



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 29, 2018  
**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), (212) 788-2958

**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON THE BRIAN LEHRER SHOW**

**Brian Lehrer:** Mr. Mayor, welcome back to WNYC.

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you Brian.

**Lehrer:** I'd like to start with some politics this morning because of the stunning victory of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez over Joe Crowley in Tuesday's congressional primary in Queens and the Bronx. And as you certainly know she ran on both demographics and progressive issues. She was a Bernie Sanders organizer and Cynthia Nixon campaigned with her. She's from your wing of the party, I think you'd say. And I actually would like to clarify what your own position was during that race. The Washington Post said you had endorsed Joe Crowley, I also saw that in a North Carolina organization but it's frankly unclear to me. What position had you taken?

**Mayor:** No Brian, I think it's been quite clear. I've worked with Joe Crowley for years and I did support him and I think he did a lot of good for his district and for the city. But Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez I think is someone who absolutely comes from my wing of the party and I believe showed the entire Democratic Party two crucial things – one, to take bold, clear progressive positions, which is what I've tried to do here in the city. And two, to go to the grassroots and organize and it's exactly the model that Democrats need to utilize going forward. So you know I have a lot of respect for Joe Crowley and I do think he had done a lot of good, but you know, now that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez will be our nominee I'm going to do everything I can do to work with her and I think she is going to be a very important leader going forward.

**Lehrer:** Did you miss what was important in that race?

**Mayor:** I don't think so. I think that fact is that this reality is happening all over the country and you know a decision one makes on endorsement based on working with someone is one thing. But you are talking about the bigger issue what's going on in the party – I've been saying this for many years since my victory in 2013, the party is moving in a more progressive direction. It has to both morally and if it expects to win going forward. Democrats are not going to win if we don't show everyday people and working people that we are on their side. And I think what Alexandria did is a great example of that. I think what Bernie Sanders did is a great example of

that. I think a lot of us in cities all around the country are doing our own versions of that but this is the shape of things to come. I have no doubt about it.

**Lehrer:** When you said endorsed on the basis of working with someone, what is that? Is that an establishment arrangement or, what would you call that?

**Mayor:** No I think if, in the case of Joe Crowley, I saw him defend New York City's interests very effectively and that's important obviously to me and my job and I believe fundamentally that had he continued rise up in the leadership in the House, that it would have been important for New York City. And I have to factor that in, that's very crucial to the equation but that said, when it comes to again the ideological direction that the party is going in and the approach to the grassroots, again Ms. Ocasio-Cortez had an extraordinary sense of how to communicate to everyday people and build – I'm comfortable with the fact even if I had a relationship with someone else and believe that they had done good work, that what she represents is the future of the party.

**Lehrer:** Crowley as Queens Democratic Party Chair was a kingmaker in certain respects and with him now weakened, different dominos are beginning to fall because you know his influence is weaker. Crowley was with the Governor, but now Queens Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer has endorsed Nixon. Crowley had also made the coalition that got Corey Johnson elected Speaker possible in City Council. So two questions – do you have faith in Corey Johnson to continue as Speaker and are you ready to endorse in the gubernatorial primary?

**Mayor:** I'm not ready to make any announcements on endorsements for the 2018 elections in the state. There's plenty of time until the primary and I certainly will make my views known well in advance. I have a lot of faith in Corey Johnson. I've worked very, very well with him. We've gotten a lot done in the last six months and I'm very proud of what we did in the budget. The Fare Fairs and the additional funding for schools under Fare Student Funding and a whole host of things, additional Pre-K and 3-K seats, a whole host of things that are progressive and are going to help people all over the city and I think he's doing a great job.

**Lehrer:** What's your ambivalence about in the governor's race? Why you might not endorse Cynthia Nixon?

**Mayor:** Again, when it's time to talk about it I will. What I've said is no one should be surprised that we are seeing strong primaries in this state and all over the country. Because again, this is a bigger upheaval happening in the Democratic Party and I think it's healthy. I think it will ultimately lead to stronger, more progressive Democratic Party that reconnects with working people of all backgrounds. You know Brian, I don't buy into the dichotomy that some peddle that the party has to choose between people of color and women and younger color, versus older white working class voters. I don't buy that I think a progressive, economic, progressive populous party can appeal across the spectrum and can win again like it did for decades and decades in all sorts of states. And that's why I think this primary process is very healthy. But I will weigh in when I've made all of my decisions.

