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TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON THE BRIAN LEHRER SHOW

Brian Lehrer: It's the Brian Lehrer Show on WNYC. Good morning everyone on a sleepy, slow news day before the holidays, not. We have breaking news from a short time ago that with a partial government shutdown possible tonight over funding for the wall, President Trump called on the Senate to use the so-called nuclear option to pass border wall funding. Nuclear option usually means ending the Senate's filibuster rule so it could pass with 51 votes instead of 60. In about a half hour we will get to that plus the Mattis resignation and the Syria and Afghanistan and Mueller and Matt Whitaker and Ocasio-Cortez New Green Deal news and even more with NPR politics editor Domenico Montanaro.

But it's not like it's been a slow news day locally either, including Mayor de Blasio announcing his support for the first time for legalizing recreational marijuana after the Governor officially announced his support earlier this week. And with that we begin as we usually do on Fridays with our weekly Ask The Mayor call in, my questions and yours for Mayor Bill de Blasio. Call in with your questions at 2-1-2-4-3-3-WNYC, 4-3-3-9-6-9-2. Our lines are open or tweet a question, just use the hashtag #AskTheMayor. Hi Mr. Mayor, welcome back to WNYC.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you Brian I just have to say it is never comforting to hear the words Donald Trump and nuclear option in the same sentence but luckily we are talking about a legislative maneuver in this case.

Lehrer: I'm sure just about every New Yorker agrees with you on that. So you talked about marijuana's legalization here just a few weeks ago on Ask the Mayor. I want to read back a few of your words expressing important concerns. You said there are real safety issues, real health issues, there's huge issues of how we stop Corporate America from taking over the marijuana industry in this state and doing exactly what the tobacco industry did, doing exactly doing what the pharmaceutical manufacturers did with opioids in pushing a product and doing it in a very corporate manner with no regard to communities and no economic empowerment of communities. Before we jump we have a chance to get this right. So that's what you said here a few weeks ago. Do you now think that there is a plan to get those parts right?

Mayor: Yes and that's the plan that we put forward yesterday. We had a task force that worked on this for about six months, whole host of city agencies, Department of Health, NYPD, etcetera to come up with something that would really address the criminal justice reforms we will need like expunging the records of all of those convicted of low-level, nonviolent offenses so they can move on with their life. We have to figure out how to get people out of prison who are there still on those types of offenses. We have to economically empower communities. Look this is a chance to recognize that a number of people were victimized and we know who they are and we know where they live, which kind of people and which neighborhoods were systematically victimized by the kinds of laws we had and the way the court system was run and the whole era of mass incarceration. We have a chance to actually give economic opportunity to those very same people and neighborhoods but that won't happen if corporate America is allowed to dominate the process so what I'm suggesting is something actually I think really unusual in the history of this country and this state of saying, why don't we from the very beginning ensure that the game is not rigged. Instead of creating very loose laws or laws that favor the one percent and the corporations, why don't we create laws that explicitly hold the one percent and the corporations at bay, do not allow them even into this new industry, make it community based, make it grassroots, and make it an agent of economic justice. And I think these things can be done, the report we put together systematically looked at what it would take to construct such a system and what it would take to protect against the kind of negative influences that corporate America has had on people's health and safety.

And we think that if New York State is willing to be bold they can create a set of laws such as we've never seen before that will protect everyday people and actually bring some justice. So that, but I will say one more thing, that needs to be the precondition. We, so many times, allowed all sorts of industries to flourish no matter how much they harmed people and then later on thought about regulating them. Here we have a chance to regulate first before the very first moment of legality and get it right.

Lehrer: How do you do that in law? I heard for an example a report in the last few weeks that some of the major pharmaceutical companies are trying to get into the marijuana business now and not just the medical marijuana business now so how do you keep that from happening or keep them from dominating and allow the grassroots, especially disadvantaged communities, startups to flourish?

Mayor: The power of state law in a federal system is the first answer. We've seen in the age of Donald Trump just how powerful state governments remain and local governments because the Constitution actually empowers the state and local level much more than most people recognize. The federal government has been unable to reach in on a whole host of matters. So having a clear state law that says these are the rules of engagement and this is how the State of New York determines to move forward. Other states may choose a different path but we want to create an industry that is based on small businesses and community businesses. We do not want to allow businesses over a certain size, do not allow businesses with a certain you know, vertical integration of different types of products and services, explicitly mandate the size and scope of the businesses to favor small businesses, it's done all the time.

