

# Transcript: Mayor Eric Adams Announces Unprecedented Investments for Unsheltered New Yorkers

April 24, 2022

**Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom:** Good morning. I am Anne Williams-Isom. I'm the deputy mayor for health and human services. I hope my pastor is not watching this because I'm supposed to be in church, but clearly the Lord was with me this morning because I got here five minutes before time with all this traffic.

**Crowd:** Amen.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** Thank you for the amen. I am here this morning with the mayor, the chief housing officer, Jessica Katz, Commissioner Gary Jenkins, Shams DaBaron, and our elected official brother and sisters for this very important announcement this morning, to talk about some additional supports that we are doing for people, so that they can be on their journey and on their way to permanent housing. This administration has made significant investments in this issue proving, and Mayor Adam says it to us all the time, this is one of his priorities and something that's very important to him. So with that, I hand it over to Mayor Adams. Thank you.

**Mayor Eric Adams:** Thank you. Thank you so much, deputy mayor and to my colleagues in government who have joined me today. Clearly, an issue that's important to all of us, we hear it all the time, about housing. Those who are our brothers and sisters who have fallen on hard times. The other night, I think it was Thursday night, while out, must have been about 1:30 in the morning, while out looking at our subways on Flatbush and Dekalb Avenue, there was an encampment where a woman was living and I got out the car and sat down next to her, engaged in a conversation.

**Mayor Adams:** And it was clear that she needed real mental health support and she did not want to be there, she didn't trust in the system. She stated that, to have the mayor of

the city of New York sit down and talk with her, to show real concern, it was important that we at least engage her in a real way and let her know what her options were.

**Mayor Adams:** And she is symbolic of what I see all the time as I move around the city and stop and talk with those who are living on the streets. And oftentimes if you don't speak one on one with them on the ground, you're not going to resolve this on the ground. You can't resolve it just by being here in the sterilized environment of City Hall and think that's the answer. No, it's not. That is why I am talking to those who are homeless at two, three in the morning. That's why we do the end of the line program.

**Mayor Adams:** When you look at the numbers that first week, I believe we only had 22 people we talked to go into shelter, but after building trust, we are now up to 700 people. 700 people we were walking by every day in our city, took us up on the offer of looking at the brochures that we were showing them, showing what the shelter system is looking like, having Gary out there, seeing him out there, two, three in the morning, talking to people, being at the end of the line of five, 6:00 AM in the morning on the ground, talking to people, trying to resolve this issue.

**Mayor Adams:** So, it's easy to sit back and say, "there's some miracle that's going to change this." No, this is consistent hard work. And we are willing to do it. We're willing to roll up our sleeves and get this done. And we're asking everyone to join us. In a few weeks, we are going to be announcing an initiative with Norman Siegel that's going to involve hundreds of volunteers. We are going to meet people where they are and we're going to build trust.

**Mayor Adams:** You can't do this without trust. It can't happen. And that is what we're doing. That's why we went from 22 to 700 people. That number should resonate. Those who said we couldn't do it, it's not possible, we're proving them wrong every day and we continue to use the term that has become connected to our administration. Historic. What we are announcing today is the largest investment and the city's history and support of vulnerable New York is experiencing homelessness on our streets in the subway.

**Mayor Adams:** The largest investment in the city's history. We say that over and over again, over and over again. And for some reason that historic part never makes it into the story. But we are going to continue to do it. \$171 million a year, beginning the fiscal

year, 2023. Now this is not a one and done. This is the baseline that every year this is going to happen.

**Mayor Adams:** The funding will include expanding outreach efforts and connect those in need to specialized resources. We didn't discover this on our own, we spoke to the advocates, we spoke with Shams, we spoke with those... We had a meeting last week, first time where homeless and formerly homeless people, sat down with our chief housing officer to give us the ideas as we continue to expand on what we are attempted to accomplish.

**Mayor Adams:** This funding will help expand these efforts, including safe havens, stabilization beds, and drop off centers. The things that people have stated constantly, "these are the things you need to do." So, now here's the partnership. Every elected official, every advocate that states, "we want these types of beds." We're saying to them, "join us, join us." We're not going to over saturate one community with the beds that we're looking for because we have done that historically. We're not going to do that.

