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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT INFECTIOUS
DISEASE PANEL ON EBOLA**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Well, I want to thank all of the experts who are here with us today at city hall. Around the tables, some of leading experts on infectious disease here in New York City and given that we have what I think is objectively, truly the finest healthcare facilities and the finest healthcare leadership anywhere in the country, the fact that the leading experts from our healthcare sector are here in this room at city hall offering their insights and their support is crucial. And this advisory group is helping all the leaders in city government as we continue to deepen our response to this crisis, but they'll be with us every step of the way as it continues as well.

You know, it's crucial to all of us who are not medical professionals to seek the advice of real experts but, even for the healthcare leaders of this administration, having the ability to turn to your colleagues and seek this kind of input regularly is crucial. So, when our First Deputy Mayor Tony Shorris or our Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli – when they're consulting it is to get raw guidance. And I want to commend Tony and Lilliam for being very hand-on in these last weeks and making sure all the preparations are right, not only at public hospitals, but working closely with voluntary hospitals and a whole range of other organizations. But again, it's a different conversation when Dr. Mary Basset or Dr. Ram Raju as health commissioner and health and hospitals corporation president, respectively, are consulting with their colleagues looking for insight, looking for new ideas, comparing notes – this is something that will continue throughout this challenge we face. Every time I speak the situation of Ebola, I start with the most important facts. Again, another good day in New York City because there are no reported cases of this disease – there has not been a single reported case – actual case since this crisis began. We've had false alarms, but we have not had a single case of Ebola here in New York City.

The preparations have been extraordinary over many weeks. I want to thank everyone around this table who've been a part of that process for quite a while and again, are offering their time and energy and expertise to help us improve. I have absolute confidence in our healthcare system here in this city and part of why I have such confidence is because I've heard the conversations of our leadership and I know there's a constant care taken – a constant care taken to ask tough questions, to seek out expertise. There's no resting on laurels here when it comes to our

approach. The fact that we have the first class – world class institutions and tremendous leaders and experts does not, for a moment, make us complacent. I think the attitude has been we have to keep learning, we have to keep consulting with people all over the country, all over the world. Keep trying to figure out the best way to prepare our people. We've made clear that we have a particular capacity at Bellevue in terms of our Health and Hospital Corporation. Bellevue is our ultimate go to location it has extraordinary capacity to handle this situation. But we're working, of course, constantly to make sure all of our Health and Hospital Corporation facilities are ready.

We're working closely and constantly with the voluntary hospitals as well. We had a very productive conference call yesterday with CEOs of the voluntary hospitals and both Dr. Bassett and her state colleague running the State Department of Health. And I think the coordination of communication has been extraordinarily good.

Another piece of this puzzle is outreach to the community. I want to commend Dr. Bassett who's spent a lot of time personally going out into communities where there is particular concern – parts of the city where there are substantial West African immigrant communities that obviously feel their own vulnerability and are worried about some of the way that the press coverage and the dialogue surrounding this issue has created some misunderstanding. Our message to all New Yorkers in particularly to members of West African communities is we want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly – we want to ensure that everyone who seeks care gets it. That people should not worry about the cost involved, people will be treated. They should not worry about their immigration status. They will be treated regardless of immigration status and with no reference to immigration status.

So, it's crucial that we keep an open door to all and a constant dialogue with all to get through this crisis. This is a crisis that demands communication and understanding and an open hand so we can get through it. One other point, we have had I think extraordinary cooperation, not just from the state government – I had a long conversation with Governor Cuomo earlier today about the state's handling of the situation and the city's, and how we have coordinated the two. And there's been constant contact, again, with the two health commissioners and First Deputy Mayor Shorris who's been in contact with his opposite member in Albany, Larry Schwartz. But on top of that we've had great federal cooperation. I was in Washington last Tuesday and met with the Secretary of Homeland Security, met with the White House Chief Counter-Terrorism Advisor Lisa Monaco, who now is putting a lot of her time into the question of Ebola. And there's a keen sense in Washington of the ways that we can work together and a keen understanding that the local level is where a lot of the work by definition must be done – and willingness to support us and help us and share best practices and information constantly.

So I think we have a very real sense of that everyone is on the same page, working together, and certainly want to reassure all New Yorkers that extraordinary efforts are being extended to keep everyone safe. So with that, I want to thank the media for being here. We're now going to go back into the detailed discussion on the kind of advice these experts are giving us.

Thanks so much.

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