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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. And we begin as usual on Fridays with Mayor Bill de Blasio in our weekly Ask the Mayor segment. Our phones are open at 212-433-WNYC, 433-9692 – If you have a question for the Mayor or tweet a question using the #AskTheMayor.

Good morning Mr. Mayor, and obviously we have to start with the awful tragedy of the apartment building fire on Prospect Avenue near East 187<sup>th</sup> street in the Bronx last night – 12 people killed, ages one to 63. From what I've seen many more injured – the deadliest fire in the city in more than a quarter of a century, so tragic. Good morning sir and do you know the cause yet?

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Well Brian it's particularly tragic – we've lost so many people, we lost children, there are four people fighting for their lives right now in hospitals. It's horrible for so many reasons including happening right in the middle of the holiday season. And my message to everyone first of all is, you know, spend time with your families and appreciate your families. When you see something like this happen it reminds us how precious life is.

We do think we have the source of the fire. Commissioner Dan Nigro will give a full briefing later but what we think, at this point, is that unfortunately it emanated from an accident – a young child playing with a stove on the first floor of the building. And unfortunately it's the worst of circumstances that the fire beginning on the first floor setting up a situation where it spread rapidly upward. Accidental from everything we can see. I know there are concerns raised about the building itself. Based on the research at this moment it does not appear that there was anything problematic about the building or the fire safety in the building. It seems like a horrible, tragic accident that just fire that spread very, very quickly and took so many lives.

**Lehrer:** Our news department is telling me that in August apartments on the first floor were found to have defective smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. And that this is a HPD building. Do you know anything about that or whether there was follow up about those defective detectors?

**Mayor:** Yes, I don't want to comment on the nature of the building until I get more information but we've heard so far, and again Commissioner Nigro will go into greater detail, is that there was nothing problematic about the building that contributed to this tragedy. We will keep

looking obviously as the investigation goes on but from what we know preliminary that was not a contributing factor.

**Lehrer:** What does it mean that it's an HPD building? Does that mean it's owned by the city?

**Mayor:** Well, that's what I want to be careful about because you are the first person to say that to me and I want to confirm that before making any public statement. We have buildings that we support in different ways. There's not a lot of city owned buildings anymore outside of public housing per say. So let's get more facts on that and we will get back to you on that.

**Lehrer:** Is there a preventive lesson or possible preventive lesson for other people in a cold snap like this?

**Mayor:** Yes, and I don't think it's necessarily about the cold snap. I think it is about something all of us as parents grapple with all the time which is how to keep our kids away from fire. I mean we all know, you know this is a very sad reality that young kids get attracted to fire and, you know, play with it thinking it's innocent when it's not. And it's really tough, I know this as a parent, it's really tough to keep an eye on your children at every single second of every day. But as parents, you know, the reminder is be very, very careful with your children anywhere near a source of fire whether it's matches or a candle or a stove or anything. And keep them away and you know, create as many barriers as possible and keep an eye of them.

That's all I can say. I mean, again we don't every fact about what happened here yet. But we feel pretty certain that this where it began. And all I can say to my fellow parents is do everything you possibly can to protect against this kind of thing happening.

**Lehrer:** This has got to be one of the hardest if not the hardest thing about being Mayor – going to a scene like that and talking to people in shock and grief – presidents always talk about the hardest thing being informing the families of service members when they are killed. Do they teach best practices for public officials and other leaders for how to do the most you can for people in that kind of situation when you obviously can't fix it?

**Mayor:** There's no way to be taught it. And it is a very painful responsibility. I've been with Commissioner O'Neill and before Commissioner Bratton, I've been with Commissioner Nigro when we had to tell loved ones that the person who was serving this city, you know their loved one was gone. And many times in the hospital, people come in you know, hoping against hope. And it is a painful responsibility but you have to look them in the eye and say no your loved one is not coming back. There's no way to learn it except to do it.