**Mayor Adams:** This is New York City's problem. So, New York City must ensure that this is happening correctly. And so, we are making sure that we have safe spaces for New Yorkers to live, to heal, to heal and to be cared for. The investment will help fund 1,400 non low-barrier haven and stabilization beds bringing the total up to 4,000. Now, previous administration talked about these beds. We are funding these beds, which is a big difference.

**Mayor Adams:** There's a difference between articulating on the needs of people and then allocating the money to give the items that are needed for people, and that's what we are doing. 4,000 beds, and this is how we help people get second chances. And we know what happened during the pandemic. People were traumatized. They lost their jobs. They're dealing with mental health illnesses and issues.

**Mayor Adams:** We need to create a wellness embrace city, where we embrace the totality of wellness for all New Yorkers, and that is what we're going to do. The pandemic aggravated these mental health issues, the medical issues. That woman that I communicated with last week should not wait until her chronic disease reaches a crisis moment to fill our emergency rooms. We need to be there for her prior to that, to give her the wraparound services she deserves. And for too long, we have not done that.

Government has abandoned them and we know it's wrong to do so, and we are going to move it in the right direction.

**Mayor Adams:** We're not abandoning our homelessness, our homeless family members and loved ones. And we are proud of these historic allocations of resources stating that we are going to show our support for those who are in need. And I want to thank my colleagues who are here because they have been advocating for this for so long. Gale Brewer during my days, and we were ball presidents together, she talked about this, Julie Menin and how she has leaned into, Council Member Ayala and how she has leaned into this.

**Mayor Adams:** These are our partners and we're proud to have them here today. I heard you, we are allocating the dollars to get this done correctly. And this is only the beginning. There's so much more we are going to do. And consistently do. We are not going to just leave people living in the state that they have been living in for so long. It's imperative for us to take action. We're taking action and we are allocating the resources with it as well. I thank you so much. Deputy Mayor William-Isom, and trust me when I tell you your pastor is saying amen right now.

**Crowd:** Amen. Amen. Amen.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** Ooh, that's a good one. All right. Now I'd like to bring up my sister, Jessica Katz, our chief housing officer.

**Jessica Katz, Chief Housing Officer:** Thank you Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom, and thank you Mayor Adams for your commitment to new and better solutions for our housing needs. This is a critical investment that will get us closer to the end goal, permanent housing. All too often, we talk about homelessness and our housing issues as though they are separate. I want to be clear that homelessness is a housing issue, which is why I am here today.

**Katz:** We cannot solve the homelessness crisis if we do not have places where people are safe and supported. If someone wants help but is struggling with addiction or mental health issues, we need to make it easier to get services, not harder. For too long, we've required people to jump through hoop after hoop, which often means that those who need the support the most fall through the gaps today's announcement is the type of progress we need to stop this.

**Katz:** I want to thank the elected officials who are here today, sincerely. The ones who are here and many others across the city who understand it to their core, that the New Yorkers who are experiencing homelessness are just as much their constituents as anyone else, and who are standing by us here today.

**Katz:** I also want to thank those with us today who have experienced homelessness for coming and sharing your stories. You know better than anyone what the issues are and how we can do better. And I'm so grateful for your partnership because having those who have faced homelessness at the table means we aren't talking about the people we need to serve, but having a conversation with them. This will only make us better prepared to help New Yorkers who are still facing this crisis. Mr. Mayor, thank you again for your commitment to this issue. This is a truly important moment. Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** For many of us in this administration, this is not just a job. For many of us, this is our life's work. With that, I'd like to bring up someone who this is his life of work and who takes this issue in particular, very seriously. The commissioner for the department of social services, Mr. Gary Jenkins.

**Commissioner Gary Jenkins, Department of Social Services:** Thank you deputy mayor. Thank you Mr. Mayor for your vision and your leadership. As stated, I'm Commissioner Gary Jenkins from the department of social services and it is so wonderful to be here today. Today is a good day because today we get to announce the largest investment made by any administration to street outreach and targeted low-barrier programs. This investment is going to help support some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers experiencing homelessness on the streets and subways and will provide them necessary shelter and services.

**Commissioner Jenkins:** Having personally spent time growing up in our shelter system, I know how critical it is that we invest in our bed capacity so that we can assure New Yorkers that there is a warm place to rest their head if they are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. And I am so excited to bring these resources to our five boroughs.