Lehrer: Is it? The state can mandate that constitutionally?

Mayor: I believe, look I'm the first to say I'm not a lawyer but I've consulted with our Law Department and others. I believe it can be done. It will take hard work to get it right but remember the way you construct such a law can involve all the different powers of state government and all the abilities to reward and support a certain direction and inhibit a different direction. But now Brian if you were to say to me does it go the other way? Are there laws that favor big corporations over small business? Of course. Are there laws that favor the one percent over everyone else? Of course.

Lehrer: One or two.

Mayor: I believe you can do the reverse if you create clear standards. For example in many we have anti-trust laws. For example, there's many laws in this country that delineate size and shape of different kinds of companies. There are franchise agreements that governments provide that say you must do the following things, you must provide equal access, you must reach people in underserved communities. There's all sorts of tools. And then there's the positives, the incentives, which the City of New York will be ready to participate in. We need to help community based businesses in communities that have suffered with low interest loans, with all the kinds of facilitation that would help a startup business get going. If the State of New York and the City of New York put their minds together we can make it much easier for folks who have suffered to be able to benefit through these new businesses and own their own businesses and keep that money in their communities. And we can inhibit the negative influence of big business but it will take a change of approach. I think it is thoroughly within the law, the reach of the law.

But bluntly we are going to have challenge Albany because historically Albany has been very friendly to the corporate sector during both Democratic and Republican administrations in Albany and it's time to say that this country has changed, our values have changes and we are not going to make the same mistake we made with these other industries but it has to be with an anti-corporate mentality if we are going to get it right.

Lehrer: Do you have buy in from the Governor on that approach, have you asked for it?

Mayor: I'm going to be talking to him and his team and obviously the legislative leaders and look, I think everyone is going to start with different views and different elements of their plan. I think the state legislation such as we've seen it so far is in many ways consistent with this vision. The legislation in Albany right now by deputy, sorry Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Senator Liz Krueger, that legislation is in many ways is consistent with the report we put out yesterday. And anyone who is interested in this issue, really should look at this report because it goes into a lot of detail of the ways we could do this. I'm going to have a real conversation with the Governor but I think the action for this is from the grassroots. I think New Yorkers have to demand this and recognize that they have a power between April 1st when I think the vote will occur – the power to say we want something different. So all the folks out there and a lot of your listeners who for an example were inspired by Bernie Sanders, have been inspired by efforts to address the needs of the 99 percent and keep the one percent from having more power. Here's a

chance for us to all put those views into action and demand that Albany create the right kinds of laws. And not vote a bill until it provides that kind of economic justice provision in it.

Lehrer: Let's take a couple of listener questions on this and then we will go on to some other things. Kendall in Brooklyn is calling with one of those questions, Kendall you are on WNYC with Mayor de Blasio, hi.

Question: Hi to the Mayor. First off I would just like to thank you for your position on this policy and the changes you've made in the city. As a young black man growing up in the city I can tell you that I have felt the change as far as the policing goes. So first I'd like to thank you for your work on that. My question was, I don't know if I'm putting the horse before the cart, the cart before the horse here but do you have a position on the cultivation of marijuana personal, I know some states have you know, a limit on how many you can grow in the home, I don't know if there's a position on that or not yet?

Mayor: Kendall, thank you very much for first of all for what you said. Because everything we have been trying to do is to ensure that people at the community level feel a change and feel that they are treated with respect and not over policed and treated like – the vast majority of New Yorkers are law abiding and try to go about their lives peacefully and they deserve respect. So I am glad that you have felt some of that change. And on this matter – look I think there is an allowable amount of home cultivation but I think it needs to be a very strict limit. What we say in the report is we want the state to agree that there's a legal frame work for that but then give the power to localities to work out the details because every place is different. Here there are real concerns, if home cultivation goes too far in any individual case, there are real safety issues. There are issues about fire which has been a problem in some places that were growing a lot of marijuana in residential buildings for example. There have been really horrible things that have happened. So, I think modest home cultivation there's a way to reach but we have to figure out what that limit is.

Lehrer: And here's a question from a listener via Twitter. Julio asked, how does legalizing marijuana affect high school students who may have dependency issues?