But, you know it is part of being responsible for all the work that goes on in this government to have to tell people and have to level with them. And it's painful and particularly with, you know, our first responders and our men and women in uniform, you know, who go out there every day to protect us. And their families worry every single day and then there are those horrible moments where their worries come true. And you know, our job is to try to help them through it in every way we can.

**Lehrer:** And of course you mention the fire fighters which I didn't and the body of my question – I was asking about the victims who were residents of the building in a situation like this but obviously we also have to stop and pause to thank our hero fire fighters who not only put their

lives on the line every time they go to a blaze but also have to brave just horrible working conditions like last night's cold on that scene.

**Mayor:** Of, it was – I was out there, it was horrible. I can only imagine these men and women out there for hours in you know, zero temperatures. They did a fantastic job given the horrible situation they were handed. You know, this fire spread very, very rapidly. Fire department was on the scene within minutes. At least 12 peoples' lives were saved by their efforts.

But it's incredibly tough work and dangerous work. They do an extraordinary job. But look, I mean again my job is to support our first responders but obviously also support all the members of the community who are hurting.

And we try – and I also want to thank, look, I want to thank not just FDNY and NYPD, I want to thank our Office of Emergency Management that immediately set up a location for families to come to get help, to get lodging if you know, they were in the apartments that were burned out, to find out where their loved ones were. They do great work as well comforting these families and you know, our message to all these families in these tragedies is we want to see you through it, we want to get you back on your feet.

**Lehrer:** It's our weekly Ask the Mayor segment here on the Brian Lehrer Show on WNYC, Fridays at ten almost every week. Our phone lines are full we will start taking questions from you for the Mayor. Now as lines open up you can get in at 212-433-WNYC, 433-9692 or tweet a question using the #AskTheMayor. Fanny in Brooklyn, you are WYNC with the Mayor. Hi, Fanny.

**Question:** Hi Brian, how are you?

**Lehrer:** Okay thank you.

**Question:** Hi Mr. de Blasio. We are sort of neighbors because we are not too far away from Park Slope. But me and my family and the rest of the residents in my building do not have hot water or heat for over, almost three weeks now. And now with the temperature going into like single digits, it's getting to be a little bit, you know, less pleasant by the day.

So the problem is due to the landlord's actions the gas has been shut off in the building three weeks ago by the Department of Buildings. And we are fighting, we have spoken to lawyers and we are trying to fight with the various authorities that are in charge of this including HPD. I even wrote you a letter a couple of weeks ago, I never heard back on that one, I don't know, that was just through the system, write to the Mayor.

But somehow the landlord has not gotten in touch with us once. He hasn't provided us with any space heaters. He hasn't offered any help at all. And we know he is fully aware of what is going on here. And so I just wonder why it is so difficult to push landlords to really do anything and if court cases are the only solution then you know just as well as I do that that is not a real solution because those drag on forever.

**Mayor:** Fanny, I disagree with that. I'm really sorry for what you are going through but I don't agree with that last statement and I want to address that. First of all please immediately after the call give your address and contact information to the folks at WNYC. I want my commissioners to follow up with you this morning so it is very, very important that we get your information.

And first of all, if a landlord is not doing their job there is a lot of sanctions, a lot of penalties we can bring to bear on them. And if you don't have heat and hot water, we either force the landlord to restore it or go and put it in ourselves. The city will come in and restore the heat and hot water and charge the landlord.

So I don't understand why that has not happened already, I want to get to the bottom of it, I want to fix it. But you should know also that we do provide free lawyers when a landlord has not fulfilled his responsibility. We provide free lawyers to the tenants and that can also help to result in the penalties on the landlords. So the process in housing court often leads to changes and the kind of penalties that change landlord behavior. So we are going to follow up with you immediately after this call.

**Lehrer:** Fanny, give your information to our producer. We will take you off the air right now and the Mayor hopefully will stick to that promise to get somebody on it this morning because obviously Mr. Mayor this is a situation that if there's no heat in a building today there's, it's an emergency.

