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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT PRAYER SERVICE  
FOR NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICERS**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Everybody, first, I want to give honor to God – without Him, this day would not be possible. And I also want to say, I'm going to do something that a lot of people who get elected to office don't do, which is and I'm going to keep it very brief, because I can see everyone's sweating here. I can see you've been standing there in the hot sun, I want to keep it brief for all of you in appreciation of all of you. I have been asked by Reverend Craig to come here, but he did not tell me I'd have to follow Reverend Williams.

[Laughter]

So I feel like I have not been given the whole truth, Reverend, but amazing, beautiful statement. Powerful statement. Thank you, Reverend. Reverend Craig, thank you for your leadership, everyone at Greater Springfield, everyone is here to honor our officers and to heal. And I want to thank my colleague Council Member Daneek Miller who's doing extraordinary work, who believes this is absolutely a man of peace who helps bring us together. I know I didn't see every elected official is here – I missed DJ Melinda Katz. I'm going use that title, DJ Melinda Katz, from now on. She's going to feel cooler with that one.

So, it's very simple. Thank you everyone in uniform. Thank you. It is very, very difficult work. It is often thankless work. You were called to this work. We're in a faith setting, so it's not wrong to use the word calling when we talk about policing. Over these last seven years, I've spent a lot of time with officers. I've heard their hearts, the reason they do this work, you could have done many other things in your life and yeah, Reverend Craig's right, in every profession, there may be some people that go on the wrong path, every profession that's true, but the vast, vast majority of the men and women of NYPD made this choice for a reason. They wanted to help people. It's as simple as that, they're willing to sacrifice.

One of the things Commissioner Shea always talks about is all the holidays you give up, the nights you give up, the family occasions you give up. So I see that, I want to tell you a lot of people see that. You don't always see the loudest voices saying that, but everyday people see that and we need to heal. And I need to just reflect for a very brief moment on the fact that it is Reverend Craig who gathers together, and as he said, he has been an activist for social justice. He has been an activist and a leader in the National Action Network. And yet it is he who has come forward first to say we have to heal. We have to heal. We have to find our way to each other. There are clearly some across the spectrum who are more interested in division than

healing, but the vast majority of people, everyday people want to heal and want to work with the NYPD.

So, everyone, it's as simple as this – the work you do, we need you. We rely on you. The people of this city know that you sacrifice, and they want you to succeed. The people of this city want to join with you and create a better way and that's what we can do together. This is one gathering, but I hope people feel the power of this gathering because this is actually what the vast majority want. So I'll conclude with a simple idea, a simple statement – thank you for what you do and God bless you for having chosen to serve others. And God bless the people of Southeast Queens. And God bless the City of New York.

Thank you.

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