**Commissioner Jenkins:** Today, we get to help our most vulnerable New Yorkers. Today, We are coming together as a community and today, we are delivering an investment in their future, our future. My agency is on hand to help in any capacity to ensure that all New Yorkers are being assisted and supported, and I want to take the

opportunity to thank all of the elected officials, especially the ones here today. I'm looking forward to working with you and being a partner as we address homelessness in New York City. Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** As the mayor said last week, we had a meeting with a group of people who had lived the experience. Shams DaBaron was one of those people, and all of us in the administration stood to the side and the peak folks were at the table. It was a profound moment. It was a beautiful moment, but it was also a moment where I think we all learned, everyone looked different.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** It was men, it was women. It was young people. They were black, they were white, they were Latinos. And so, we really have learned so much and are so appreciative of Shams DaBaron for continuing to teach us, because Lord knows, we need to learn a lot. But thank you so much for being here with us today, Shams, and for your partnership.

**Shams DaBaron:** Yeah. I'm not that tall. Okay. Now I lost a- teeth so we're working it out. So, let me say this, first of all, for my brothers and sisters that have experienced homelessness, are experiencing homelessness, I do want to say that it's such an honor that, it's beyond an honor, the fact that this administration has given us what the mayor promised when he was a candidate, a seat at the table. And this ain't for photo ops or nothing like that, this is real. Homeless New Yorkers from different parts of the city came to City Hall and really contributed to what will become the housing plan for this administration, and that's historic. That's never happened, ever. And so, we need to embrace that moment in history. We need to understand our power. Not too long ago, I was on a park bench, not too long ago, I was riding on subways.

**DaBaron:** And to be able to stand with an administration that's committed to homelessness and we are not even what, four months in. We're not even four months in and people were asking, "what is he going to do?" Not even four months in and what we got? A 171 million? Not for what you think, but for what the people ask for.

**DaBaron:** You got to embrace that. Pardon me, I know I got time. So, I want to say greetings to everybody. What a joyful day this is. I'm proud to be here with my mayor. I mean our mayor, the deputy mayor, Anne Williams-Isom, commissioner, Gary Jenkins, and the chief housing officer, Jessica Katz, my city council people, my brother, Eddie Gibbs, Eddie grew up with me so that's good buddy back there.

**DaBaron:** And my name is Shams DaBaron. I grew up in foster care since the age of two. At the age of 10, I started experiencing homelessness and at 12 I was discharged permanently into the streets. My story ain't all gloom and doom, for I was an academic star and a pioneer of hip hop. But the experience of being homeless has a constant factor in my life. I was that person that you see in the street and subway. I had nowhere to go. I did seek help, but help for me was hard to find. And I saw myself descend further into a place of disconnect.

**DaBaron:** I felt the so-called system had failed me in their duty to protect and care for me as a child. And it created problems for me. As I grew up into adulthood, I grew to distrust the system like so many of my peers do. Yet today I'm proud to say, it ain't going to be like that no more. Not for me and not for my brothers and sisters who are living in the streets. I said this before, and I'll say it again, I'm not fighting for my brothers and sisters to be in the streets, to be on the subways or to be in encampments. I'm fighting for them to be treated with dignity, respect, care, and compassion.

**DaBaron:** I'm fighting to get them housed. But on that journey to housing, they'll have a better option than those congregate settings. I'm being nice today. They'll engage with trusted people and be provided safe haven and stabilization beds, with medical and mental health services. I'm here with the mayor and as administration applauding this historic funding, which brings the total number of these important beds and resources to over 4,000. That is a huge investment. That means more people will be on the path to stability. And what I didn't know, brother mayor, is that this is every year.

**Crowd:** It's right, brother.

**DaBaron:** Oh, now we're talking, now we are talking. We need the support of all levels of government, from the federal state and the city, right. We need that city council too. We got hotels. We got to get them. We got to change some of these zoning laws. We got to work with the state, the state changed some of these things. And our neighbors and residents and throughout the city, you have to understand, being homeless doesn't make you a criminal.

**Crowd:** That's right.

**Commissioner Jenkins:** We are human beings, and if we are giving the proper access to services, then we can thrive in any community. I'm a testament to that. So, I want to

say that we are in crisis right now. Let's be clear, this is a crisis. I give our mayor props for addressing this crisis, which is decades in the making. Ending homelessness in New York City is not going to happen overnight, but I believe that if we all work together, rich, poor, Black, white, I don't care what you identify as, if we all work together and help this administration, we will end homelessness. Like the mayor said, the end goal is housing. And I know we'll get there. Thank you. Thank you all.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** Ooh, we're getting a word this morning, for sure. Next I'd like to bring up the deputy speaker, Diana Ayala.

