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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO HOLDS MEDIA AVAILABILITY ON CRIME  
STATISTICS**

**Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill:** Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for being here. First, I'd like to extend my sympathies from every member of the New York City Police Department to the family, friends, and colleagues of Robert Martinez. He's one of our steamfitters who was tragically killed on the Gowanus Expressway yesterday morning. Robert was assigned to our plant management unit at One Police Plaza. He was one of the many extraordinary people that keep this building running and they actually keep our entire police department running. Robert was a Staten Island resident who had 18 years with the NYPD. He'll be sorely missed by all who knew him and had the privilege of working with him.

And second, I want to thank the New York media for the coverage that [inaudible] the many acts of bravery, kindness, and stoic professionalism our cops have been involved in lately. On Monday night when a distraught woman ran to the 1-15 Precinct in Queens clutching her baby girl who wasn't breathing, she met 22-year-old rookie Officer Osvaldo Nunez. And quickly, with the composure of a veteran cop, Officer Nunez performed CPR and literally brought the beautiful little girl back to life. Incidentally Officer Nunez was one of the 725 cops who just graduated from the Police Academy on July 2nd.

So, they're out there along with the almost 300 Summer All Out officers currently placed in the commands around the city right now. So, we're looking forward to even more positive stories in August and September.

Let me mention, this coming Tuesday, August 7th is National Night Out Against Crime and I hope all New Yorkers, the whole family can come out and join us at the many events going on in all five boroughs. It's a great time every year. It's a great way to meet your local cops, to help build that trust and to strengthen positive relations.

Look, we don't turn away from criticism because we know it goes hand in hand with the possibility of making the safest big city in America even safer but we know that the public we serve, they truly need us. And we need them too, all 8.6 million New Yorkers plus the millions more people who commute in for work or visit each and every day.

Just this morning just before 6:00 am, witnesses told police they saw a woman jump off the Williamsburg Bridge in the East River. Thanks in no small part to that quick reporting coupled with our remarkable coordination between our patrol, Emergency Service, harbor, aviation, and scuba units we located and pulled the woman to safety conscious and alert. We also found and removed from the river her friend who jumped in to try to save her. While we obviously don't want everybody just putting themselves in harm's way like that, sharing the responsibility for public safety does mean alerting the police to anything dangerous or suspicious and giving us a chance to investigate.

And that goes for everything from terrorism to so-called traditional crime like gang-involved drug or gun trafficking. You see it every day, all the guns NYPD cops have taken off our streets. Overall crime and arrests are down but the number of firearms we seize continues to go up.

It's that precise focus on the real drivers of crime that enable us to keep reducing the shootings and murders. I'm confident in New Yorkers' ability to push forward. That's one of the reasons for the major changes we're undergoing in the NYPD.

The bottom line is all New Yorkers want all of our neighborhoods to be safer places for our children, for our elderly, and for ourselves. So, I'm asking the public we serve to keep supporting our police, keep working with us, commit to watching the backs of those you call when you're scared, those you call when you're in trouble.

Everyone must participate and that's how we're safely making our way forward together. Mr. Mayor –

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you very much, Commissioner. I really appreciate that message that all New Yorkers are part of helping us to stay safe. Supporting our police officers, working with them, communicating with them – it's a huge piece of the equation so I really want to encourage all New Yorkers to help us build on this progress.

I want to give my appreciation to the Commissioner, to First Deputy Commissioner Tucker, to Chief of Department Monahan, the whole leadership team of the NYPD, and all the men and women of the NYPD for another very strong month in the month of July, 2018.

I also want to share my condolences and the condolences of the people of this entire city, on behalf of the people of this city, for the family of Robert Martinez. Our hearts go out to you and we will keep the family in our prayers and I appreciate everything the Commissioner said about how he served this city and this department.

And on a happier note, the extraordinary story of Officer Nunez, literally just weeks out of the academy, saving a life. And it's a beautiful New York story and I really commend him for the heads up thinking and the fast effort to save a life. It's absolutely everything that gives people faith in this great department.

We've got some important developments to talk about for July and the bottom line here is this department continues to innovate, looks for new ways to make us safe. I have never been in a

meeting where anyone said, well we're the safest big city in America let's just fold right there and just keep doing what we're doing.

