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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO ADDRESSES DNC COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Well, this is a good day, a good day for New York City. We are thrilled – thrilled by the news today, that we are one of the three finalists for the 2016 Democratic National Convention!

[Applause]

[Cheers]

And I want to thank so many of you here in this room, people who represent the community around the Barclays Center, who represent all of Brooklyn, who represent the whole city – because your enthusiasm, your energy was part of getting us to this day. One of the things we saw from the beginning of this process is the tremendous unity all across New York City – people who wanted to see this happen, from every part of our city, from civic associations to elected officials, business community, labor – all united to win the convention for New York City. And the fact that we are one step closer is a credit to all of you.

Now, let me tell you, the Democratic National Committee recognized, with this decision to make us a finalist, they recognized some of our – our strengths, some of the things we bring to the table that are so powerful. We are a diverse city – stronger for our diversity – 8.4 million people, representing all that is good about the United States of America. We're the nation's media capital, and capital of so many other parts of our economy and our society. And we're a city moving in the right direction, and that's important. We're a city that's more inclusive than ever. We're a city that's moving forward. That matters to the decision makers in this process.

Now, as we organize our bid, we look to the Barclays Center, and we look to Brooklyn, as the place to be home for this convention.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

I believe Brooklyn's in the house.

[Cheers]

Thank you, Brooklynites. [Laughter]

And we looked at the Barclays Center for a couple reasons. First, it's just a tremendous venue. It's one of the – obviously – newest and best arenas anywhere in the country. It's a great place for the delegates to have the experience they deserve to have at such a crucial historic moment.

But second – Brooklyn! The story of Brooklyn, the meaning of Brooklyn, the personality of Brooklyn means so much. It sends a message about where we all need to go. And this is so powerful. You know, we see Brooklyn's story as America's story – a story of possibility, of hope, of diversity, of a new start – something that Brooklyn provided for generations upon generations. So Brooklyn matters, because Brooklyn has shown the way – this amazing renaissance over the last few decades, a place that was often the underdog now the envy of the world. Brooklyn's an example to us all, an example to America – also, we said, we need to have another step towards a five borough city. So, Brooklyn's success will also be Queens' success, the Bronx's success, Staten Island's success – making us a more perfect union here in New York City. That's what we saw in the power of this proposal. That's what we saw in making Brooklyn the headquarters for this convention.

Now, as I said – you know, so many people came together here in common cause, and I know that was duly noted in Washington – this extraordinary host committee we've put together, and the support from every part of our city. And elected officials have been energetic from the beginning in this process in support. I want you to hear from our senior senator in a moment, but let me also acknowledge and thank our Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

And – wow, you are popular today.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

[Applause]

Council Member Laurie Cumbo and Brad Lander.

[Applause]

Again, so many other electeds have been crucial to this support. They've had a real energy for this, and that was something that mattered a lot to the folks in the DNC who looked at the situation in New York City and in Brooklyn – they saw that energy and that support.

And as I said, we see this convention as a five borough convention. We've had very successful conventions in the past in New York City, but let's face it – they had a focal point of one borough. We see this as a five borough convention, a convention that's going to help each and every part of our city. The business opportunities that are going to be created will be extraordinary in every part of the city. And we particularly want to make sure that the communities right around the Barclays Center have a tremendously positive experience where lots of opportunities are created, lots of work is created, lots of economic positive impact occurs for the people. There'll be a lot of money spent on construction, on office space, on security, and we want the people of Brooklyn, and the people of all five boroughs, to benefit. And lord knows, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, shopping – they'll be extraordinary, extraordinary activity generated by this convention.

Let me give you an example – 2004 Republican Convention, ten years ago, injected over a quarter billion dollars – a quarter billion dollars – into the economy of New York City. We think in 2016 the Democratic Convention will do so much more. And it'll be a shot in the arm that'll be felt all over this city.

For months, we've been laying the ground – the foundation, the groundwork to get this done. An incredible host committee – over a hundred people – has come together. And we've made very clear to the Democratic party leadership in Washington that this host committee is ready for action. This host committee has pledged – and I've said very clearly, I guarantee we will be able to do this – we will raise over a \$100 million dollars to make sure this convention is everything it needs to be. We're going to make sure it works just the way it's planned, and as an example, we already have pledges from members of the host committee of over \$10 million dollars already. At this day in November 2014, already over \$10 million in individual specific pledges have been received. That's the level of engagement and energy we have here.

We believe, that with your help, we can not only win this convention, we can make it a great convention for everyone. And we want it to be felt at the grassroots. It's very consistent with everything we value in this administration. We want to talk about the opportunities that need to be created. We want to talk about how to make this convention a win-win for all the communities around the Barclays Center, for Brooklyn, and for all five boroughs.

It's a big undertaking. It's a big undertaking, but there's a lot of upside, and the key is to make sure that people benefit widely. We can do that if you help us find the best way to connect people from all communities to the opportunity that will be created. And that's why we wanted to call you together. Fortuitously, the DNC decided to announce its finalist just a couple hours before you gathered. You must be an influential group.

[Commotion]

But [Laughs] we – we wanted to gather you together, because this will be about the grassroots. This will be about working with the community. We wanted leaders of so many important parts of this city to come together to help guide us on that path. And we're going to show the Democrats in Washington that not only is this going to be the best place for a convention, but the

place where the grassroots are the most engaged in the process of the convention, which is something important to all of us.

Now, I look forward to working with you every step of the way. And I look forward to including every kind of New Yorker. And so, as a little example, let me say in Español.

[Laughter]

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

[Applause]

With that, with that I'd like to bring to you a man who is – first of all, one of the nicest things you can say – he is synonymous with Brooklyn – our senior senator, everything good about Brooklyn shows up in the way he approaches his work, and what he does for all of us. Secondly, a true leader in the Democratic party nationally. Thirdly, someone who has been an extraordinary guardian of the city of New York in Washington, and a tremendous partner in this effort to win the Democratic National Convention.

You know, it's a fair statement to say, Senator Chuck Schumer can walk from his apartment to the DNC site. This is personal for him.

[Laughter]

This is not – [Laughs]

But he has been with us literally every step of the way, the best partner and friend that the city of New York could possibly ask for to win this convention. I introduce to you our senior senator, Chuck Schumer.

[Applause]

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