**Mayor:** Of course it is Brian and just to be straight forward with you, we constantly follow up on the issues that come up on WNYC. There's no hoping we do it. And we even between people who don't get on WNYC, when we get a report to 3-1-1 – I want to remind anyone who is not getting heat and hot water, call 3-1-1, report it immediately. We send inspectors out and again if we have to restore the heat directly we will do it.

**Lehrer:** We did a segment last week on inmates at Rikers Island complaining about insufficient heat. Have you personally looked in to that? And do you agree that it's a problem or are you doing anything about it?

**Mayor:** Look, it's any inmate or any of our officers or employees are experiencing that we need to fix it. Rikers facility is very old, as you know, it was started 85 years ago, some of the facilities are really old, that's another good reason why we are closing down Rikers Island and going to more modern facilities. But right now, absolutely, if any part of the jail facilities are not warm enough, we are supposed to provide extra heating and blankets and make sure, you know that the inmates and again everyone who works there is protected from the cold. So yes we are following up on that.

**Lehrer:** We got another – you know we got that from another report last week, so this is not something you'd heard about previous to now?

**Mayor:** I heard about it in the last 24-hours and directed that these actions be taken and I'm going to follow to make sure that's happening.

**Lehrer:** Dana in Manhattan, you are on WNYC with the Mayor, hi Donna.

**Donna:** Hi, thank you, I wanted to ask the Mayor what he is looking for in the new school chancellor. But before he answers that I wanted to tell him I just read a headline about how the crime just keeps going down and the Daily News is crediting Commissioner James O'Neill, who was an insider, who was not someone brought in from the outside of the City and I would discourage the Mayor to do the same with the next Chancellor. To not go looking for some new

visionary who is going to try to put some imprint on the City but to keep up the good work he's been doing, which is not getting enough credit, especially in the area literacy.

**Mayor:** Well Donna, thank you very much for the question, I think it's a really important topic you're raising. So first of all, I want to lead in, you know, just with that idea you put forward. Crime has been going down in an extraordinary way. You know, we are the safest big city in America. Immense credit to the men and women of the NYPD, but now more and more what we see is community partners are playing a bigger role.

And I think it is absolutely true that Commissioner Jimmy O'Neill, 35 years on the force, you know born and bred in Flatbush, Brooklyn, has brought an incredible knowledge of New York City to the work that helped him to become the architect of our neighborhood policing plan which has really created a lot more communication and a lot more partnership between police and community. We are also doing great work with the Cure Violence Movement in communities all over the city that has also really contributed strongly to reducing crime.

That is a great example of the point you make of talent that came up through the ranks and can provide great leadership. That is not the only way to find talent, I want to be clear with you, I think it is the ideal situation, for sure, and that is how I've made choices by and large. Sometimes the best person for the job is from outside.

So from what I can tell you on the vision I have is we are doing a nationwide search because we want to look under every stone. This is literally one of the toughest jobs in America, being the School Chancellor for New York City. It's the number one education job in America. We want to make sure we get the right person and Carmen Fariña is a tough act to follow. Very few people have the extraordinary history that Carmen has.

Absolutely we are going to focus on that literacy effort. We are going to focus on getting our kids' reading on grade level by third grade, which is something that bluntly didn't get enough attention before. It's crucial to our Equity and Excellence Plan. And it's a massive, difficult undertaking, but it will be one of the biggest game changers for the future of this city.

I can tell you that the next chancellor will be an educator. I believe in that strongly. And we are absolutely going to look at candidates, again, both internal and external. It is one big, tough job, and I've got to find someone I feel has the strength and the alignment to our vision to it done.

**Lehrer:** I was going to mention before Donna mentioned it, kind of baked into an unrelated question, that on a happier note, with all the difficult subjects we've been talking about so far, even tragic ones, it looks like the City will end the year with fewer murders than any time in modern memory. Under 300 for the first time in many decades, there were 2,200 for people who haven't been in the City that long at the peak, around 1990, how much do you think it is better police work, how much from other factors in the big picture, long term?

