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From: Lemire, Jonathan [<mailto:JLemire@ap.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 1:26 PM

To: Parikh, Ishanee

Subject: Mayoral Pool Report

Greetings from the St. John's Bread & Life food pantry in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn.

The mayor is expected to help package food orders for those here preparing for Thanksgiving. Those being served here use touchscreen computers to select their order, which is then printed out and delivered to the back. The mayor will then join the staff using the slips to package the food.

The executive director of the pantry, Anthony Butler, said the pantry serves 2,800 people a day and will cross the 1 million person mark next month. They are seeing a 2% increase every month and the numbers are "way up" from previous years. There are no restrictions as to who can eat there, it is open to anyone. The center, which also does other community services, has a \$3 million annual budget, 90 percent of which is privately funded. The Lexington Ave building, which opened in 2008, cost \$10 million.

The mayor ("BDB," going forward) arrived exactly on time at 11:30. He began by being shown the computer system and then walked into a dining room where a dozen or so people were eating lunch (tuna sandwiches appeared to be a popular option).

The very first person exclaimed "Wow, you really are tall!" to which BDB replied "I get that a lot." The mayor went table to table wishing the diners a Happy Thanksgiving. One man urged the mayor to help workers find better wages to which the mayor nodded approval. Another cornered the mayor with a Bible and warned him that "judgment was coming." The mayor nodded again, this time perhaps not in approval.

Then, selfie time. The mayor posed for nearly a dozen before then moving to the actual pantry for the main event: taking the printed grocery lists and packing the bags. De Blasio, who donned an apron, was assigned a regular volunteer ("Alicia! You are my packing buddy, my guide") to help find the items in the pantry. The food items were organized by category on the shelves and the mayor, after just brief leaning curve, became pretty adept at locating stuff.

The first bag, destined for a "Darlene," contained brown rice, rotini, raisins and grape juice among other items. The second bag was larger and contained milk beef-a-roni, whole wheat rotini green beans, sliced peaches, raisins, etc.

The items were all double-bagged. Your pooler has some grocery bagging experience in his past (three months at the Market Basket in Tewksbury, MA) and believes the mayor's technique was fairly solid, as he kept the bags balanced, reasonably well-structured and not too heavy.

There was some time for small talk, as he complimented one woman's large hoop earrings and one man's Pittsburgh Steelers hat ("that's a real statement, wearing that hat," the mayor said before reminiscing about NFL Hall of Famer Mean Joe Greene).

At one moment, BDB offered an enthusiastic high-five to one young teen who brought him some grape juice. By his fourth order, he declared himself "self-sufficient" and challenged Councilman Robert Cornegy to a race to fill their orders. It was not clear if a victor was declared.

Throughout, the mayor was deluged by photo requests and while he posed for them all, he frequently asked them to hurry along as "we have to get back to business here."

He packed a fifth and final bag and then exchanged handshakes with a few more volunteers and posed for one final photo (with a woman holding a sign reading "Team 1st Floor," which is where the party is located) before returning his apron and heading upstairs for a press conference (which was open press).

Any questions, contact your pooler at JLemire@ap.org. Happy Thanksgiving.