**City Council Member Diana Ayala:** We deserve credit for church because we're all going to get in trouble.

**Commissioner Jenkins:** Amen.

**City Council Member Ayala:** We're all going to get in trouble, but thank you to the reporters that actually made it out here today. Because I think that this is a really important subject matter and I wish there were more of you here today because it's that important that we should all be at the table. And so, thank you for being here.

**City Council Member Ayala:** I think that when you're looking at the face of homelessness, this is it. Right, Shams? I am the face of homelessness. The first time I was homeless, I was five. There was a fire in my building. I lived in the low East side. I started as part of a domestic dispute that left my family and many others in my building, homeless, including other family members. We benefited from the tier two shelter setting and were transitioned over to public housing just across the street.

**City Council Member Ayala:** Second time I was homeless, I was 17 years old. I had a son whose father had been murdered. I was struggling and I emancipated myself and ended up in shelter, just not too far from here at Catherine Street, in a congregate setting. It's very dehumanizing. It's very scary. I remember I cried the whole first two days that I was there and people kept asking me, "why are you crying?" And I'm like, "why wouldn't I, why wouldn't I cry? Like this is not where I envision myself. I think I deserve better than this." I have and I've shared this story many times of my brother who suffers from serious mental illness, who has been in and out of incarceration since he was 11 years old. He spent a lot of time in what we call solitary confinement, I called it the box and that obviously made his condition worse.



**City Council Member Ayala:** He can no longer live in a congregate setting and he has to live in a shelter because obviously he's not employed. He doesn't have employable skills and he, oftentimes, is off medication. Our systems are really broken. And I don't think that people really understand that. As a sibling of a person with mental illness, I struggle, as an elected official as a deputy speaker of this body, I struggle getting services for my brother because my brother is an adult and my brother technically can make decisions on his own. And so, oftentimes my brother is one of the people that is sleeping in the trains. And oftentimes my brother is sleeping in the park because he does not feel safe sleeping in a congregate setting. And that's because his mental illness, right.

**City Council Member Ayala:** Sometimes I want to strangle him. I'll be honest about that. He is annoying as heck. He can become a handful, and in that type of setting, it's very difficult to manage that. And so, I just want to say that we're on the same page in regards to how we get to a place where people are in a housing environment that they feel safe in, where they're receiving the services that they receive. And I'll further share that when I came into office, many of you know 125th Street, and I've spent... And Eddie, who's my neighboring Assembly member knows, eight years I've been working on 125th Street. I have a lot of gray hair under this dye and when I die, on the record, I want a 125th Street named after me.

**City Council Member Ayala:** But I remember going there and in the height of the synthetic marijuana and we did a lot of work to clean up a lot of the conditions there. But then after we did that, about 80% of the population disappeared and a very small percent stood behind. And we wondered, well, these are the people that need the most intensive care. And so, I said, "well, how are we going to treat them?" And they said, well, we can't, we weren't doing nothing. And I said, "what do you mean we're doing nothing?" Well, we can't force them to go into a shelter. And we can't force them to go into a mental health facility. And we can't force them to seek substance use disorder services. So, and it's a public street, they're not breaking the law so as long as they're not doing anything, we can't do anything they'll live there and that's it. And I said, "what? That's ridiculous." That is inhumane. It is the equivalent of leaving a child out on the street many times.

**Commissioner Jenkins:** That's right, come on.

**City Council Member Ayala:** It is inhumane. And I've lost, I mean obviously throughout the years, many of these people have become friends. I know them by name and they have died on the street. They have died because they've been exposed to harsh weather. They have died because they have been sick and they had no idea that they were sick because they hadn't seen a primary doctor in years.

**City Council Member Ayala:** So, safe haven beds, stabilized beds, drop in centers, they work, we know that they work. This is a meaningful investment. I am really excited to be here today. And I want to thank the mayor because I do agree that we cannot simply walk by and do nothing. And so, this is a humongous step forward. And I thank all of the colleagues because this, I'm sure everybody here plays a role in this. So, thank you all. And I look forward to the budget handshake.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** Thank you so much, deputy speaker. Just reminds me the importance of stories and how stories can help you really see the issues and ways sometimes we don't want to get that close to them. So, thank you so much for sharing that. The next speaker will be Assemblyman, Eddie Gibbs.