**Mayor:** Well Brian, this is a really important question, first of all, let's be clear, history is being made here in New York City. And the NYPD is achieving things that were considered impossible not so many years ago. I want people to understand how much of that is because of the partnership with communities, and the neighborhood policing model has been the game changer here.

I think that has been one of the biggest new contributors, this kind of decline you're talking about a 15 percent or more decline in shootings and murders compared to last year. That kind of decline happens because of very effective strategies, the right leadership, the right relationship with the community, the fact that the communities are sharing information with police officers like never before, this is a big deal.

When community members trust their police officers, know them personally, tell them when someone has an illegal gun, tell them when there is a problem going on between gangs, it's stopping crime and violence before it even can happen. This is a big piece of the equation. I'm sure, Brian, there are other factors as with any major change, but I think it's fair to say, the combination of things, the right police leadership, adding 2,000 more officers on patrol, giving the police more training, giving them better technology, and obviously the neighborhood policing vision. These are all adding.

And I think what is crucial to recognize, as the police have done a great job working with communities, it brings down the temperature over all, it creates trust, it creates communication, you know, we've trained police in de-escalation to help avoid these horrible, tragic, incidents that lead to the rift between police and community. We've obviously gotten rid of the broken over use of Stop and Frisk. It's all contributing to a different atmosphere and when the police have that kind of support and communication from communities, they can do so much more than they were ever able to before. So I think there is very specific, strategic reasons that are contributing to this extraordinary decline in crime.

**Lehrer:** And community change, civilian community efforts?

**Mayor:** Look, I think that it's absolutely true to say that things like the Cure Violence Movement, which used to be sort of looked at with some hesitation by our police, you know in the last few years in our administration, we've recognized that those community based efforts are making a huge difference. Stopping young people from ending up in a life of violence, taking folks who come out of incarceration and steering them away from getting re-involved in crime, these folks at the community level are almost like human shields and they've done extraordinary work.

And they have a different role to play than police, but now there is a really respectful relationship there and recognition of their contribution. I think its things like that. I think it's the way our neighborhood policing officers have built very strong communicative relationships with communities.

I'll give you a great example Brian. It used to be, you remember the vertical patrols in public housing, well those used to be undertaken police officers, who no fault of their own, were sent into a development, didn't know anybody, hadn't been there before, going up and down the stairs, asking people if they lived there. You can imagine how alienating for someone whose lived some place for decades to be asked if they lived in a kind of questioning way. Now those patrols are led by our neighborhood coordinating who know people who live in the developments. Know the resident leaders. Go and lead the way. Say hello, Mr., Smith, hello Mrs. Jones, whatever the person's name, they know them, and it changes the whole attitude and now you got people who live, for example in a public housing building, seeing a police officer as their

officer, their protector, and wanting to make sure that officer is protected, and wanting to make sure that officer has the information they need to do their job. It's a whole different reality.

**Lehrer:** Is Commissioner O'Neill definitely in for your second term by the way?

**Mayor:** Absolutely, we announced that last week, the same time we announced the retirement of Carmen Fariña, that Commissioner O'Neill will be staying, Commissioner Nigro at the Fire Department, and my top lawyer, our Corporation Council, Zach Carter, all continuing on.

**Lehrer:** Another question about the fire, Jennifer in Long Valley, New Jersey. You are on WNYC, hi Jennifer.

**Jennifer:** Hi, yes, thank you Brian. Thank you, Mr. Mayor for taking my question, I would like to offer my condolences to the victims of the fire last night. I lived in New York for many years, and even though I'm a Jersey resident now, I still consider myself a New Yorker, and for as long as I remember when tragedies like this would happen there would often be information that came out that there had been violations that hadn't been fixed. I'm just wondering when New York City is going to staff up the department that issues these violations so that some sort of regular follow up is done, assuming that is the case with this fire, you know, they should have followed up two weeks later after the violations were issued in August there might be less fatalities if these smoke alarms had been operational.