No, the concept has always been let's go farther, let's do new things, let's do better things. We all were honest in May and June that we saw some things we didn't like so much and some things that we wanted to address differently. PD did that and targeted some key trouble spots, put a number of officers out versus Summer All Out to focus on those areas.

You see some changes in July, some improvements in July because of decisions made in May and June, and adjustments made. And that's been the norm with the NYPD. Also, I think a very smart, important development this week in changing the approach to addressing people who are stopped for fare evasion and have outstanding warrants, and addressing those immediately.

So, addressing the past warrants, addressing the immediate offense that just occurred, and freeing up a lot of officer time to go back on patrol and keep us all safe – another great example of innovation.

The month of July, I'm very pleased to say July, 2018, the safest July on record. So, NYPD has achieved something really important in July compared to July of 2017. Murders down almost 37 percent – tied the all-time low for murders in a month of July, compared to July, 2013. That was the other time when we got this low. But overall crime – the safest July ever.

And now because of the great success in July, the year has shown really great improvements. So now year to date through the end of July, total crime down 1.7 percent compared to last year. And again last year was a record setting year and murders are now down 1.7 percent overall through July compared to last year.

We're on a pace right now to do what we did last year, to have the safest year in New York City history for the people of this city since the Cold War. And I keep trying to put it in perspective for everyone, how different, how far back you have to go to find times that equate to this in terms of keeping crime down. NYPD – and you'll hear it certainly in Chief Pollock's detailed explanation of July – NYPD is living by the concept that records are made to be broken. And they're on pace to do it again.

A quick few words in Spanish –

[Mayor de Blasio Speaks in Spanish]

With that, my pleasure to turn to our Chief of Crime Control Strategies, Lori Pollock –

**Chief of Crime Control Strategies Lori Pollock:** Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Looking at the first seven months of this year, we are on pace to finish the year potentially under 100,000 index crimes and this would be only the second time that has occurred.

Through the end of July year-to-date, we have recorded 53,937 index crimes. Just to give you a little perspective, in '94 in July we had 33,782. We finished last year with a little over 96,000

and we have currently recorded 911 fewer crimes than last year. These 911 fewer crimes represent a 1.7 decrease year-to-date. And again, to be within reach of the 100,000 number for the second time in the CompStat era is absolutely remarkable.

As for the month of July, we recorded 8,500 index crimes or 157 less than last year's record low of 8,657 for the month and that's a two percent decrease. We've achieved these reductions in places like Patrol Borough Queens South where the hardworking men and women are commanded by Chief Dave Barrere and Investigative Chief Joe Kenny, where they impressively drove down crime 12 percent in July including a significant 24 percent reduction in robberies. This is done through timely pattern identification and aggressive apprehension efforts.

The hard working police officers and detectives of the Bronx led by Chief Larry Nikunen reduced overall crime by 6.5 percent this July and brought murders down in July by 64 percent over last July. That's five murders versus 14, a reduction of nine murder victims. The reduction was accomplished with thorough analysis and proper deployment of resources.

Police officers are continuously shifted as conditions change and detectives relentlessly are following up on every case and every lead. As Chief Monahan announced to you last month, overall crime for the first six months of the year was at a record low. This downward trend continues especially as it relates to murders.

This month we tied the record for the lowest number of murders for any July. The lowest number of 24 murders was also recorded in July, 2013. And we're always cognizant that even one murder is too many. The 24 murders this July is a 37 percent reduction compared to the 38 murders in July of 2017. This brings our year to date murder number down by three – 171 versus 174.

Gunshot wounds account for nearly 70 percent of the method of death with nearly half, or 43 percent, of the murders occurring with some type of gang nexus. We began observing a concentration of murders in northern Brooklyn which had six, or 25 percent of July's total, and focused our deployment and other responses there.

Four of those six victims were 16 years old or younger and were shot and killed by members of the same age group as a result of gang activity. This age range, 17 and under, shows increases of both victims, that's 12 versus three, and known perpetrators 200 percent up, 12 versus four for murders year-to-date.

Again this highlights the need for community involvement when youth begin to go down the wrong path. Resources to help at-risk youth can be found at your local precincts and police service areas, and we encourage participation in Build the Block meetings where you can meet your neighborhood coordination and steady sector officers whose job it is to keep people safe and provide the community members with resources and collectively solve crime problems.

