

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 14, 2020, 11:45 AM

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

**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AND CUTS RIBBON AT
THE NEW ONE VANDERBILT BUILDING**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you, everybody. Well, let me tell you, talk about a tough act to follow, going after Daniel. And let me just thank you at the outset for everything you've done for New York City, not just this year, this year of challenges, but for many years, and sometimes someone epitomizes that wonderful reality about New York City, where people come from all over the country, all over the world here, make this place their own, become a part of us, and then help to make us even greater. In a small way, that was my immigrant grandparents from Southern Italy. In a very prominent way, that's Daniel. And Daniel, thank you, and thank you for the extraordinary effort you and your team have made to feed New Yorkers who need help. Let's give him another thanks for that extraordinary, great work.

[Applause]

Everybody, this is cause of celebration today. This is an amazing moment. This is a powerful moment. Because it's a reminder of the strength of New York City, it's a reminder of our resiliency and where we are going in the future. As you listened to Daniel, you did not hear any sense of what couldn't be, only what could be. And that is what has made New York great for generations and that spirit is alive and well. Now, Mark, I want to say to you and your whole team, and everyone at SL Green, I just want to congratulate you today. You and I spoke a long time ago about this vision and I had the honor of then being here for the groundbreaking. So, I have been with you every step of the way. And I admire the resolve, the way you have every step of the way said, we're going to get this done and we're going to make it work just the way we envision it. I thank you for your commitment to New York City. I want to give you a special thanks – we talked about this a few days ago, the fact that your employees are all back in your office, showing that something big is happening, the comeback is happening.

[Applause]

So, thank you. And to everyone, look, we are celebrating one extraordinary site, one extraordinary building. We're celebrating this beautiful plaza, but we're celebrating something much greater. This is one of the first and most tangible signs of the rebirth of New York City, right here today. And everyone who has been a part of this is contributing to that rebirth. I want to thank all the elected officials who are here. Senator Liz Krueger and Borough President Gale Brewer and Council Member Keith Powers – thank you for all the great work you do, thank you for all you're doing to sustain communities as we make this comeback. I want to thank the members of my team who've been devoted to this project and so many other major elements of

New York City's rebirth, our Deputy Mayor Vicki Been, the President of the Economic Development Corporation James Patchett, Fire Commissioner Dan Nigro, Chief of Department of the NYPD Terry Monahan. I want to thank our colleague from the MTA, Janno Lieber – and this is a great day for the MTA as well – thank Kyle Bragg and all the hardworking men and women in labor who have made this possible and will continue to make this building great as it opens.

So, look around you, this beautiful site, and this has a place that every day, historically, right in this area, hundreds of thousands, even millions of people, have made it their habit year after year to come right through here because it's been the heart of New York City and it will be that heart going forward. And this beautiful building will be a new symbol and a reminder to people of what this place has. And I want everyone to say, it's not just that we love this place, we do. We love New York City, we stand up for New York City, if anyone has a problem with New York City, they have a problem with all of us. But it's more than that. Why is this happening here today? Because this building was the result of a lot of talent, a lot of energy, a lot of vision. These are the things we associate with this city. These are the elements of our greatness. You will not find more talent anywhere in the world. You will not find more creativity or spirit or resiliency anywhere in the world, literally. And that's on display here. And it is a reminder, not just of what we have been, but what we will be.

This energy is undiminished. In fact, in the toughest times, New Yorkers have shown their ability to fight back. There's a classic phrase and it refers to New York City, it's not how many times you get knocked down, it's how many times you get back up. And here today, you see a great symbol, New York City rising again. Now it's not only the meaning of this building, the beauty of this building, it's also that this building symbolizes a true commitment to New York City. Because of the partners in this project, almost a quarter-billion dollars of subway improvements were achieved as part of the building of this great building, a quarter-billion dollars almost. That's real money, my friends. And for all the millions of millions of New Yorkers who over the years will use the subway here, they will have a better experience because of a public private partnership that worked. And we want to see a lot more of this going forward.

So, here's what I can say about the city. This city doesn't just survive tough times. We transform. We find ways to learn and grow and get better, and we will do that again. Today, we celebrate that and today we add a new chapter. And it's as simple as this – this is a success. What you see above you is a success. We add a new chapter in the success story that is New York City. I congratulate you all. And now, Mark, I was honored to be with you at the groundbreaking, how about we have a ribbon cutting? Come on up, everyone who is a part of the ribbon cutting.

[Applause]

###