**Mayor:** Jennifer, your question is a really fair one and I know you are asking it out compassion, I do want to affirm to you from what we know right now there was not a problem with the building. And again we are very quick to say we think there is one, based on what we know now, there was not a problem with the building or the health and safety standards of the building. This really does to appear to be –

**Jennifer:** Right, no I understand that, I'm just wondering –

**Mayor:** - yeah but to your bigger point, yeah we did beef up the Buildings Department, we added a large number more inspectors, because clearly were not enough historically, so they could go out find these violations and make sure there are real action taken to fix them or real penalties if anyone hesitates. There is more to do on that front, Jennifer, there is no question. It's something we have to keep adding to, but I can safely say is we actually devoted a lot more resources to those inspections and to quicker follow up. Because you are exactly right, if something like that goes unattended to, it can be incredibly dangerous.

**Lehrer:** Thomas in Jamaica, you are on WNYC, hi Thomas.

**Thomas:** Yes, good morning, I wanted to ask Mr. Mayor if whether or not he thinks that it's a good idea for children to be in Times Square during the Times Square, I don't know if whether or not the Mayor has taken into consideration that the temperatures are going to be very, very cold that night. I wonder if whether or not we ought to not ask children or the parents, to bring children out in that weather.

**Mayor:** Thomas, I think you make a great point, as your fellow parent, or maybe you are not a parent, but you sound like a parent. As you fellow parent the – absolutely, if I'm a parent with

particularly younger kids, I would urge people not to bring young kids out in those conditions. Now, it's a free country, people make their own choices, if anyone is going out there, young or old, dress up with everything you got. It's going to be incredibly cold on New Year's Eve. Wear every conceivable layer you got. I don't think it's a great idea to bring kids out there but we are not going to, you know it's a free society, we are not going to ban it, but we are going to remind people if you get into those pens you have to stay there for a substantial amount of time or else you lose your place. So only go there if you mean to stay there for a long period of time, and if you're dressed to handle the weather conditions.

**Lehrer:** A question coming in on Twitter with the #AskTheMayor hashtag – says why is @NYCMayor pushing to limit funding to legal service organizations to prohibit them from helping immigrants who are charged with crimes? And you do have a new policy wrinkle in that in the last week, right?

**Mayor:** I'm not sure it's new. This debate has been going on since the budget was passed in June. And we've been very clear about – one, this city is committed, unlike many other places, this city is committed to protecting New Yorkers who happen to be undocumented, to make sure that families are not torn apart. But we do have commonsense restriction including the fact we will not provide city resources to those who committed serious and violent crimes and were convicted of them. We've been over this before. I think there's some fair restrictions that are commonsense. We have money – a generous amount of money – that's been put into this, but it's not limitless, and we need to be smart about how we use it. There are private sources that have been devoted to legal defense for those that we cannot support with public funds. But again, this is to me this is not news. This is something we've talked about before.

**Lehrer:** I think the distinction that some people are upset about is that, I guess, it seems like you will let people – you'll cooperate more with ICE even in the case of people charged but not yet convicted of these 170 serious crimes. Is that accurate?

**Mayor:** No, the law – again, I don't know what information you're looking at, Brian. The law has been clear for years now in this city. You have to be convicted of these crimes. If you're convicted of these crimes, then we do cooperate. These are serious and violent crimes – 170 offenses, they're available online for people to see what those offenses are I think. Again common sense would dictate that the vast majority of New Yorkers would see those as serious and violent crimes. If someone's convicted, we do cooperate with ICE. What we – in the other many instances where we don't cooperate with ICE is of course if someone hasn't committed any crime or only committed minor offenses. In those instances we do not cooperate.

**Lehrer:** Here is – I just want to clarify this as much as I can. On Politico New York this week – city proposal would exclude some immigrants from receiving legal counseling services, and it says your administration is proposing a policy that would exclude any immigrant arrested for or convicted of a serious or violent crime from receiving legal counseling services offered by community organizations that specialize in immigrants' rights.