Mayor: It's an excellent question. This is something my wife Chirlane and I talked about a lot as what we were – amongst the things we were really concerned about in coming forward with a framework. We had to address the fact that people – some people have a tendency to addiction, some people do develop a dependency on marijuana like many other drugs and that can lead to health challenges. And there are other very real safety issues like driving under the influence can be a real problem.

So, these are things that have to be accounted for. We – so, first of all, under the construct we're proposing the legal age should be 21. So, it would not be legal to sell to a minor or for a minor to be using marijuana. Second, we think, I believe we fundamentally – and Chirlane's really made this point about the opportunity for education – because marijuana has been illegal but widespread, which is a total contradiction obviously, there has not been a serious societal conversation about how to approach it properly including the health issues and to educate young

people that there are real challenges and real dangers they have to account for. And the parents need to understand and be able to talk to children about it.

So, I would argue – one, the laws will still not allow for those under 21 to have it; two, that we are going to have our opportunity to get a full scale education campaign out there from our Department of Health. And I think that will help point out that if someone has the tendency to dependency or addiction for any substance that they need to come forward and get the help that they deserve, and that's another point.

And I'll say this number because people need to keep hearing it – 1-888-NYC-WELL. Anybody can call that number if they have any kind of addiction or dependency issue or any mental health issue or a loved one has a mental health issue and they need help.

This is the new service that Chirlane and the team at Thrive New York City put together. I think this is going to be a time where a lot of people are going to be able to come to grips with those issues because we're encouraging them to come forward and get help.

Lehrer: We're getting a little push back on Twitter to what you said about the limits on home cultivation. One listener asked, what does modest mean? You said modest amounts. And another one asks skeptically, so the Mayor wants no corporations but then strict restrictions on home cultivation?

Mayor: Well, let's be clear about the difference here. First of all, I want there to be a market based on grassroots, small business, community based business so that those who are buying marijuana legally can go to a neighborhood based business, not a big corporation. And again the money stays in the neighborhood. In terms of home cultivation, I believe people should have the right to it but I believe there need to be limits.

I don't have the exact amount today. There's going to be a whole legislative process but there's – look, people need to be clear about some of the real dangers because we've had fires from people who have grown at a bigger level with a lot of heat lamps and other things. There've been some really devastating fires.

We lost a fire chief a couple of years ago in an explosion related to a grow house. I mean there's a real danger here if it's allowed to go too far and we have to figure out what that limit is. But no, I don't see a contradiction there. We're trying to make sure that people can have some ability at home but much more importantly for anybody looking for larger volumes that there's going to be a store you can go to that's community based and empowers the community not corporations, and people will have the legal right to get it there.

Lehrer: One more question on this for now. Did I hear that with your interest in small, community-based marijuana businesses that you think some City tax subsidies will be needed for some of these startups?

Mayor: Certainly things like low-interest loans and assistance from, for example, our Small Business Services department – those are the kind of things I would anticipate. And we need to

figure out what the whole thing looks like and how we can help. But I understand you can't just say to folks who have been economically disenfranchised for generations, okay we're going to open up the business opportunity and suddenly you're going to have all the capital you need. Let's be real about the free enterprise system. The capital has been concentrated in very few hands and that's wrong. And so, I would argue you structure the law to keep Corporate America out, favor small business, provide real assistance to small business, and we all know a certain amount of capital is going to be needed upfront. Hopefully we're talking about businesses that will do well at the community level and will be able to sustain themselves but I think we can't have magical thinking here. There's going to have to be some involvement for the public sector if we expect this to be economic justice and not the same old, same old.

Lehrer: Actually, I'll throw in one more because it just came in on Twitter, and might reflect what a bunch of people are thinking. It says, "Mayor, legal age of 21 is reactionary, 18-year-olds are smoking like crazy already." What do you say to that listener?

Mayor: I would say that we are creating equivalency with other legalizations – other things that are currently legal that over time obviously we can revisit this but you know I get that some folks would say let's make every change in the first jump. I'm going to argue that since we are grappling with a major change here – and I want to remind a lot of your listeners, there are many New Yorkers who are uncomfortable with marijuana in their presence, there are many parents and grandparents who are uncomfortable with their kids being exposed to marijuana. We've got to strike a balance here. That is what a democracy is about. It's about respecting all the different elements of our community.