You can reach or find out who your NCO is by calling or stopping into your local precinct or simply typing in NCO or Build a Block into the [nyc.gov](https://nyc.gov) website.

Domestic related murders for July are down 29 percent, five versus seven. This includes the tragedy that occurred in Astoria on Monday. We have seen a positive downturn but domestic violence is an iceberg that friends, families, and coworkers often don't see until it's too late. Again, if you know of a significant other, son, daughter, coworker, or friend who is being abused or you suspect is in a volatile relationship, call 9-1-1 in an emergency situation or the domestic violence police officers in your local precinct.

Also the Safe Horizons [inaudible] crime victims advocacy program will be in every precinct by the end of the year. We consistently see that three-quarters of domestic violence homicide victims had never had police contact prior to their death.

Looking at shootings, we'll give you some context. Historically the summer months have the highest number of shooting incidents. July monthly averages over the last five years is 104. So, in 2014 in July, we saw 134 shootings; in 2015, 117 shootings; this July we are up 11 incidents, 90 versus 79. Still unbelievably low compared to last July which was the lowest number ever recorded for shootings in July.

That makes this July the second lowest. We are currently at a record low in year to date shootings with 428 incidents compared to 439 last year. Taking a look back to previous years – I think we have a PowerPoint up there – we can gain perspective on just how we've reduced shooting violence and how much safer we are. But like murders for the month, shootings have also increased in parts of Brooklyn. The borough as a whole experienced an increase in July, 43 versus 25.

We move on to rape. We showed an increase of ten reported rapes or 7.5 for July which is 143 versus 133.

The trend we had seen earlier this year of victims coming forward to report incidents which occurred in previous years has waned. In July, 12.5, or 18, of the reported rapes occurred outside this year compared to the 20 to 30 percent we were seeing earlier in the months of 2018.

Robbery has reached a new low for July with 1,065 against 1,243 last year. Felony assaults are down 7.3 percent or 141 crimes. I'm also happy to report that burglary has reached a benchmark low of 1,037 compared to 1,044 last year. We saw a slight uptick in grand larceny for the month of July – 3,837 versus 3,739 which is a 2.6 increase.

Grand larceny auto has also experienced an increase in the month of July. They are up 14.3 percent, or 75, which is mostly motorcycles but every crime briefing – my third so far – we have stressed the importance of not leaving the keys on the car, leaving the cars running. That accounts for a very big segment of the year-to-date, and a quarter of the grand larceny autos for the month.

Index crime in housing for July is down 11.7 percent – 409 versus 463, a total of 54 crimes. Index crime in transit for July is up slightly 25 crimes, 198 versus 173, which is predominantly seen in Manhattan driven by pickpockets and perpetrators that are targeting inattentive or sleeping passengers.

I would like to echo the sentiments about going to your National Night Out Against Crime. Thank you very much.

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** Alright, any on-topic questions about crime?

**Question:** Can you go back and just – you were saying about the gang related murders. Kids 17 and under, can you go back to that and explain what the numbers are and if that is really now something you have to look at that the victims are becoming younger, and younger as well as the assailants.

**Chief Pollock:** I don't know that it's any different than it has been in the past. It's just we have seen this month we have seen a rise in it, and then we looked at the entire year. There has been an uptick, like I said. We do have pockets of gang violence, right now its occurring in Brooklyn.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Tony?

**Question:** Last time you had this [inaudible] the Bronx [inaudible] victimized. Could you [inaudible]? Shootings gone down, and murders gone down [inaudible]. Historically, how is that [inaudible]?

**Chief Pollock:** Murders year to date are still up in the Bronx, but we saw we had a spike in April, June – April, May, and June. We have really turned that around. As I said it was five versus 12 for the – let me give you the right numbers. I can give you the exact number, I did say it. But like I said in July it has significantly decreased. So, I don't know, I don't see it as being some sort of trend that's continuing.

**Question:** The shootings situation in the Bronx –

**Chief Pollock:** The shootings in the Bronx – so they are also down 15 shootings for the month. 18 versus 33. So, Chief Nikunen, and the hard working men up there, and women are doing a very good job.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Yeah, in the back row.

**Question:** You mentioned something about how officers change the way they were doing things in the very beginning. What are those ways – the processes that they've been going [inaudible] have changed recently?