**State Assembly Member Eddie Gibbs:** How you doing? Good morning everybody. I change my mind, I put in the request to have 121st Street named after me when I leave this earth. But my deputy speaker can have whatever she wants. In fact, you could have 116th street too.

**State Assembly Member Gibbs:** It was the legendary Mahatma Gandhi who once said, "the true measures of any society could be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." Often I'm reminded of this quote. When I encounter people experiencing homelessness in our city, we all have an obligation to care for, serve and to ultimately protect every New Yorker. People experiencing homelessness are certainly no exception. I applaud this historic and I'm going to say that word again, historic investment and resources and services to help this vulnerable population. And I know politicians like to throw around the word often historic, but guys, we are talking about \$171 million.

**State Assembly Member Gibbs:** When we are talking about \$171 million, that's going to help this vulnerable population, I can't and not help, but say the word historic, because this truly matters. This is the largest investment of this nature made by any city

administration ever and a critical step in our ongoing mission to turn New York around and make it the more equitable city that we all deserve.

**State Assembly Member Gibbs:** So, Mr. Mayor, I want to thank you for this game changer in addressing homelessness in our New York. I was trying to get to the Yankee game yesterday to get you a baseball bat because I wanted to present it to you today so you could continue to knock it off the park. But we know what happened in Cleveland. So, I can't do it, but I thank you Mr. Mayor. Thank you guys.

**DaBaron:** That was very good, Eddie.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** I am proud to be a New Yorker every day, but there's something about this moment that I think I'm going to remember for a long time. So, thank you assemblyman. Next we have Council Member Gale Brewer.

**City Council Member Gale Brewer:** Thank you very much Mr. Mayor, former borough president, and I am honored to be here today for a couple of reasons. First of all, you put together a great team to talk about housing and that is half of the solution. The other half is knowing what to do. And I want to be really clear from the Olivieri Center, which has been around since Council Member Tony Olivieri and his family decided to name it after them, drop in center, to recently trim extraordinary safe haven run by CUCS on 14th street, to supporting, what I know Julie Menin I think feels the same way, East 91st street got a Riverside building, a safe haven to my understanding, CUCS, considering another safe haven. I already have several on the upper west side. That's what we need. We need stabilization beds and we need safe havens.

**City Council Member Brewer:** Then as time goes on people, as the mayor indicated, come off the street and then they end up pushing, we all push with them for affordable housing. We do need to get either the Kavanaugh bill or Carlina Rivera's bill to change the DOB so that we, it can go from, on the hotels, so we can go from hotel to rent stabilization. I don't understand why the hell we need this law, but we do.

**City Council Member Brewer:** So, the issue for me is, this is absolutely the right way to go. We've all been talking about it for decades. The quality of the safe havens is extraordinary. I hope that people tour them and see you end up with your own room. You end up with support services. You end up with maybe 18 months and then you go directly to permanent supportive housing, if that's appropriate. So, this 171 million is

doing the right thing. We just need to make sure that we find sites. And I want to agree with what the mayor said, everybody has to take their share, they have to understand that when you have a quality nonprofit, I'm very picky about my nonprofits, but when you have a quality nonprofit, building a safe haven or stabilization beds, it's an asset to your community. Thank you very much.

**Deputy Mayor Williams-Isom:** Thank you, Council Member Brewer. And thank you for your long time support of this issue. Another person who has been at the forefront of this issue for a long time, Council Member Julie Menin.

**City Council Member Julie Menin:** Thank you so much, deputy mayor. I cannot tell you how honored I am to be here today for this game changer of an announcement. And it is a game changer because we all know the crisis that is going on in our city. For so many of our neighbors who've lost their job or they might have mental health issues or substance abuse problems, and now are experiencing homelessness.

**City Council Member Menin:** I want to thank the mayor for this incredible investment of \$171 million so that 4,000 New Yorkers who are experiencing homelessness will now have a bed, will now have housing, will now have the kind of services that they need. Mental health counseling, placement for jobs. This is so vital. As Gale Brewer mentioned, we are building a safe haven in my district on East 91st Street. It is an 88 bed facility. We are incredibly proud of that and yes, every community to make sure that they are stepping up and doing the same. So, thank you Mr. Mayor for doing this and thank you to the administration.