And if we're going to make a bunch of changes, we'll do them in sequence. I think aligning to the 21-year-old level to begin makes a lot of sense. We can see how that goes and then makes decision from there. But that to me is not the first issue. The first issue here, it would be after protecting people's health and safety is ensuring we that we create economic justice and that we create justice in terms of the criminal system and court system by expunging the records of all those who have suffered in the past.

Let's start with those steps and those are going to be plenty controversial. We're not going to get everything done in one piece of legislation. I think the economic justice and the criminal justice issues are the things that we have and irreplaceable moment to get right.

Lehrer: Alpha, in Manhattan, you're on WNYC with the Mayor. Hello, Alpha.

Question: Hi, Brian. My name is [inaudible] listen to you every day. I'm a cab driver. I just parked my car to speak to the Mayor. Hi, Mr. Mayor [inaudible] citizen. I voted for you for the first time – that's the first time I voted. I voted for you twice and I like your – everything. The problem is with this congestion pricing, is it's going to kill yellow cab drivers. [Inaudible] dollars to start off the fare and the Uber's \$2.75, and it's [inaudible] going to kill all yellow cab –

Lehrer: And let me just say so our listeners know exactly what you're talking about. Those numbers that you cited – \$2.75, \$0.75 – those are going into effect as additional fares to start a

car ride, a yellow or Uber car ride, starting on January 1st on paper. So, Alpha, go ahead and finish your question.

Question: It has been challenged in the court, and it's postponed now. It's not January 1st because you have the court hearing on January 3rd. So, this is going to be a big problem for the drivers because when [inaudible] the customer, they will all go to the Ubers and this is one problem. Every day I speak to drivers at JFK, LaGuardia – people, when you ask them what are you going to do after this goes in effect they just tell you, 'I don't know what to do but I have a plan'. But when you ask them what the plan, they will never tell you and you know what they thinking behind, suicide. A lot of people are thinking about that. I know the Mayor will say, 'Alpha tell them to call this number to avoid that,' but help us avoid this. This has to be done right now otherwise the city will see a lot of cab drivers killing themselves for nothing but if you want to stop that, we have to push the Governor to exempt yellow cab and green cabs. We must do this otherwise this is going to be crazy –

Lehrer: Alpha, let me get a reaction to you – for you. And that's pretty stark, Mr. Mayor, after the rash of taxi driver suicides that we have had in the city in the last year or so and this pretty hefty fee going into effect on January 1st or 3rd, if the courts let it go.

Mayor: Well, Alpha, thank you very much for calling and I know you're speaking from the heart. And I'm not going to first of all minimize – you said, 'Oh, we're going to say call that number.' That's not a small matter. I just want to push back to you on that. People who are feeling such desperation and there are many, many people very sadly in our society feeling desperation for either economic reasons or personal crises etcetera. It's our job, all of us, to try and save them and to give them an opportunity to see past their immediate crisis and get them the help they need both in terms of mental health but also economic health.

So, I really want to be careful that these horrible, painful suicides – and I've talked to the family members of those lost and I really feel for them – but I want to be very careful that we do not turn this into the wrong kind of discussion. If someone is feeling suicidal, that is not the norm in our society when people are facing a challenge and a crisis. We got to get them help. It's about the individual first. We got to get them help.

On the bigger question, there is not a doubt in my mind that a horrible injustice has been done here because of – and it very much equates to the conversation we just had on marijuana – there should never have been Uber and the other services allowed to come in without regulation. This is something that we need to come to grips in our society – we need to stop doing this. I have a lot of respect for the good that has come from the technology community but I'm sick of the assumption that any company can do anything they want. I would not endorse that with the historic industries that have existed in this country. We never would say the oil industry can do whatever they want or the pharmaceutical industry can do whatever they want. The same for the sharing economy – you can't just do whatever you want. There has to be rules.

So the origin of this crisis is that new technology came into play and that technology really did, for many people, seem to improve their lives. But the companies tried to evade any kind of fairness and regulation. I wish, that three years ago, when a lot of us tried to put a cap on Uber

and the other ridesharing companies – if that had been achieved I would love to think that we might have been able to save some of these lives and some of these horrible things wouldn't have happened and I wish the City Council had acted then – they did act this year, and I want to give them credit for acting now and there is a cap now in place and the Taxi & Limousine Commission is going to set future rules to limit what the other for-hire vehicles, not the yellows and greens, but the others should be in this city.