**Mayor:** I'll let the Commissioner and his team speak to it. The central point I am making is there is an ongoing focus on innovation and one of the examples is the notion of figuring out ways to maximize officer time on patrol to help protect everyone and to address an issue like fare evasion at the point of contact and including the possibility of addressing previous outstanding warrants simultaneously. So, the Commissioner's team can speak to do that.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Yeah, Chief Coogan, he is the XO of the transit bureau. He'll speak about that. Vinny?

**Chief Vincent Coogan, NYPD:** Okay, evading the fare is still illegal, but we had a pilot project that we had in effect since February 1<sup>st</sup>. As of August 1<sup>st</sup> yesterday, new policy is in writing. There's very few minor changes since the other thing. But if you are stopped for evading the fare you will be issued a tab summons. The majority of the people, some people who might not fit that criteria will be given a C summons. But then a small amount of people will be arrested. This is keeping more officers in the trains on patrol, out in the stations interacting with the public. And last week we increased our districts in neighborhood policing from two to six. We expect a remainder of the 12 districts to have neighborhood policing by the beginning of this year. And we want these officers out there, these neighborhood police officers out there in the trains interacting with the public. So this will keep more of them out.

**Mayor:** Just one, if I may add. Chief, could you just explain the time reality of how addressing the outstanding warrant right away and all that is more time efficient than what you used to have to do arrest by arrest.

**Chief Coogan:** Yes, I mean before if you had to arrest a person, obviously it would take many hours doing finger printing and arresting a person, putting them through. Right now if you have a SAP warrant. So if you got caught say eight years ago, 10 years ago drinking a beer in the street. Now, you're going to be issued a criminal court summons. The officer is going to bring the person back. He is going to take care of that minor warrant and also take care of the criminal court summons at the same time and be back on patrol within a few hours.

**Question:** I have a relating question. It's kind of two parts. City Council back in December passed a bill that requires the Police Department to produce quarterly reports on fare evasion with demographic data, station data where this is happening. So the first part is –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** I am going to just cut you off there for a second. Can we save that for off-topic?

**Question:** Sure.

Alright, that was a long question. So make sure you get it.

**Question:** Yes.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Okay.

**Mayor:** So, on the statistics.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Crime, yeah. Any other crime questions? In the back.

**Question:** Can you give an update on crime stats on gangs in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and citywide?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Specific numbers as to homicide, shootings?

**Question:** To shootings.

**Chief Pollock:** 40 percent gang related.

**Question:** She said city wide?

**Chief Pollock:** Yeah, 40 percent for both murders and shootings.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Tony?

**Question:** There's been rape complaints [inaudible]. Any ideas to what is causing [inaudible]?

**Chief Pollock:** So, the question is whether or not they're slowing down?

**Question:** Yeah.

**Chief Pollock:** So we definitely had a big campaign to get – and we still encourage people to come forward and report ones that are happening presently and ones that have happened past. We want to know when those crimes are happening now obviously. And we want to know who the offenders were before. Right now the rape complaints that are coming in from out of this year from prior years 2017 and back have slowed down. We're not seeing such an increase in those reports. We're still seeing an increase year to date but we're not seeing an increase in the outer period reporting.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Any other crime questions? Alright, I am a man of my word, right there.

**Question:** I appreciate it, so yeah going back.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** I am going to have to cut you off again.

[Laughter]

And I don't even know you. I am sorry. Chief we had an off duty Sergeant involved in an officer involved shooting this morning, and Chief Monahan is going to speak about that. And then right after that, you're up. Okay?

**Chief of Department Terrance Monahan, NYPD:** Alright, this is still under investigation. We still have a lot of work to do. But at approximately 4:56 am this morning and off-duty sergeant was walking west bound on Livonia Avenue heading towards Pennsylvania Avenue. He was confronted by a male and during his confrontation he fired two shots at him striking him once in the face. The male is currently in stable condition. Again, like I said this whole investigation is still on-going by the Firearms Investigation Division in the Kings Country District Attorney's



Office. We are still conducting numerous interviews with people that were involved and we are reviewing videos that are out there. The sergeant has been placed on modified duty and placed on administrative duty pending the outcome of some of our initial findings.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Questions about the shooting? Tina?

**Question:** What did the [inaudible] or [inaudible] guy who was shot say to the officer?

**Chief Monahan:** That's still all part of the investigation. We still have to find out. We're still conducting interviews with everyone, even the hospital that the male that was shot and the sergeant is currently back in the precinct.