**Question:** A lot of folks here referencing how difficult the fight often is to select a location, convince the community that this is an asset, as Council Member Brewer said. How do you avoid fights like what we're seeing in Chinatown? Like what we saw with the Lucerne on the West side, how do you message that and see this to fruition?

**Mayor Adams:** Great question. And what we are doing, information is key. Commissioner Jenkins is, we're going to put in place a GIS mapping, so when we sit down and speak with our Council persons, we can show them where their colleagues have beds, how many beds they have in their area. And so, when we go to community boards, it shouldn't be that we are trying to dump into your community.

**Mayor Adams:** We believe the city has failed to do real visual analysis of, here are the beds and then as partners say, "where would you like the bed in your councilmanic district?" I know that in particular, Bob Holden, attempted to say that instead of putting the bed in this location, can we put it in this location? No one was willing to listen to him. We don't want to do that. We want a partnership with our Council or persons and say, here's the beds across the city. If there are 10 in one district and there's two in your district, we need your help in placing the beds in your district. So, it's about information. We don't want to force feed. We want a partnership to get it right.

**Question:** Over the last few weeks, we've seen a bit of a revolving door. We've had folks who put up encampments, refuse to leave encampments, then get arrested. Then come back two weeks later, the same thing happen over and over again. Arrest, encampments being built. Is this investment you think it could help stop this revolving door of arrests and these encampments again getting built?

**Mayor Adams:** Yes, without a doubt. And remember, as we stated, we're building trust. So, when you have 10 people that you say were no longer living on the street like this, and two of the 10 decide, well, I'm going to find another location. Sometimes we miss the eight, the eight that have made the decision either they're going to go back home, they're going to take us up on our safe havens, they're going to find other ways to make sure they have the proper housing. And then we're going to go back to the two. We're going to continue to build trust. We have an amazing group of people who are on the street every day, building that trust.

**Mayor Adams:** That trust is part of the problem that we're finding. When I spoke with the woman last week, she just did not have trust. She didn't believe anyone cared you. We have to do the one-on-one hard work of sitting down and having those conversations. And that's what the teams are doing at the End Of The Line, that's what they're doing on the streets. We are showing the compassion, the caring, and we have to rebuild the trust until we can get those two that state they are going to come and go back out. That's the goal.

**Mayor Adams:** I just wanted to say, to answer your question, the forgive me part, but I think one of the things that is very important in the Lucerne situation was the fact of community engagement. And I think in the previous administration, there was not enough community engagement prior to bringing homeless New Yorkers or even supportive housing into certain communities.

**Mayor Adams:** And I think the difference now is that there's more of a desire to reach out to communities on all sides of the table and respect the differing views, and be able to engage in order to show the value that say, for instance, a safe haven, a stabilization bed presents to each community. And so, even in a place like Chinatown, I know that there's serious engagement within the community to show them that there is value in having those type of so-called facilities in those places. So, thank you.

**Question:** [Inaudible] and vaccinations, how many notices have gone out to unvaccinated NYPD to say, now's the time for [inaudible].

**Mayor Adams:** I'm not sure, but we'll find out for you. I know they started looking at the appeals and they're making a determination based on the appeals. Those who were accepted, those who were denied, but we'll get the exact number of how many notices went out.

**Question:** Kind of a camping earth week type of question, tangent to earth week. You have a decision that may need to come in the next few years on the BQE, the cantilever stretch in Brooklyn Heights. I wanted to see if you've given any thoughts about your predecessor, going to put in some band aid fixes to give it a couple of years, but you're going to need to start planning soon on that.

**Mayor Adams:** Without a doubt. Had a meeting this morning with the chief of staff. We are going to engage the governor's office as well as some of the federal infrastructure dollars. And last week I spoke with, briefly, Congresswoman Velazquez. Who's also stating that, of course, part of the BQE runs through her district. She stated, let's put our heads together, because you're right, I think it's 2027. We have to make some drastic moves and we were engaged this morning and this is definitely on our radar, but we need help from the federal government and state government to put the right package together. And everyone seems to be interested in doing so.

**Question:** [Inaudible] might look like?

**Mayor Adams:** No, I'm excited. There have been a lot of recommendations and I think there's some good ideas out there. Okay.

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