their employees and say, "We are responding to this issue of crime."

Question: On that topic, what are some suggestions or things that these leaders are saying to [inaudible].

Mayor Adams: Concrete examples?

Question: You know, things like [inaudible].

Mayor Adams: Well, they were very excited about my embracing of technology. Actually we had two meetings today. We had meetings with one of the largest insurance companies, Deloitte, and a few others earlier this morning at 8:00. And then we had the larger meeting today.

Question: They're excited about my embracing of technology. They're excited about how we are not allowing quality of life to just happen in our city, that we are cracking down on quality of life. Everything from [inaudible] invasion to retail thefts.

Mayor Adams: They're excited about the approach that we are taking of not just ignoring the dysfunctionality that we have witnessed in our city.

Question: [Inaudible].

Mayor Eric Adams: Yes.

Question: [Inaudible].

Mayor Adams: No, not at all. Not at all. There's an amazing initiative that's happened across the country. People outside of government and corporate America, they have a different view of solving problems. And so we don't want to exist anymore in a bubble.

Mayor Adams: I want my corporate entities to help us write out the curriculum for schools because these young people must fill those jobs. I want people in my tech industry ... I had a meeting with Tech NYC. I'm asking them to come with ideas of using technology to run city better.

Mayor Adams: So by you placing some of your best and brightest on loan to the city, that's saving taxpayers' dollars. That is the way we supposed to do it. We should recruit from these large corporations to come in, give time to government. I also said volunteer, volunteer. These are the things I'm asking for.

Question: [Inaudible].

Mayor Adams: Nope, volunteer time. Everybody should give back.

Question: [Inaudible].

[...]

Mayor Adams: No, I don't feel that. You can't say it's a moral obligation. I think it's the right thing to do because it feeds our financial ecosystem. If you are in your office, you are going to a restaurant. You are going to take your clothing to the cleaners. You're getting your shoes shined.

Mayor Adams: And so we are saying my job and the job of the New York City Police Department is to make our city safe so that people can feel comfortable to enjoy our theaters, tourism, come back to work. That's what we are going to do.

Mayor Adams: You know, I know it's not reported often, but shootings are down. Homicides are down. Arrests of guns are up. You're seeing the plan we put in place actually being carried out. And that's the goal.

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