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It's the Daily Show with Bill de Blasio! -- PART 2

Your pooler for tonight: Mike Grynbaum, NY Times

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Jon: "There is a big conversation that we are having about crime," noting that NYC shootings have risen in the past 2 years, "since the stopping of stop-and-frisk. It can't be that the only way we can control shootings in New York City is what appears to be an unconstitutional, and angering program of stop and frisk. But this appears to be a real thing."

BDB begins his reply: "Let me say it a little differently."

"When Bill Bratton came in as our commissioner, first press conference, he said, in terms of stop and frisk, you can't break the law to enforce the law. And that from the beginning was the template we took. Can you drive down crime while respecting constitutional rights? Absolutely. Because my 1st year in office, Bill Bratton's first year as commissioner, crime went down from 2013 to 2014."

Jon: "You're saying, 'We can do better. We can kill more people.'"

BDB: "No! *Jonnnnn*. You've misinterpreted!" (This exchange was a jocular one.)

Still, the Mayor conceded: "We brought down crime across the board. We do have a shooting problem. A shooting problem last year, and a shooting problem this year. Nothing like New York City had 15, 20 years ago. But something's persistent, particularly around gangs. And we have new strategies to go in there," like gang intervention.

"Going back to an unconstitutional, alienating approach is not only inappropriate and unfair to the populace, it doesn't work," BDB added. "It ties up a ton of police time and energy into things that aren't actually going after serious crime."

“So I think we’re broadly on the right track,” BDB said, ticking off changes like retraining, body cameras, and new technology.

When the Mayor mentioned the curb in low-level marijuana arrests, Jon perked up. “That I’m with you on,” he said. “By the way, is a pound low-level?” The Mayor laughed, and did not reply.

Jon asked about the right balance. “You know as well as I do, the minute shootings go up, and the minute murders go up, political pressure is going to become immense. Get this out of our sight. People don’t care about the Constitution when they feel like it’s not safe.”

BDB: “Well, I think the good news is, in this city, we had a real thorough debate, and people did vote in favor of constitutional rights and respect for communities, while having strong policing. There’s no dichotomy here.”

Jon asked about the gun supply chain down the East Coast. BDB said “this is a fight that we have to undertake in our country,” citing “a single gun recently came out of Georgia, recirculated from crime to crime, it was used in various shootings around the city, one gun.”

At this, Jon interrupted.

“Oh is that -- I’ve heard of that,” Jon said. “The ZipGun program. You get the gun, you use it for a crime, then you bring it back and someone else signs it out.”

The Mayor then drew a connection between his economic proposals and stopping crime. “We’re not going to get to greater unity as a nation on an issue like gun control until we deal with economic reality first.”

BDB got a bit philosophical, saying that a successful progressive agenda could “unite people across regions and different backgrounds, and different faiths, and that may be the beginning of a more common politics, and a more common set of values, that some day may lead to the realization that people who want the respect for the right to have a firearm, that does not have to equate with a situation that leads firearms to end up in our streets killing people in the hands of criminals. That’s going to take a lot of transcendence, that’s going to take a lot of work. But I actually think economics is the most unifying force.”

“Look at what happened in Baltimore,” the mayor said. “Part of it was police-community relations. But a lot of that was economic reality.”

Without economic opportunity, the mayor said, “You cannot be surprised if that community is disconnected from the larger society around it. If people don’t feel a sense of economic hope -- unfortunately that’s where crime breeds, that’s where gangs breed. Kids that know they have opportunity ahead are much less attracted to gangs.”

Okay! Time to wrap up.

“You feel like you’re going to stay 6-foot-7? It’s fine, you’re not going to give any of that away?” Jon asked.

“I said income inequality,” BDB replied. “I did not say height inequality.”

There was much applause, and the interview was concluded.

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