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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO AND COMMISSIONER DELIVER REMARKS AT
LINCOLN HOSPITAL**

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton: I'm joined by the mayor – Mayor de Blasio who will speak after me, as well as Pat Lynch, the President of the PBA, will also speak. I'm also joined by some of the senior leadership of the department who were at the scene earlier [inaudible].

Details as we have them at the moment – approximately 2:10 am this morning the Anti-Crime Unit police officer from the 40 Precinct in the Bronx was shot and wounded in an exchange of gun fire with a suspect in front of 180 Lincoln Avenue here in the South Bronx. Police Officer Sherrod Stuart assigned to plain-clothes Anti-Crime Control with his partner – where they responded to numerous 9-11 calls reporting a large fight in the street with guns and bats and knives at 2505 Third Avenue. We have since determined that there was a very large "Jump-Up" party with anywhere from 100 to 200 people at that location. During the event, a significant fight broke out in the establishment and it spilled into the street.

As the officers arrived at the scene, officers from the 40 Precinct – we also had significant units from our SRG group up here this evening. They encounter a male suspect and pursued him. As back up units arrived, the officers engaged in a gun fight, during which Police Officer Stuart was struck in the right ankle. He returned gun fire, striking the male suspect four times. A .380 semi-automatic firearm was recovered at the scene. Three additional firearms have been recovered during subsequent searches of the area around 137th Street and in the establishment.

The injured police officer was removed here to Lincoln Hospital. We want to thank the staff at Lincoln Hospital for the quick attention to the officer's injuries – where he is in stable condition. He has been joined by his family – family members, mother, brother – a number of brothers. His father is a detective in this department who is currently on active-duty with the U. S. Army – so it's a police family. Coincidentally, today is the fourth anniversary of the officer's appointment to the New York City Police Department.

The suspect who was shot at the scene was also taken here to Lincoln Hospital – and he is listed in serious condition at this time at the hospital. The suspect was a 19-year-old man, Christopher Rice. Our preliminary investigation indicates that this suspect has a criminal history of five prior arrests over the last several years, including an arrest just yesterday – 9:00 am yesterday morning, with a charge of fare-beating – a charge in which we was released from court at 11:00 pm last night, three hours before the shooting involving our police officer.

As of this point – at this point, five additional stabbing victims have been taken to local hospitals in connection with the initial fight that prompted the 9-1-1 calls. This matter is still in the early stages of the investigation. Our police officer, as I mentioned, is 25-years-old, he is unmarried, he is upstairs with his family, and he was appointed, as I mentioned, to the department exactly four years – quite an anniversary date.

With that, I'd like to introduce the mayor of our city, Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you. Thank you very much. Well, Commissioner Bratton and I visited with Officer Sherrod Stuart and his family – what an impressive young man who went into this very dangerous situation and handled himself so well. A group of officers from the 4-0 Precinct, responding with great backup from this particular response group – and this young man, as you heard, just four years on the job, he already has a very, very impressive career, in terms of the work he’s done of getting to the Anti-Crime Unit. He has distinguished himself already – in this situation he distinguished himself further with his quick thinking and his brave actions – and thank God his injuries are not life-threatening.

Again, as you heard from the commissioner – a police family, his dad a detective – his family very, very committed to this city in every way and it’s actually very, very impressive to see his family and their closeness – and also, all they have done for all of us – there commitment to all of us. And the family is gathered around to support him and everyone realizes, thank God, he’s going to be well soon. But the fact is backup came quick. His fellow officers did all the right things to subdue these criminals. This is obviously a large group of people in a fight. NYPD officers handled this situation, diffused this situation, got the guns, as you heard – won the day.

We want to thank everyone here at Lincoln Hospital. I want to thank Dr. Ram Raju, the CEO of the Health + Hospitals Corporation – all the people here at the hospital who responded so well to help this officer and very much appreciate him and his good family tonight.

Thank you.

[...]

Commissioner Bill Bratton: We’re open for a few questions – understand, please this is still preliminary – trying to put it together. We anticipate there may be more arrests as the investigation goes forward.

Question: This party was in a social club? Is that what it was?

Commissioner Bratton: It was in a premise that was, what we describe as a “Jump-Up” party – not a licensed premise that, again, the number of people – we estimate anywhere from 100 to 200 people at that location.

Question: Commissioner, could you spell the officer’s first name for us?

Commissioner Bratton: Pronunciation of the officer’s name is –

Mayor: S-H-E-R-R-O-D – Sherrod Stuart.

Question: [Inaudible].

Mayor: S-T-U-A-R-T.

Unknown: And we can get all that information for you from the office.

Question: Is this a gang fight between two gangs?

Commissioner Bratton: Motive at this time is still under investigation by Chief Boyce and his detectives – that ask what happened – as we indicated multiple stabs wounds and the number which we believe occurred in the club itself and the [inaudible] the streets where our officers encountered that very large group still fighting in the street.

Question: Commissioner, is there a possibility that another person shot, walked into Harlem Hospital?

Commissioner Bratton: We have an individual out there in the 25 Precinct that [inaudible] we do not believe that incident is related to this one at all – again, that’s preliminary.

Unknown: Thanks, folks.

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