**Lehrer:** Should Joe Crowley resign in your opinion as Queens Democratic Party Chair?

**Mayor:** I'm not going to offer a view on what he should do. He has to make sense of this himself. He's just obviously suffered a huge loss and he'll need to take his time to make sense of that. I do think what's going to happen across the party is that grassroots activists who are increasingly where the energy and the impact is are going to demand that our party structures include everyone and are more transparent and more open. This is one of the things we've seen. We saw it happen in 1972 and we are seeing it happen again. And I think all of the party structures are going to have to take into account that if they don't invite in the Bernie Sanders wing of the party, the grassroots activists, all the women who are running this year and are demanding change – if those folks are not invited in willingly they will simply take over the party. And that's what I've been seeing around a lot of parts of the country, the progressive wing, the activist wing is simply taking over the apparatus if they are not given a fair shake.

**Lehrer:** One of Ocasio-Cortez's positions is to abolish ICE. We will be doing our next segment on that at 10:30. Would you like to join the call to abolish ICE or have you already?

**Mayor:** Well, this is what I think – every country needs some kind of sensible, transparent, immigration regulation. There's no question about that. You need some kind of agency to deal with immigration. But ICE is not that, ICE has proven that it can't be that. ICE's time has come and gone. It is broken. ICE has been sent on a very negative, devise mission and it cannot function in the way it is. So I think that Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is right. We should abolish ICE. We should create something better, something different. But in the way it is developed it has become a punitive, negative tool for division and it is no longer acceptable.

**Lehrer:** Last thing on this – Mitt Romney referred to Ocasio-Cortez's win, reportedly though not to her by name, after his own primary victory for the Senate from Utah the same night. According to the press reports he told donors, that Donald Trump will be reelected president in 2020, partly because people like her will take over the national party, get a democratic presidential nominee who's from that wing of the party and they will be unacceptable. Do you have a reaction to that?

**Mayor:** I think he's 100 percent wrong. I think the progressive wing of the party is also the wing of the party that will win general elections. We saw the energy that Bernie sanders created all over the country and I think that had he been in the general election we would have seen a very different outcome. We would have seen him appeal both to a lot of the voters that staid home, again those younger voters, more progressive voters, voters of color, a lot of people who stayed home. But also to a lot of white working class voters who felt like the system wasn't working for them either. I think populist candidates, progressive – when I say populist I want no mistake here, I don't mean the divisive, negative version that we are seeing tragically in Europe. I mean populous in the sense of on the side of the people, addressing the needs of the people in a fourth right, bold manor, a progressive platform of economic change, taxing the wealthy at a higher level, making them pay their fair share, raising wages and benefits, providing folks with things like Pre-K For All. These are the kinds of things that will actually move working people across the spectrum to join the Democratic Party and support our candidate. That kind of candidate unquestionably can win in 2020. A go along, get along, corporate backed moderate Democrat is the kind of person that can lose in 2020.

**Lehrer:** You supported Clinton in the primaries in 2016. Are you now saying that Bernie Sanders would have the better chance at victory?

**Mayor:** Well look we saw the result and I did support Hillary Clinton and I had the greatest respect for her and what she achieved over many years for this country. But we saw the result for a fact. And if I think we will never get to know what would have happened in the theoretical of Bernie Sanders running. But we can safely say that Bernie Sanders would have been able to appeal to some of the constituencies that either staid home or ended up going to Trump. That to me is a matter of fact.

**Lehrer:** Lena in Washington Heights you are on WNYC with the Mayor. Hello Lena.

**Question:** Hi, good morning Mr. Mayor. Thank you for taking my call.

**Mayor:** Good morning.

**Question:** I am a community activist, a member of the Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association. We went down to City Hall and handed one of your staff members a thousand petitions on April 12<sup>th</sup> of this year. Our petition was to request that the safety city located on 158<sup>th</sup> street between Riverside Drive and the Henry Hudson Parkway, that is now owned by the Department of Transportation be transferred to HPD and later transferred to a community land trust – which would be 100 percent affordable housing to the people in the community of Washington Heights. We need low-income housing in Northern Manhattan permanently affordable to our low income community – Northern Manhattan is being targeted for development by private real estate as we see the crisis of the affordable housing and we are in dire need of that lot.