Lehrer: You have a one-year moratorium at the moment on new ones and then there'll be an assessment on what the right number is for health of the city?

Mayor: And then there'll be a new cap, whatever that is, there will be rules that will be ongoing determining – because right now we have about 40 percent of these Ubers and other cars driving around without a single passenger in them and it's driving down – what it's done is destroyed the wage levels for all the workers in this industry, of all the different types. It's a corporate, cynical strategy to flood the market and take over the market directed by Uber and it has created a huge congestion problem.

Lehrer: But meanwhile our caller Alpha's concern is about this tax that's going to go in and hit the yellow cab drivers in addition to the Ubers and Lyfts and Vias, so when somebody gets in a yellow cab it's going to cost them \$5 to go to the first eighth of a mile.

Mayor: Okay, and I want to say I have different information than Alpha has and I will happily go and double check with my understanding is but to speak to this issue: once you say okay we've created some order now by putting serious limits on the for-hire vehicles and continuing to support the yellow cabs and the green cabs, now it comes down to the question of surcharge and what it means. If the surcharge is fair, it will create equivalency across the market. Now what I've always supported is the same surcharges for all these different types of services, not one that disadvantages the yellow cabs versus the Ubers for example. That – I want to go check my facts, I've always understood that there was equivalency. I've you have equivalency than the price of the ride is changed for everyone at the same time in the same way. We know there's a market – a big market for yellow cabs. We know there's a lot of people who don't turn to Uber and other services and want the yellow cab because it's right there, right then, they put up their hand on the street they get a yellow cab to go to the airport, there it is. A lot of people use yellow cabs and green cabs too. This is a city that's growing, that's adding jobs, it has more and more tourists. There's no question in my mind there's a market. The surcharge, in my view, should be created in the vain of fairness of no one part of the industry or another is hurt more or less. But here's why we need the surcharge, because meanwhile, we have something going on – we have a climate crisis, we have a congestion crisis, and we have a failing MTA. The surcharge is supposed to address all of these issues simultaneously, to get us money that can be used to save our subways and buses, to discourage people from always thinking the only way is a car for everything, and to help us address the congestion issue, and if we keep improving mass transit that's the best way to achieve all of those goals. So, I think the surcharge is for a very, very good reason, for big important reasons but it must be applied fairly so it does not hurt the yellow cab drivers compared to others.

Lehrer: Alpha, thank you, please call us again. I want to ask you a question, Mr. Mayor, based on some WNYC reporting. Last year, you introduced a program where you could pay a year's worth of rent to landlords willing to house homeless families outside the city, I guess because housing was so short and so expensive inside the city, and your Department of Homeless Services took people on van rides to look at apartments in various places in New Jersey and Connecticut. But WNYC reporter Mirela Iverac found families in Newark and East Orange who've ended up in substandard, really kind of uninhabitable and even illegal apartments. Her reporting suggests that there may be an issue that the city pays these landlords a year's rent in advance and then they have little incentive to maintain them, the apartments, decently. Are you aware of that program or why the landlords get paid that way?

Mayor: I am aware of the program, and I want to say, first of all, I would never accept the notion of anybody living in substandard housing or any landlord providing substandard housing anywhere whether it's in New York City or anywhere else and we don't want to be party to that. The – also the reality is that the current dynamic of homelessness in this city has to be addressed in a whole host of ways because it's not an acceptable dynamic either. So we got a couple different things we have to achieve simultaneously. We'll certainly – absolutely we'll make sure our Homeless Services Agency is looking into all the issues that were raised in that report and I appreciate that report because we want to get it right. I will say the notion of providing support for folks who are homeless in New York City and want to leave New York City for good, and that's what we've seen in this initiative over many years, it's been a thousands of thousands of people who have been helped to get either back to where their family is or back where they come from, or someplace that they feel is right for them and get on their feet there, often a place where housing costs a lot less, and for that small investment, we insured someone's on their way to a better life but are not in the New York City shelter system which is going to cost a hell of a lot more, per person, than the money we provide to get them back on their feet someplace else. But we have to do it the right way, and if we're not we've got to fix it. There's no two ways about that.