**Question:** So, was it a robbery attempt or is just?

**Chief Monahan:** We're looking at the now, we think there may have been some sort of dispute prior to this incident.

**Question:** So they knew each other?

**Chief Monahan:** I don't know if they knew each other or there was just dispute prior. Still part of the investigation, we have a long way to go on this one.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Hold on, yep right there.

**Question:** Was the man who was shot, was he armed or did he have a weapon of any sort?

**Chief Monahan:** Still all part of the investigation at this point.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Yep, in the back row.

**Question:** Did the sergeant help to give medical attention to the man that he shot? I am not saying that he had to. But did he?

**Chief Monahan:** We are still looking at that. We're reviewing all the video. At this point I don't have that answer. I know he did call 9-1-1.

**Question:** So at this point can you say whether it appears to be a justified shooting or can you go

—

**Chief Monahan:** We're not going to make any determination at this point until we can actually interview everyone that's involved. So this is going to be an on-going case with the Kings County DA.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Just to clarify there was no firearm found at the scene, no firearm recovered.

**Question:** would it be – is it normal for the sergeant to go on modified duty after an incident like this. Is this a normal process more something that happens like this?

**Chief Monahan:** There are certain things that we saw in this investigation that we have questions that I want answered at this point. Until we answer that, we felt it was best to place him on modified duty.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Any other questions about the off-duty shooting? Alright, there you go. Hold on.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** I don't know your first name. What's your first name?

**Question:** Vincent –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Vincent – okay, Vincent goes first.

**Question:** The City Council passed this bill that requires quarterly reports on subway fare evasion enforcement. The NYPD has refused to comply with this law. I wanted to get – citing public safety concerns – I wanted to see if you could elaborate – first part of the question is, if you could elaborate on what those public safety concerns are. And the second part of the question is for Mr. Mayor, why would you sign a bill into law that you knew your Department –

**Mayor:** Let me start – this is going to be resolved and this will be addressed, is the bottom line. There are some obvious – I'll speak as the non-policing expert – speak in the language of every-day New Yorkers – there are legitimate concerns in terms of not portraying information that interferes with the work of the NYPD. That's always a consideration, but we can address those concerns while achieving transparency and conforming to the law. So, this will be resolved.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** And Chief Donoghue will speak about it, but with your characterization as a refusal, I'm not sure if I agree with that. We are working with the City Council to get this right, and we do have to balance safety and transparency.

**Assistant Chief John Donohue, NYPD:** Yeah, we have actually been in conversation with the Council members and sponsors of that legislation and the questions of transparency and being – having visibility into the activities of our officers with respect to theft or service arrests. We are working very diligently to have that resolved very quickly. We expect that to happen very soon.

**Question:** Shouldn't it have happened before the bill became a law? That's typically how this process works, right?

**Mayor:** I'll speak as the person involved in that process on a regular basis, and also as a former Council member – no, I don't think that's a fair characterization. I think there are times when a fair amount of detail is worked out in the legislative process, but you still have to figure out how you're going to implement something. And then there are other times where the intent is agreed on but not the mechanics. And I think this point that you have to think about protecting the

ability of the NYPD to do its job is obviously valid. But we want transparency and we'll achieve it, and I think that's something you'll see in a matter of the next few weeks.

**Question:** I was hoping you could go over the process for the fare evasion again – what's going to happen if somebody is caught. And then I was wondering how much the demographics – I know you haven't released that information yet – but how much that played into the decision here as well as maximizing time for officers?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Okay, Vinny, do you want answer the first part of that?

**Deputy Commissioner Vincent Grippio, NYPD:** If you stop [inaudible] most people will get a tab summons – it's a civil summons returnable to transit adjudication court. In certain circumstances, you can get a C-summons. And then there are other circumstances, if you don't fit all the criteria, you will still be arrested.

