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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON NY1**

**Dean Meminger:** Tomorrow, we are expecting another snowstorm. At this point, NY1, we're predicting anywhere between three to five inches, everyone. Joining me now to discuss how the City is actually preparing for that Sunday snowstorm, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. Mr. Mayor, thank you for joining us.

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** My pleasure, Dean. How are you doing today?

**Meminger:** Good. Very good. So, is the City ready? The second snowstorm in a week. It's not as big as earlier in the week, but could be a headache.

**Mayor:** Yeah, it will be a headache. It's much smaller, thank God, but we take it all seriously. And you know that Mother Nature sometimes changes her plans and you get more than you bargained for. So, here's the message – as you said, it's a pretty small snowfall right now. Could be more like six to eight inches, but we're ready for anything. Sanitation will be out in force tonight, brining the streets, salting the streets. A lot of plows will be out tomorrow. We need people to stay off the roads, especially for your own safety, because it will be slick out there. So, please, if you can stay home, change your plans and not go out, and especially not use a car. Please help us out, help out the men and women of Sanitation so they can get everything cleared out Sunday, so we can have a much smoother Monday.

But, Dean, really important to note, Open Restaurants – the roadway portion, the part of the open restaurant that is actually in the street those will be closed because of the plowing, but the parts on sidewalks will still be open. Obviously, takeout and delivery – it's Super Bowl Sunday. You know, we're hoping those restaurants get a lot of good business tomorrow. So, sidewalk dining continues, takeout and delivery continues. Vaccination centers – open tomorrow. And we're looking – we, right now, think Monday's going to be pretty smooth. So, we're planning on vaccination centers, Monday. Schools – in person, Monday. That's the plan right now, but we're going to clearly keep people updated as we get more developments and more information.

**Meminger:** Okay. And just so that I heard you clearly – tomorrow, anyone who has an appointment to get a vaccine, you know, whether it's at Yankee Stadium or anywhere else, they can show up?

**Mayor:** Absolutely. And, obviously, look, again, the snow sometimes changes for the worst, but, based on the information we have now, all vaccination appointments will be on schedule for tomorrow and Monday. Also, important to note for the week ahead, alternate side will be canceled all the way until next Saturday – so, for a whole week. So, for folks, you know, making plans, at least you don't have to move your car.

**Meminger:** And now, last year we didn't have a lot of snow – not at all – but in past years, we've had so many snowstorms that we could run into a budget issue. Are you concerned about that – with that this year? Especially because we have such an issue because of the pandemic with money in the city.

**Mayor:** Yeah. You always have to be concerned. We put a lot of resources into clearing the snow and you saw an amazing job the Sanitation Department did a week ago. I'm really proud of those guys. The men and women of Sanitation do outstanding work, but, of course, it costs real money – all that salt, everything else. But you know what, we've got to do it. So, so far, you know, we've got one big storm. This one's going to be, you know, a medium-sized one. We're already well into February. So, you know, hopefully we won't see a whole lot more before the snow season is over.

**Meminger:** Now, some people criticize you earlier in the week when you put in that emergency order for folks to stay home. They said, you know, de Blasio is soft and he's making city residents soft – that, years ago, it could be, you know, 20 inches of snow and kids would be going to school, people would be going to work. How do you respond to that? That you're telling people, you know, don't go out, because we have, you know, three, four inches of snow?

**Mayor:** Look, I'm from the good old days too. So, I certainly remember the times where we used to keep going through all sorts of things. But the problem with that was we also used to see the effects of the snow go on much longer. By getting everyone off the streets, here's what we learned – we learned – you know, I had the biggest blizzard in New York City history – in the recorded history in New York City, the biggest blizzard was during my administration, and we told everyone, stay off the roads. People stayed safe. Sanitation was able to go out there and do what they do without the cars in the way. We were up and running, you know, very, very quickly after that. We saw it again this last week. Because people were off the road, Sanitation was able to do an outstanding job. We were able to get right back into action. So, you know what, it's not about are we tough, are we soft – it's about what works. What really works is to get the streets clear, so once the snow is over, we can get back to it. And that plan clearly worked, Sanitation did an outstanding job. Everyone could see with their own eyes things were handled really well really quickly with that last storm.

**Meminger:** Do you think – of course, throughout the week we saw the trash building up and the Sanitation workers said they were going back to picking up the trash. Now, they have to stop again. Will we get the trash off the street this coming week?

**Mayor:** Yeah, absolutely. Look, this – again, if this storm stays in the range we see right now, Dean, it's – you know, it's going to be a hiccup. It's not going to throw things off for too long. It means we've got to throw everything we got tomorrow into the salting, the plowing, just getting things back to regular. But then immediately Sanitation we'll go back to work with the trash pickup. So, I feel good about the fact they'll be able to catch up pretty quickly.

**Meminger:** And last two quick questions, very quickly – tomorrow, Super Bowl. I mean, are you sure all of these Sanitation workers are going to show up? Because I know a lot of them are probably going, oh, this is Super Bowl, Sunday. I have to be out there, you know, driving the truck.

**Mayor:** Yeah. They're incredibly dedicated folks. I, you know – look, Super Bowl is a big deal. And for all of us over 40, a lot of us are rooting for Tom Brady just to, you know, hold up the cause of guys who a little bit older. So, I'm hoping for the best for Tom. No, look, the Sanitation Department – this is when they shine. This is when they do heroic work. They all practice, literally, all year, getting ready for snowstorms. No, don't worry about that. Everyone will be on the job, doing what they have to do to protect their fellow New Yorkers.

**Meminger:** All right, Mayor de Blasio on the record saying he's going for Tampa Bay in the Super Bowl. Mayor Bill de Blasio, thank you so much for joining us on NY1.

**Mayor:** You take care, Dean.

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