Lehrer: But – is it – I think your answer just suggested that it's kind of a family unification, or reunification program, almost, but I think there are critics who say – this is kind of saying “poor people, we're extraditing you from the city.”

Mayor: Oh, that's ridiculous. You know, look, I think what I would like is a little more serious conversation – this is not about you Brian, I just – for all the critics – critics are a very healthy part of our society, advocates, et cetera, but let's actually look at the real problems and try and recognize how complex they are, because we're not doing anyone a service if we don't tell New Yorkers the whole truth. The whole truth is we have an unacceptable level of homelessness, and we are trying with everything we have to reduce the amount of homelessness, both on the street and in shelters – actually a lot fewer people are staying on the street long-term because we found a way to get them in and get them mental health services, and substance abuse services and reunite with family and other things that actually have gotten people off the streets who have been there years even decades. That's called HomeStat, that's actually been very productive – but we have to get people out of shelter back on their feet – we're talking about 100,000 people over five years have been in our shelter system and we helped them to long-term affordable housing. But one piece of this, Brian, that's an honest truth – people come to New York City

from all over the country, and some people come here and it does not work for them, and you can say “okay, well let’s just have them stay in our homeless system long term and cost a huge amount of money to taxpayers and leave people in an unacceptable lifestyle” – or, if they “say you know what, I actually would like to go back to where my family is, or go back to my hometown, or I feel if I went someplace in New Jersey that was lower cost, I could get back on my feet”, we’re willing to help them do it because that’s more fair to them and it’s more fair to the taxpayers, and it creates fewer people in shelter, and every New Yorker I talk to wants to see fewer people in shelter, and fewer shelters in their community, so there are a lot pieces here. I have spent a lot of my career trying to support and protect the interest of folks who are disadvantaged, but I also recognize we’re trying to solve a lot of problems simultaneously. If someone says “yeah, I want to reunite with my family and I don’t have the resources to do it,” I actually think it’s fair and humane to help them do it.

Lehrer: One more call – Arthur in Park Slope, you’re on WNYC with the Mayor. Hi, Arthur.

Question: Hello, hi. So, I just want some information to help a friend. A woman I know who teaches gardening to very young children here in Brooklyn – particularly in the Park Slope area – she had to move not far from where the Mayor was living, she was living on 3rd Avenue, into Seagate because it was affordable. But now she’s getting – she got a letter threatening sexual violence against her teenage daughter because they are Muslim by heritage. They’re not really practicing Muslims. And this is a very lovely person. She called the police but they didn’t ever have her speak with a detective and they have not gotten back to her. What can she do [inaudible] –

Mayor: Thank you first of all – Arthur, thank you for raising that because that sounds like an absolutely unacceptable situation. I need you to share your information with WNYC. Our team will talk to you today. We will alert the NYPD at the highest levels. I don’t know all the facts – obviously you’re telling me this for the first time. But if anything like that happened not only is it unacceptable but there’s going to be some people in trouble for not addressing that problem appropriately.

If someone is threatened with violence it absolutely is the business of the NYPD to intervene. And any threat of sexual violence, anything that is a hate crime we take very seriously and we make sure that there are very serious consequences for those involved. And if you look at the history of what has happened – the ability of the NYPD to track down those who have committed hate crimes and bring them to justice, they have done an extraordinary job. So we need to fix that and fix that right away. Get us your information and then we’re going to get the appropriate from the NYPD to your friend so we can address this.

Lehrer: Arthur, thank you for alerting us to that. Well, we’re just about out of time. Mr. Mayor, any plans for Christmas?

Mayor: I have the joy of being with my family on Christmas, both the immediate family, Chirlane and Kiara and Dante, but also we have some of our extended family around from the wing of my family that comes from very far south in Southern Italy in a town called Raffano

where my grandmother is from and so we're really, really looking forward to that, and no traveling which is kind of a joy.

Lehrer: Especially today.

Mayor: Especially today, but yeah, you know, I do want to say to all your listeners, I really want to wish everyone a very warm and happy holiday season and my hope and goal for New Yorkers is to have a chance to chill out and spend time with family, spend time with friends, do something that's not running around and working all the time which we do too much of in this town, and actually enjoy this beautiful time of year.

Lehrer: Thanks as always, Mr. Mayor, talk to you next week.

Mayor: Happy Holidays, Brian.

Lehrer: You too.

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