**Mayor:** Again, I believe this was covered in June. I don't hear anything different than what we've covered already, so we can keep talking about it, but I've said what I'm going to say on this.

**Lehrer:** James in Queens, you're on WNYC with the mayor. Hi, James.



**Question:** Thank you for taking my call, Brian. Thank you, Mayor – congratulations on re-election. I have a simple question. We drivers – I’m a professional driver here in New York City – we do have unnecessary conflict between pedestrians crossing and vehicle turning. We have to negotiate with the pedestrian. In New York City and Manhattan only when people start crossing it’s like a herd of animals crossing. They don’t stop until everybody’s crossed. We can resolve the problem by equipping in Manhattan only all the intersections with turning signals, and we take turns. Otherwise it closes up the whole system, and we cannot continue to operate like that. That’s why there’s gridlock. I just wanted the Mayor to see if that’s something that’s possible with Vision Zero.

**Mayor:** It’s a great question. Some places it is possible, and we’ve put in particularly a lot more left-hand turn signals in recent years, and we’ve found them overwhelmingly to be very effective. We can’t do it everywhere for a variety of reasons, but I think the answer to your question is yes, that’s something we’re going to keep looking at in a lot of places. That being said, and look, I drove my own car until very recently. I know the frustration if you’ve got a huge number of pedestrians crossing, and they’re taking up all the time of the light. I get why that’s difficult for a driver, but here’s what Vision Zero has taught us. Getting drivers to slow down, getting drivers to respect the rights of pedestrians first has made a huge difference, saved a huge number of lives. We want drivers to recognize that if pedestrians are crossing and they have the light in that crosswalk don’t violate that crosswalk. Let them get through.

It may slow you down sometimes, that’s true, but guess what? That’s better than us losing lives or seeing people seriously injured. So we’re really going to enforce the yield law. We have to make sure that people do not violate the rights of pedestrians, and failure to yield to pedestrians will result in very clear penalties, and NYPD is looking out for this intensely. But in the meantime, I think your point is a good one. There are some places where we can resolve that with the left-hand turn signal.

**Lehrer:** By the way, we mentioned earlier the record low death rate from murder in the city this year. I haven’t seen the stats for Vision Zero success, you know, traffic deaths this year. Do you know it?

**Mayor:** Well, as of a few weeks ago we were on pace to have the safest year on record. 2016 was the record since the advent of the automobile the fewest fatalities related to driving and for pedestrians with vehicles in the history of the city. At least as of a few weeks ago, we were on pace to break that, but you know we have to literally get passed December 31 and get you to a final count.

Here’s what we know – Vision Zero is working. It’s proven now over three years, heavy enforcement by NYPD, new designs of intersections by DOT. TLC is playing an important role as well. It’s working, and the one thing we need is more help in Albany to get more speed cameras around our schools to protect our kids. That’s the piece we’re still stymied on. That’s going to be a major item as we go up to Albany for the legislative session, but unquestionably Vision Zero continues to prove that it’s getting more successful each year.

**Lehrer:** Did you see the proposal from State Senator Jeff Klein of the Bronx, who of course leads that breakaway democrat collation the IDC that helps the Republicans stay in power, but to

get Albany to allow more red light cameras around schools in the city for the sake of generating revenue that would help fund the transit system and also to use sales tax revenue for the transit system – a percentage of it. Do you like it?

**Mayor:** Look, I think it's a ridiculous idea. The notion first of all of suggesting that the speed cameras are about revenue is the wrong approach. Speed cameras are not about revenue. We would love to make no revenue on the speed cameras, and we'd love to see people not speeding. So I've said this over and over again, you know, people are always cynical about whether something is for revenue – this is not about revenue. This is about saving lives. Yes, we would like more speed cameras, and if Senator Klein is saying he's going to fight for more speed cameras for us in Albany to protect kids, that's great. But don't link it to the MTA issue.