**Mayor:** Lena, I appreciate you telling me about this. I always try and be straight forward on this show, if I know the specifics of something or I don't, I'm not familiar with that location but I appreciate if you brought down those petition signatures we got to get you answer. Please give your information to WNYC so we can back to you on that. The bottom line is we believe in a very aggressive approach to creating affordable housing and preserving it. Our plan is 300,000 apartments and 60 percent of that and a lot of people who don't know this I keep emphasizing this – 60 percent of that is preserving apartments in place, subsidizing families to stay in the apartments they are in and neighborhoods, including a lot of gentrifying neighborhoods for the long term at affordable rates, at 30 percent of income as their rent level. In addition to much more intensified anti-eviction efforts and efforts to keep rents low and rent stabilized housing. We again had the Rent Guidelines Board make a decision on rent levels and keep them low, historic low levels compared to anything we see in the past. So my view is we need to fire on every cylinder to protect affordable housing and to keep New York City a place for everyone but I will get back to you for sure. My team will get back to you with an answer on this site.

**Lehrer:** And Lena we will take your contact information here. And here's another real estate question I think from another borough, Nick in Queens you're on WNYC with the Mayor, hello Nick.

**Question:** Yes, hi there. Thanks so much and good morning. And Mr. de Blasio, thank you so much for being available like this on Fridays. I wanted to share with you why I voted against Joe Crowley on Tuesday. And the reason had to do with how much money Joe Crowley received from REBNY. I think REBNY, is doing a real disservice not just in local politics but state wide. And I think REBNY is as dangerous to our democracy and our wellbeing as the NRA is on a national level. I can give you a personal example of when I opened a small business in West Harlem and I had, I found very dangerous violations on my elevator, on the electrical wiring and on the boiler. I contacted my local representative, Mark Levine, Robert Carnegie, Gale Brewer, Tish James and told them about the situation. My bottom line answer was that because it was a commercial building, HPD and other government agencies don't move in to do material fixes. If it was a residential building it would have been fixed but because it was commercial the City stays laissez-faire so to speak. I think [inaudible] I can't help but believe it has something to do with how much influence REBNY has placed on local and state politicians. And so when I heard that Alexandria was running without big interest money from REBNY I went straight to the polls and was very –

**Lehrer:** And obviously Nick's phone is cutting in and out but I think you get the question about the Real Estate Board of New York, REBNY.

**Mayor:** Yes, Nick, a couple things. I can safely say that REBNY has never supported me in anything I've ever done politically and I've often tangoed with them but the bottom line is that one – we have to the corporate money out of politics. And one of the things we're going to do in this city is we're going to present to the people in November a ballot initiative for public financing of elections to take our already very progressively public finance system for elections and build upon it even more deeply to get big money out of politics.

The way we help tenants – and its' very aggressive is to go in, you're right, if there's a problem, if landlords are treating their tenants poorly or harassing them, not providing services we go in and we really apply major penalties and if we have to, go in and fix the problem.

I think the reality in the commercial situation is different obviously because it does not involved people's living place. But I do want you to leave your information with WNYC because if it's a situation where we can come in and help in any way, I want to make sure we're doing that.

And the last thing I want to say is that we have an opportunity next year to confront the power that is amassed in the real estate industry and work for fundamental change in affordable housing. Rent regulation is up for grabs next year in Albany in the spring and we have a chance to finally strengthen rent regulation, rent stabilization, rent control and really protect affordable housing for the long haul. And we may have a Democratic State Senate to do it with which would be a sea change.

Obviously it's been a – for some perverse – well I know why because of unfair redistricting and a lot of other deals made including by Democrats unfortunately – we've had a Republican Senate for pretty much the last 50 years.

But I believe we'll have a Democratic Senate in November. It'll be the first time in a long time to go and protect residents and protect tenants with really powerful new laws to preserve long-term affordable housing.

So, that – I want to start getting people's attention on it now and by the way that should be an election issue this year. Anyone running for statewide office should be asked the question, are you ready to build upon our rent regulations, strengthen them, make sure we stop losing apartments out of rent regulation, and take on the real estate industry to do it?

That's what's going to be needed in Albany next year.