**Question:** What are those?

**Deputy Commissioner Grippio:** You will be arrested if you have a warrant felony, a misdemeanor warrant [inaudible] you will be arrested. If you evaded the fare and you're a transit offender – you fit under that category – you'll be arrested. If there's a legitimate law enforcement purpose, you may be arrested. And if you cannot be properly identified. We try all we can to properly identify people. If everything fails, then you will be arrested.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** So, as to the second part of your question – we are always looking to improve the way we deploy our resources, specifically the Transit Bureau Officers. We're always looking for efficiencies. We look at outcomes too, we look at the number of people that were arrested and what were the outcomes. Was there a fine paid? Was it [inaudible]? Was it not prosecuted? So, we are in constant talks with all of our prosecutor partners to make sure that we make this as efficient as possible, not necessarily looking at the disparities.

**Question:** We took a look at gun prosecutions in this city and it shows that there's a disparity borough by borough. The Manhattan DA's office, for example – 61 percent of all people arrested with a loaded gun get prosecuted on the top count, face three-and-a-half years in prison. In Brooklyn, that number is just 25 percent; in Queens, 36 percent; in the Bronx, 34 percent. What is your thought about these disparities and how prosecutions are being handled –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Yeah, so this is without a doubt our bread and butter. This is how we reduce violence, by targeting people that carry guns and use guns. So, each and every week, we work with all of our prosecutorial partners, the local DA's, the US Attorney's offices, and we go down case by case to make sure that those prosecutions are as effective as possible and that there are consequences if you carry a gun in New York City. While there are disparities, we continue to work with all of the DA's offices and the US Attorneys to make sure that if you're carrying a gun in New York City there are severe consequences.

**Question:** Are you satisfied with these numbers?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** I'm never satisfied. I'd like it to be 100 percent. But I'm never satisfied with the numbers, I want them to continue to go up. And we're working with Eric's office, we're working with Darcel's office, we're working with Cy's office to make sure that we improve upon those numbers each and every day.

**Question:** So, when you say 100 percent and hear a number that the Brooklyn DA's office is only 25 percent –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** You putting words in my mouth here? What are you going? I know that trick, Jonathan.

**Question:** Mr. Mayor, do you have any thoughts on this?

**Mayor:** All of us have to do better. You know, we have a great deal of respect for the DA's but we would like to see more prosecutions, there's no question. And there has to be a culture of consequence. There has to be a realization that anyone who thinks that they can get away with having an illegal gun in New York City, that that's not going to work and that they'll do a lot of time. And so, this is something we've all been working on, had a lot of conversations with the folks up here over the last few years on how we can improve that. And we've also had those conversations with the DA's including talking to them about how we can help them – what they need to be able to do that more effectively.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** So, Jonathan, I do owe you a real answer. We – in Brooklyn North, Laurie spoke about the number of – the increase in shootings we've had in the month of July. So that's – we really need Eric's office that we're in lockstep with them about moving forward with the prosecutions of these cases. So, the number – what'd you say? 31 percent in Brooklyn?

**Question:** 25 –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** 25 percent – yeah, it needs to be much higher than that. And some of that is Eric's office, and some of it's the work we do, quite frankly. We have to make sure we do our jobs correctly so we present them with good cases.

**Question:** One more follow-up on that – those enforcement reporting – so are you saying [inaudible] when you're going to start publishing them? You're still working that out? And would you commit to publishing the previous quarter reports retroactively once you reach and agreement with the Council?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Jack, you want to talk about that? Joe, you're up next.

**Chief Donohue:** Yeah, so within the next couple of weeks, we will have this resolved and we are going to retroactively produce the reports back to the – at the last quarter of 2017.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Joe?

**Question:** [Inaudible] Chief Shea. Can you describe for me different changes [inaudible]?

**Chief Dermot Shea, NYPD:** A little trouble at the end here – how was it administered today differently –

**Question:** [Inaudible] differently today than they used to be?

**Chief Shea:** So, when you look at building a case – a prosecutable case – at its fundamental core is the issue of the identification procedures. Certainly, today, we have the luxury of dealing with – I would argue, more evidence than we have at any point in time when you look at the electronics, when you look at the video that's available today, the forensic evidence. But ID procedures are, at its core, still a significant part of the case. Like anything else, we constantly assess how we police New York City, how our detectives investigate New York City cases, how we do on those cases. I'm confident that, today, as we sit here in 2018, we've worked very hard of the last couple of years, working with our partners on the prosecution side – it's not just on gun cases, Jonathan, it's how we bring evidence to prosecutions to bear. Not just with prosecutors, we also listen to and work with advocates – how do we make changes? Just because we follow an accepted practice today, a constitutional practice, does not mean that we're content to not look for other ways in an era of transparency to be fairer. So, specifically, the changes in the last couple of years – two significant changes when you look at how we administer photo arrays – the blinded procedure has been put in place. And that's not a decision that's put in place solely by the NYPD. Again, it's after long consultations with the entire community, really, of prosecutions – on the defense side, on the prosecution side. When you look at how we collect statements today in the NYPD, very different just in the last couple of years. Taking a statement – is it a written statement? Today, in the NYPD world, it's more often than not a video taped statement that then is made available to prosecutors and defense. So, I guess I would just sum it up that we're confident where we are today in how we build cases, but that's not to say that we're resting on our laurels and we're always looking outside New York City – best practices nationwide.

