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TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON 1010 WINS

Larry Mullins: And continuing our special coverage now. As we mentioned, Mayor Bill de Blasio is touring areas of New York tonight in his vehicle to get to look at the damage looters caused last night and what we can expect tonight with this new curfew. His Honor, Mayor de Blasio, joining us live on the 1010 WINS Hotline. Good evening, sir. And thank you for joining us.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I'm glad to be with you. And I really appreciate it a moment ago, listening to that story about the young man that was being a peacemaker there at that rally. We're actually seeing a number of situations where community leaders and, and even protestors themselves are setting a very peaceful tone unlike some of the folks who had done violence, there are good people out there too, trying to make things right.

Mullins: And that's a good thing to see it. Talk about making peace and talking about our leadership now, Mayor, let's get right to it. Governor Cuomo had some pretty tough things to say about your leadership, as well as the NYPD's leadership specifically, he called the response, disgusting. Your thoughts about that tonight. And I know that this is the first time that you're mentioning this here, your response to this, your thoughts –

Mayor: He can attack me all he wants. I'm used to it from him. I think he's wrong. And I don't think it's the way to get things done if we're trying to solve a problem. I try to really be respectful of the State's leadership through this pandemic, even sometimes when I disagree, but I just don't think that kind of approach gets anyone anywhere, but that's not the important point. The important point here is he dishonored the men and women of the NYPD in an absolutely inappropriate way for any leader [inaudible] any elected official, who blames the NYPD while they were out there fighting in the streets to restore order and protect people, I mean, that's disgraceful. And I just – I don't understand how anyone could do that. I think he owes –

Mullins: [Inaudible] –

Mayor: He owes an apology to 36,000 hard working men and women who have been putting their lives on the line for all of us.

Mullins: Now, let me clarify this, in our reporting today, the Governor's spokesman put out a statement saying something to the effect that he wanted to clarify that he wasn't referencing the 36,000 men and women of the NYPD, he says that they do a great job, that he was specifically criticizing you and the head of the NYPD. Does that change –

Mayor: You know, first of all, if someone says the NYPD, they refer to the entire organization. If he wanted to say Commissioner Shea, he's a big boy, he should have said, Commissioner Shea. So, let's not mince words and play games. Someone who's constantly trying to put the blame on other people, and this is what happens. And so, he said the NYPD, he has to own it. It was absolutely inappropriate.

Mullins: [Inaudible] –

Mayor: And if he's trying to say commissioner – even if he's now saying, oh, he's singling out Commissioner Dermot Shea, I say, that's dishonorable as well. The Commissioner has done an extraordinary job, in the NYPD for decades. He's leading the NYPD through one of its most difficult periods in its entire history, and he's doing it, I think, in an incredibly honorable, effective manner. Even if there's been some moments where we know we have to do some things differently, we have to do some things better. There hasn't been any loss of license in all of these demonstrations, thank God, and that's because of his leadership. I just think it's absolutely inappropriate.

Mullins: So, Mayor, let me ask you this and Al Jones, my colleague and I talked about this last night. Let me ask you why 11 o'clock of all times, instead of an earlier time, like seven or eight in the first place? how did we arrive at 11 o'clock for a start time on that curfew?

Mayor: The irony is, that was a conversation with the Governor yesterday morning – Dermot Shea, Governor Cuomo, and I – we agreed together. And you know, I just think it is important. We were struggling with the question that a curfew is a very imperfect instrument. We're concerned about the impact it would have well outside the areas where the problem was, which at that point really had been a very limited area of Manhattan essentially. We were talking it through as mature adults, came to the consensus that for the first time we were going to do something like this, we wanted a late hour because the real problems have been very late at night. And also, again, we had seen very limited problems previously. What happened last night was a very, very different reality of what we had seen before or expected. The minute we started to see that we said, okay, we're going to change this scenario. We're going to go to the earlier curfew. And today I made the decision to say that. And I think that's going to allow us now, now that we've understood a pattern – and honestly, we did not see this pattern Thursday, Friday, Saturday. We didn't see it until Sunday after 9:00 p.m. Now we understand the pattern. We know it's organized. We know what these people are doing, whether they're the anarchist, whether in some neighborhoods it's gang members or just plain old common criminals, we now have a real bead on what they're about. And now the curfew gives our officers much greater ability to contain the situation. And I can tell you being out here now, I was at 72nd and 5th Avenue, just a short time ago, a lot of protestors out, peaceful, but I've seen the streets increasingly clearing as we speak.

Mullins: Okay.

Mayor: Clearly people are getting the word, it's curfew, it's time to go home. And I want to say that to everyone, all New Yorkers, I gave you a lot of notice, time to go home now. For the protesters, time to go home. Everyone, time to go home so we can keep the city safe.

Mullins: So, Mayor, let's talk about this National Guard thing. The Governor says the State Police and the National Guard are on standby to come in and help keep the peace. Do we need them? I mean, we say curfew and yeah people are supposed to be heading home at this time but I think you and I both know there are some who are probably going to stick around. Are we going to need a National Guard presence?

Mayor: No, I'll tell you something. First of all, the NYPD tonight – first, let me start it again. I'll be very quick. There is no organization that is better at keeping people safe than the NYPD and this, the extraordinary ability of the NYPD is on full display tonight. We have more officers out than any of the last few days. We have a very specific strategic deployment built around the problems we've seen in the last 48 hours. Traffic is being shut down south of 96th Street in Manhattan. We've asked Uber, Lyft, Via to shut down their service because we saw people using them as part of looting. Citibank, bike – CitiBike is shutting down its service. There is a series of tactical moves that are being made to disrupt the pattern we saw in the last 48 hours. NYPD out in force. So, I'm very confident in the NYPD.