**Lehrer:** One other real estate question. I want to ask you about a new piece of reporting by WNYC and Gothamist. It's about Gramercy Park in Manhattan which is actually a private park closed to the public. Under a 110-year-old court decision, the residents around the park were allowed to have this private access because it would increase their property values and therefore their property taxes and the City could get more tax revenue to use for the overall public good. But now property values seem to have maybe evened out in the area with or without park access and the Department of Finance couldn't tell us if they're collecting the amount of property taxes one would expect for having this high-end amenity.

My question for you is, should the City revisit this 110-year-old court decision and if the owners of Gramercy Park aren't paying extra taxes for the access indirectly, should the park be open to the public?

**Mayor:** That's a great question. I am – I have not seen the report – the reporting on this and I'm not familiar with the details but I think this is a very legitimate question. We're, right now, in the middle of attempting a major reform, a major overhaul of our property tax system because it clearly is inconsistent and lacks transparency particularly between different geographical areas of the city. So with the City Council, we've named a commission to propose an overhaul of the property tax system that then would have to voted on ultimately in Albany and in some pieces in the City Council.

So, it's a good time to look at the question of Gramercy Park as well. The bottom line is we can safely say that people in that neighborhood are doing very well and the park access is a very unusual situation in this city and it should be reassessed. It's 2018 – if it's based on a 100-plus-year law, of course we should reassess it and make sure equity is governing our decisions and not a broken tradition.

**Lehrer:** Carlos in the Bronx, you're on WNYC with the Mayor. Hi, Carlos,

**Mayor:** Hi, good morning. Thanks for taking my call. Mr. Mayor, my question is – first, I'll explain. I'm noticing that the population of people hanging out in the streets late at night – and I'm talking about past 10:00 pm – it seems like they're getting younger and younger and it seems like 15, 14, 16-year-olds are in the streets 11:00 pm or 12:00 am. They have no business really being out in the street with their peers and unaccompanied by their guardian or adult.

Without violating anyone's rights, would it be possible to explore the option of creating a curfew for youngsters who are out in the streets. It seems like people are not able to control their children and it would be a good idea to possibly have them spend more time at home. But parents need assistance from the police or even the government.

My other question is – Junior, who was the unfortunate teenager who was slain about a week ago – he was a huge Yankee fan. The people who carried his casket out of his wake were wearing Yankees jerseys. As a way of bringing awareness of gang violence, would it be possible to communicate with the Yankees and have them give Junior a moment of silence in their next home game or one of their upcoming home games?

**Lehrer:** Carlos, thank you.

**Mayor:** Carlos, I think that's a great idea and I'll make sure that my team communicates with the Yankees organization today. I think that would be very appropriate. This young man, Junior, was just, from everything I've heard, an exemplary young man. I spoke to his mom in some detail about him and everything he was hoping to do and everything he's hoping to achieve, and saw the family at the wake. And I got to tell you, the fact that this young man wanted to be a police officer, he was involved in the NYPD Explorers Program – and it's just a horrible, horrible tragedy.

And of course, the NYPD has done an outstanding job of finding, as far as I can tell, essentially everyone who was involved in this heinous attack and they will be brought to justice. They will serve a lot of time for what they have done.

But Junior needs to be remembered in a lot of ways. The NYPD has just announced a scholarship fund in his name for members of the Explorers, which I think is fantastic. But we will definitely reach out to the Yankees, I think that's a great idea as well and honor his family at one of those games. Hopefully, that's up to them, but I hope they will do that.

On your first question, I'm not comfortable in the current reality with the idea of a curfew. I agree that parents and family members need to step up and their kids, especially younger kids, should not be out late at night. I'm a parent. I understand the responsibilities parents have.

We need to – people need to talk to each other about this and step and really provide the right examples to their kids and the right guidance and leadership to their kids. If you see situations like that that you think might create a danger, especially to the younger kids, call the NYPD. This is part of what neighborhood policing allows us to do, I think, better than ever before – is have officers who are deeply connected to the community and that means officers who can do something. It used to happen in the old days and it's good to bring it back in a modern version.

Go to the families and talk to the families about why is your young child out on the street and push the families to take responsibility. That's, to me, a better solution and neighborhood policing allows us to have that kind of dialogue. So, Carlos, thank you for what you've raised but I do think if you see situations like that, let's get the NYPD involved to have those conversations with the family.

**Lehrer:** This particular murder has brought into public view that the murder rate is up in the city by a little, citywide but double in that section of the Bronx, the 48th Precinct section – Belmont section. Do we have a rising gang issue in New York City or a rising murder issue that you're going to need to deal with in a different way than it's been getting dealt with?