And second, the notion of taking away city sales tax money that right now goes to things like our schools and our police and our sanitation services – that's ridiculous. That's putting an additional burden on New York City. That's not fair. Here's what we should do.

We want to fix the MTA, first of all. Senator Klein could help us by coming back to the Democratic Party, establishing a Democratic majority in the State Senate, and that would allow us to finally act on these issues. The best solution to the MTA crisis is a millionaires tax, which by the way Brian, is more pertinent than ever because millionaires and billionaires are getting a massive tax break on the federal level. There should be a millionaires tax that would allow us to provide constant, renewable funding to the MTA. It would allow us to do the fair fare half priced metrocards for low income New Yorkers. Senator Klein could personally change the trajectory on the MTA issue by rejoining the Democratic Party and getting the millionaires tax passed. The other thing he could do is lead the way to get the State to return the \$456 million that it took from the MTA – it was dedicated MTA funds taken over the last few years that were never given back to the MTA, that were shifted to other State needs inappropriately. If Senator Klein wants to provide leadership, get that money back to the MTA.

**Lehrer:** Is it fair to say millionaires and billionaires in New York State are going to get a big federal tax cut. Isn't it, because of the end of deduction for most state and local income taxes, a tax hike for the rich in New York State to transfer to the rich in other states?

**Mayor:** No, the fact is first of all the 600,000 New Yorkers – New York City residents and taxpayers – are going to be hurt by the Republican tax bill. They are going to see on average a \$5,000 increase in their taxes because they won't be able to deduct state tax local tax and property tax anymore. But here's the rub – most of those people, the vast majority, make under \$75,000 so they're working class and middle class people. And by the way to all your listeners who have any potential to pre-pay their property tax for the next two quarters of 2018, please talk to your tax preparer specialist or go online. It's [son.nyc.gov/propertytax](https://www.nyc.gov/propertytax) to see if you can pre-pay in the next few days and avoid some of the burden that the Republican tax bill has put on them.

But not for the millionaires and billionaires Brian, yes they may lose state and local deductibility, but they're also getting huge tax cuts on the rate that they pay on the federal level. They're going to be winners in this equation. Eighty-one percent of the benefits of this tax bill go to the top one percent in terms of income. Don't worry, those folks are going to be fine, and there already

should've been a millionaires tax for our subway, but bluntly it becomes more pertinent than ever given that the millionaires and billionaires are getting a massive federal tax break.

**Lehrer:** Alright, we'll see how that shakes time. We're over time, I'll just ask you on the way out – you'll have your second inauguration and inaugural address. Congratulation, and I see that Bernie Sanders will be swearing you in. Did you ask him to do that?

**Mayor:** I did indeed. I've gotten to know Bernie and Jane Sanders over the last year or two. I have immense respect for what he's done for this country, and also he is a proud son of Brooklyn and someone we should all be proud of for what he has achieved. And so I asked him if he would be willing to swear me in, and I'm honored that's he's chosen to do it.

**Lehrer:** Didn't make a deal like he'll swear you in if you don't run against him for the Democratic presidential nomination?

**Mayor:** You know, Brian, you have a lurid imagination.

Look, Bernie is very proud of his roots in New York City. I won't speak for him, but I can just tell you I think he's proud of his roots in New York City. I think participating in something that is such an important part of New York City life means something to him humanly, but also I have immense respect for what he's done. He's singlehandedly changed the discussion in this country. No one has shined a light on the question of income inequality more than Bernie sanders, and he's change the way that politics will be approached in this country going forward. I think he's the kind of person that should be upheld as a great example to all New Yorkers and someone we're proud of as a Brooklynite who has achieved so much.

**Lehrer:** Mr. Mayor, congratulations again on your second inaugural. We'll be listening to your speech on Monday and happy New Year, thank you as always for coming on.

**Mayor:** Happy New Year to you too, Brian, and all your listeners.

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