I can tell you, I have deep respect for the National Guard and the State Police, but they are not trained for the circumstance. They're not trained for the challenges that come with being in city neighborhoods, understanding how to de-escalate, how to handle really complex, difficult situations. You do not want heavily armed people who are not trained for the circumstance and not from here, because that could lead to an altercation, that could lead to a loss of life that would take the current crisis and make it much, much worse. I talked to elected officials all over the city today in communities of color, haven't heard a single one saying that they want the National Guard to come in and take that risk of violence happening by accident, that could poison the situation much, much worse.

Mullins: Well, what's in place tonight, the eight o'clock curfew and such, is there any way to predict how long these protests and demonstrations will go on? And how long is the City prepared to continue putting people, personnel, resources on the street to try to remedy things and keep things calm?

Mayor: Think you're going to see – we've seen this kind of pattern in the past. We really have. There were some very painful moments after the death of Eric Garner, painful moments after Officers Ramos and Liu were killed. There's been many moments in the city's history where, for days and days, it felt like we were in an endless pattern, but usually honestly it is a limited period of time. And this has been made worse by the coronavirus crisis. People have been cooped up. There's such deep frustration, all the disparities on display that are horrible, but this is the kind of thing that has its own lifespan. And I think, you know, with the curfew in effect for the rest of this week at 8:00 p.m., I think you're going to see this change and decrease. And, look, I'm very much focused on Monday. Monday is when we restart this city, phase one. A vast majority of people I've talked to, and they may care about these issues that are being discussed in the protest,

but they're tremendously focused on the restart and fighting the coronavirus and getting our lives more back to normal.

Mullins: Is this going to put a damper on that?

Mayor: I don't think so based on what I'm seeing now, I just talked to Commissioner Shea before I came on the line with you. We do see some peaceful protests but again I expect to see them winding down. We do not see the kind of activity, at least at this hour, the kind of activity we saw last night in any appreciable way. So, that could change. I'm going to constantly update New Yorkers of what I see. But no, I think we're in a position to turn this. It's not going to be overnight, necessarily, but over the next few days to turn this situation.

Mullins: Let's talk about phase one now. I know you sent a seven-point plan to the MTA today suggesting things – you know, what needs to happen starting Monday. Can you go into detail a little bit what that's –

Mayor: Absolutely. Yes, I think it's common sense stuff. I think every bus and subway should have markings on it showing where people should sit or stand and the total number of people that should be in that bus or – that subway car or that bus. There should be markings on subway platforms showing you exactly where to stand so everyone keeps distance. There should be free masks provided to anyone who needs it. We're willing to do that. The City is going to step up and do a million masks to begin. And we're going to participate actively in helping to make this happen. These are common sense things for New Yorkers to have confidence that if they go on a bus or subway they can know it is safe. They need to bring the service up to normal levels. They've got the personnel back. If they want there to be safety on the train in terms of coronavirus, there has to be very frequent service. So, the MTA has an opportunity and they did something very good when they went to the cleaning overnight. I supported that fully. I announced it with the Governor. And I want them to take the next step now and really make these subways feel safe, so everyone believes in them again. And that's going to help us back.

Mullins: Okay, Mayor, some final notes here – and I'm going to go there. A lot of people are drawing parallels between the death of George Floyd and Eric Garner saying, well, wait a minute is the Mayor really down with us or – I mean, considering, you've taken a lot of heat with people drawing the parallels. Can you share your thoughts on that?

Mayor: Yeah, I very comfortable saying based on what I know now, and based on what I experienced with the Justice Department, I made a mistake. I should not have said we would wait on the United State Department of Justice. They asked me to. This is of course during the Obama administration. The Department of Justice asked the City of New York and the NYPD to stand back, to not pursue charges, so they can do their own investigation. We believed they were going to act. They never acted. That was a mistake. I have to own that mistake. I hope we never have a situation like that again but if there were I would call for immediate charges, immediate action. If someone doesn't belong on the police force, we need to get them off the force and get them off the force fast. So, I learned a lesson. I want to acknowledge that lesson. I

on the vast majority of things. So, you know what? He and I have personal differences. We have philosophical differences, but that does not stop us from working together to get things done in a crisis. And in the end, you know what? I've seen cities and states around the country where the cities and states were totally on different pages. That's not the case here. We've been on the same page on the vast majority of things. Look, I thought we should do shelter in place sooner. He wasn't ready at first, but a few days later, he agreed to do it. I wanted to keep the schools closed. Once we closed them, at first, he didn't agree, but then he agreed to do it. I mean, there's been times where there's been differences, but they all get resolved.

Mullins: But Bill, the optics of it, while we watch this is taking place. You don't think that freaks people out sometimes to see the leadership [inaudible] –

Mayor: I don't think it's ideal. Wait a minute. I don't think it's ideal. I think we'd be much better if all [inaudible] I feel the same way about the president. I wish I was working with a president that I could have a high, high level of agreement with. I really wish I do, but I don't have that. And I got to work despite that situation. But with the Governor, no, I think the fact is that when there are so many areas where we've agreed during this crisis and our teams have worked together and we've made things happen, and then a few areas of disagreement, that's pretty normal. That's pretty human. So, I know people don't like it and I don't blame them, but in the end, we're getting a lot done. Notwithstanding this very inappropriate comment overwhelmingly or getting things done. And that's what matters.

Mullins: Mayor Bill de Blasio, thank you so much for joining us. You know you're always welcome here, Sir. Any time,

Mayor: Very kind of you. I appreciate it. And stay safe.

Mullins: We appreciate it and our best to your family.

Mayor: Thank you.

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