**Mayor:** I watch this literally every single day and certainly Commissioner O'Neill and the leadership of the NYPD – this is a daily conversation. We get the statistics sent to us and we're constantly monitoring.

I think the reality in New York City is that the NYPD is doing an extraordinary job. We're at the lowest level of crime we've have since the 1950s. That remains true. Now, as of last night, there were 11 more homicides this year than last year. That worries me for sure. I'm paying attention to that. But we still are at what would be a, I think, 50-year low in homicides if this pattern continues for this year.

So, I don't think we have any kind of fundamental change on the ground. I take the gang issue very seriously. It's been an issue for years. This is not an uptick suddenly, Brian. What, originally I understood from Commissioner Bratton and I know how deeply Commissioner O'Neill feels this as well, is that it's really a few thousand people – stunning, it's fewer than 5,000 people in a city of 8.6 million that are committing most of the violent crime and a lot of them are associated with gangs.

You've seen a number of gang takedowns in the last couple of years which are really going to the root cause, taking large numbers of gang members out of circulation long term by putting together the evidence that will allow for an effective prosecution and taking them and a lot of guns off the streets.

The NYPD is doing an incredible job at that. It takes hard work to get to that point. Sometimes it can take months or even years to put together the kind of prosecution that will take a lot of people out of circulation long term. But they continue to do that.

So, in that particular neighborhood, we're going to double down and we'll certainly make sure that all the officers needed to focus on that neighborhood are there but I think the overall trends still show crime continues to go down overall in New York City and neighborhood policing plus a precision approach to focusing on areas of real concern is working.

**Lehrer:** Some City Council members are calling for the bodega where the attack on Lesandro Guzman-Feliz occurred to be shut down or have its liquor license revoked because the owner seemed to be brushing off the boy as he pleaded for help with his wounds, and now a video has emerged of two police officers not trying to physically help him as he lay bleeding and dying outside St. Barnabas Hospital trying to struggle his way to the emergency room. What's the right action to take in response to either of these things?

**Mayor:** First of all, let's be really clear. Anybody who sees someone in distress needs to help them. I don't know what the bodega owners did. I don't want to pass judgement without having



all the facts. If they did not help him, you know, we will certainly look at every possible measure we can take.

But I think we have to do a full investigation to determine what happened. On the police officers, I do not have the impression that they didn't try and help. I have the impression that a number of people were helping simultaneously but again there will be a full investigation there and obviously every public safety officer is obligated to help someone in a moment of distress. But I don't want to rush to judgement on that. I think there are some other facts we need to look at and do a full investigation.

The bottom line is this is horrible what happened to this young man and he would have been, from everything we know, an exemplary leader in this city had he lived. But I want to make sure before we pass judgement that there's a really careful look at the facts.

**Lehrer:** Sandra in Brooklyn, you're on WNYC with the Mayor. Hi, Sandra.

**Mayor:** Hi, Mr. Mayor. How are you? Thank you so much for taking my call. I am a [inaudible] calling about the motorcycle only checkpoints. We know that on May 11th, you made an announcement about motorcycle safety. In June, there were 30 motorcycle-only checkpoints. Countless bikes are being towed infractions as small as expired inspection sticker. So, we really need some support here. This is harassment at this point. People are being given tickets by just opening their mouth [inaudible] minor infraction that an automobile would not receive. So, we really need your help on this. Can we work with you to get – we have organizations such as the New York Motorcycles Safety Task Force, the AMA is involved with this, we've contacted as many politicians as we can to get help with this harassment. People are scared to ride their motorcycles.

**Mayor:** Sandra, thank you for the call. I want to make sure I'm – first of all, hearing your concern, I want to make sure that we're looking at it seriously and listening to concerns. So, I want the key person who has been a leader of a lot of our safety efforts at NYPD when it comes to traffic – Chief Tom Chan. I'm going to ask him to talk to you directly.

But I want to emphasize because I try and tell people what I really feel even if they like it or not, under Vision Zero which is all about reducing traffic fatalities and injuries, we've had checkpoints for all sorts of vehicles, for cars, for motorcycles, for bicycles, any place where we think there might be a danger to pedestrians.

And a lot of times we find, unfortunately, many people doing the wrong thing – going through red lights, speeding. I'm talking about all types of transportation going through red lights and speeding and driving recklessly and texting while driving and all the things that put people's lives in danger.

