



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2015

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

RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON 1010WINS

Brigitte Quinn: You've announced a more than \$12 million dollar in homelessness prevention services initiative. How will this keep New Yorkers from winding up on the streets?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Well, Brigitte, what's happening now is, a lot of people are being evicted from their apartment illegally. And we want to protect tenants, who have rights in this city, and make sure that they have the legal help they need to avoid an illegal eviction. So, any one of your listeners who believes that they are being evicted illegally, or even harassed illegally, by a bad landlord can call 3-1-1. We will assess their case; we will connect them to a lawyer. If we have the legal grounds to stop the landlord, our lawyers – paid for by the City of New York, so the service is free for the tenant – our lawyers will go to housing court and fight that eviction. This means more people get to stay in their apartments and, on top of that, what it means for that family, being able to stay in stable housing and not end up in shelter. It also means we're protecting affordable housing, because we're not losing a rent regulated apartment illegally, [inaudible] become market rate apartments.

Brigitte Quinn: Mhm. And Mr. Mayor, I have to ask, what about the people who are already on the streets?

Mayor: Well, Brigitte, we've done a number of things to get people out of shelter and back into housing. In the last fiscal year, 38,000 people we helped out of shelter to permanent housing. 15,000 of them were from brand-new initiatives that we created just in the last year, that are working. So we're finding more and more ways to get people out of the shelter system. At the same time, we all know what's going on with the price of housing in this city. We know what's going on with the wages and benefits that aren't keeping up for so many families. So a lot of people are threatened with homelessness. Our job is to stop it before it happens for them with things like these anti-eviction efforts – keep them in their apartments so they never become homeless.

Brigitte Quinn: You've also announced some reforms to the NYPD use-of-force policy. Which of these reforms would you say most significantly changes the way an NYPD officer does his job on a daily basis?

Mayor: Well, the new use-of-force guidelines, in combination with the retraining of the entire police force that Commissioner Bratton announced last year, that – that one-two combination means we're going to be able to reduce the unnecessary use-of-force. We're going to help officers know exactly how much force to use in a given situation. And – and really, the point of the training and these new guidelines is to help officers deescalate in each situation. Of course, keeping our officers safe and fighting crime is the first priority. But this is a new approach that Commissioner Bratton believes will help us to do that while reducing the use of force and, at the

same time, bringing police and community together. That's so much of what we're trying to here is, bond police and community – which we think will make both neighborhoods and officers safer in the long run.

Brigitte Quinn: Mr. Mayor, I have to ask you – as you and I are speaking, there's a big education rally at Cadman Plaza. One of the organizers said on our air earlier that black and Hispanic students are confined to second class schools. What's your response to that?

Mayor: I put out a vision a few weeks ago called “Equity and Excellence.” Our vision for the New York City public schools is that every school is going to be brought up to the point of excellence. We are putting an unprecedented level of resources in – that's how we achieved full day Pre-K for every child in this city, and that's going to have a huge impact on the future of our children and our schools. That's why we're doing computer science literally for every child in every grade going forward; Advanced Placement courses in every high school. So, we're taking away the notion that there's quote-unquote “good” and “bad” schools. We're bringing up the whole school system. And look, the vast majority of our kids – about 93, 94 percent of our kids – are in traditional public schools. We have to turn them around. So I am absolutely committed to reaching children in every neighborhood, in a way that, bluntly, they haven't been reached in the past.

Brigitte Quinn: And Mr. Mayor, before I let you get away, I wanted to give you the opportunity to respond to something Governor Cuomo said on the radio yesterday – that you should do what Mike Bloomberg did, have the city kick in 11 percent of the MTA budget. Your response?

Mayor: Well, the governor is using some facts in an interesting fashion. What Mayor Bloomberg did, which was commendable, was he made a specific initiative around the number 7 train, and that was paid for with the development of the far West Side of Manhattan – I commend him for that. But what we're talking about here is the day-to-day operations of the MTA. When you look at that reality, the people of New York City and the City of New York pay about three-quarters of – all the cost of the MTA comes out of our tax dollars, comes out of our fares, and our tolls, and our city contribution. So, we've been putting more into the MTA than we've been getting back for a long time. What I've said to the state is, look, you control the MTA. The governor controls the MTA, names the head of it. We want to see some clear ground rules going forward. If the MTA wants the city to contribute new money, show us – prove to us – that it will not be taken out of the MTA and put right into the State budget for other purposes, because that's happened a lot in recent years. \$270 million dollars was taken out of the MTA by the State in just the last four years. I don't want to see New York City taxpayer money put into the MTA and then siphoned off to other uses.

Brigitte Quinn: Mayor de Blasio with us live here on 1010WINS. Thanks a lot for being with us.

Mayor: Thank you, Brigitte.

###