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TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON NY1

Roma Torre: Mayor de Blasio has been standing on line with early voters in Park Slope for more than three hours now. He's still waiting to cast his ballot. He has been critical of the Board of Elections for not doing more to lessen the wait. Although, this Friday, the Board of Elections has agreed to increase the time that polling sites are open. Our Gloria Pazmino is in Brooklyn. She's standing with the Mayor and joins us now. Hi, Gloria.

Gloria Pazmino: Hi, Roma. And we are actually just getting into the home stretch of the line here, coming up on hour three. I'm joined by Mayor Bill de Blasio, who just gave out some slices of pizza to people here who are waiting.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Gloria, this is from Smiling Pizza here in our neighborhood. The pizza place my family has gone to many, many times. So, everyone in this line is getting hungry and tired, but they are sticking with it. Amazing group of people who are – really, really want to vote.

Pazmino: You are coming up on hour three. We've been talking to you all day about the fact that you have been waiting, the fact that you don't think the Board of Elections has done a good job here today. We did just learn a little while ago that the hours are going to be expanded, but is that good enough?

Mayor: No, they have to do more, they have to. Look, right now people are making very clear how much they want to vote and they're waiting hours and hours. That's not acceptable. Every site, the hours should be expanded immediately, especially for this weekend. More staff, more machines, whatever it takes because people are trying to perform a sacred responsibility. And look, three hours in line, that's crazy.

Pazmino: I did hear you say earlier that you are sort of starting to feel it. You know, you're getting a little bit tired. People have been on their feet –

Mayor: Lower back – lower back is feeling it for sure, but you know what, so – watch out – so are a lot of other people. But they're sticking with it. Everyone's sticking with it.

Pazmino: What have you heard? What's the mood here so far when you're talking to your neighbors, your constituents? What are they telling you? Are they upset that they have to wait for this long? Or do they think that this is all just part of this election, an election unlike any other, right?

Mayor: They are committed to voting. That's what I'm hearing. I mean, people – look, people are keeping a good mood and joking around with each other, but most importantly, they're here because they care, and they are adamant about voting. No one thinks –

Unknown: [Inaudible] front of the line.

Mayor: There you go. See.

Unknown: You got to say it out loud.

Mayor: I'm going to say it right now. If you're over 60, you can go to the front line and we need to get that word out. But I think people are keeping good spirits, but they don't think it's right. And, you know, everyone thinks this is kind of ridiculous, but they're still sticking with it because they want to make sure they get their vote counted.

Pazmino: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, I appreciate it.

Mayor: Thank you, Gloria.

Pazmino: I'm going to let you get back in line. I want to just for our viewers who are wondering about those expanded hours that the board just announced a little while ago, I want to put it up on the screen so that people who are planning their vote and planning to get out there can be aware that hours have been expanded on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of this week. So, that last weekend stretch of early voting. Early voting is going to go on until November 1st. So, on Friday, it will go from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, on Saturday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM again, and on Sunday – on that last day – from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Mayor, as you heard, still asking the Board of Elections to do more, to put up more machines, expand those hours if possible. Again, early voting goes on until Sunday, November 1st. The Mayor, just a few feet away from that door now. He has been waiting for nearly three hours since he got here this afternoon.

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