I've said very clearly I not only want the current level of NYPD enforcement, I want even more enforcement because Vision Zero is working and we're saving lives and we want to save a lot more.

So, do not expect us to reduce enforcement. And I'm not an expert but I think an expired inspection is a big deal and is not something that should be ignored. But I do hear your concern that we have to make sure that whatever we do is fair. I want us to listen to what you're saying and take it into account but I also want to be straightforward with you that Vision Zero does demand aggressive enforcement and that's going to continue.

**Lehrer:** Different kind of transportation question – do you have a position on Governor Cuomo and the Port Authority's AirTrain from LaGuardia to the Willet's Point 7 train and Long Island Rail Road station. Its projected price tag has gone way up and critics are calling it a boondoggle that's actually less convenient than simply providing good bus service between the airport and Manhattan. What's your position?

**Mayor:** My position is that we need more and better options to get to LaGuardia. I think we should be concerned in any case, in anything the government goes, any government does about making sure the price is kept in line and that it's worthwhile.

And obviously, my central concern is not with the Port Authority. My central concern is with the MTA on things like East Side access which is – just went up another billion dollars and has been incessantly delayed. So, I think it's good to be – to look carefully at every project, to make sure that the budget's worth it, to make sure it's regulated and carefully watched.

But on the central motivation, yeah, we absolutely need additional ways for people to get to LaGuardia so I'm comfortable that this is something that would contribute.

**Lehrer:** And before you go, a number of City Hall reporters are tweeting in response to your answer to the anti-REBNY caller that you say we need to get real estate out of politics but – or big money out of politics – and you never took anything from REBY but you did set up a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that accepted tens of thousands of dollars in donations –

**Mayor:** Brian, I never said – please, I want to be very careful. I remember what I said 15 minutes ago. I never said I didn't accept a donation from anyone in real estate. I want to be very honest about it. It's all public domain. It's all – everything I ever accepted has been publicly disclosed. I said I want to get big money out of the political system in this city and go to a public financing system so people will not have to take larger donations from anyone.

So, this is the kind of reform I think we need. The system that I ran under required if you were going to ever reach the goals that you would have to go and find some larger donations. But I want to have a system where people don't have to seek larger donations anymore.

**Lehrer:** And last thing, it looks like Catholic Charities held a news conference saying that they've been in touch with every single child, if I understand it correctly, separated from their parents at the southern border and brought to New York – 300-something kids. What's your update on children taken from their parents at the border who are being housed in New York? Were you able to ever get an accurate count of how many and who are still here and how many have been reunited with their parents?

**Mayor:** The – we still are not getting answers from the federal government. I have asked repeatedly. I have sent a letter to the HHS Secretary a week ago, still no formal response. The best estimate we have which is from a few days ago is about 300 kids in New York City between the three organizations, Cayuga Center, Catholic Charities, and Lutheran Social Services.

And no plan to reunite kids with their parents. I don't know of any major change that's happened this week. I certainly no of no forward motion that's been announced. So, I think we all have to keep pressure on to make sure these kids are reunited. We're trying to get legal help not only to the kids but to their parents even if the kids are 2,000 miles away. We're trying to work with local legal services folks in Texas to get the parents lawyers as well so we can facilitate the reunification.

And one other thing, Brian, New Yorkers have been, as usual, compassionate and generous. A lot of people have come forward offering to help these kids and these organizations that are providing them support. I want to encourage people to do that. You can call 3-1-1 to donate to them and we also know that they do need additional foster parents. So, anyone who is interested in that can also call 3-1-1.

But the tragedy here is to this hour there is still no plan from the Trump administration to actually get these kids back to their parents.

**Lehrer:** Mr. Mayor, thanks as always. Talk to you next week.

**Mayor:** Actually not next week, in a couple weeks. I'm away next week and then I think you're away the week after.

**Lehrer:** Oh, you're right, I'm away the next two Fridays. So, I'll talk to you in a few weeks. If you're – are you going on vacation?

**Mayor:** I'm going on vacation with my family – all four of us which is a rare and wonderful thing. So, I'm really looking forward to it.

**Lehrer:** Even mayors of New York City deserve summer vacation. So, have a wonderful time and I'll talk to you later in July.

**Mayor:** God bless you, Brian.

###