**Question:** [Inaudible]

**Chief Shea:** So, it's probably [inaudible] for this conversation. You have blinded photo arrays, double blinded photo arrays. This is a case where a photo array, generally speaking, six photos, one being the suspect, shown to a defendant. The witness, or the complainant, picked out, and the person showing that array does not know what place the defendant is. That would alleviate any beliefs, whether appropriate or not, that the person is steering the person to pick one. You cannot do that if you don't know which one it is. And that's – again, that's a process put in place built on nationwide best practices.

**Question:** Police made an arrest in the murder of Ebony Young [inaudible] Texas was arrested. Do you guys have any more details?

**Chief Shea:** Just very brief – I don't have that in front of me, but that's a case earlier this year. It's a case out of Brooklyn where a woman was stabbed to death in the general vicinity of a bodega in Brooklyn. There were several people involved in that death. We've recently located

one of the individuals responsible for that stabbing homicide – a female in Texas and brought back to Brooklyn to face charges. We can give you the details, DCPI can follow up.

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**Question:** So I know part of the turnstile – the fare evasion arrests – is that people with outstanding summonses will be given rides to court. Will that be extended to, for example, with the new marijuana policy? Will people arrested, or at least given summonses for marijuana possession in public, would they –

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[Laughter]

I don't think you feel the same way. It's not like getting into a taxi. I think there's a very preventative impact if you are stopped by an officer because you're doing something illegal and the message is you need to come over with us to court to address these outstanding issues. I think that probably sticks in someone's mind.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** And the ride is in handcuffs, so –

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**Commissioner O'Neill:** I don't know your first name. What's your first name?

**Question:** Vincent –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Vincent – okay, Vincent goes first.

**Question:** The City Council passed this bill that requires quarterly reports on subway fare evasion enforcement. The NYPD has refused to comply with this law. I wanted to get – citing public safety concerns – I wanted to see if you could elaborate – first part of the question is, if you could elaborate on what those public safety concerns are. And the second part of the question is for Mr. Mayor, why would you sign a bill into law that you knew your Department –

**Mayor:** Let me start – this is going to be resolved and this will be addressed, is the bottom line. There are some obvious – I'll speak as the non-policing expert – speak in the language of every-day New Yorkers – there are legitimate concerns in terms of not portraying information that interferes with the work of the NYPD. That's always a consideration, but we can address those concerns while achieving transparency and conforming to the law. So, this will be resolved.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** And Chief Donoghue will speak about it, but with your characterization as a refusal, I'm not sure if I agree with that. We are working with the City Council to get this right, and we do have to balance safety and transparency.

**Assistant Chief John Donohue, NYPD:** Yeah, we have actually been in conversation with the Council members and sponsors of that legislation and the questions of transparency and being – having visibility into the activities of our officers with respect to theft or service arrests. We are working very diligently to have that resolved very quickly. We expect that to happen very soon.

**Question:** Shouldn't it have happened before the bill became a law? That's typically how this process works, right?

**Mayor:** I'll speak as the person involved in that process on a regular basis, and also as a former Council member – no, I don't think that's a fair characterization. I think there are times when a fair amount of detail is worked out in the legislative process, but you still have to figure out how you're going to implement something. And then there are other times where the intent is agreed on but not the mechanics. And I think this point that you have to think about protecting the ability of the NYPD to do its job is obviously valid. But we want transparency and we'll achieve it, and I think that's something you'll see in a matter of the next few weeks.

**Question:** I was hoping you could go over the process for the fare evasion again – what's going to happen if somebody is caught. And then I was wondering how much the demographics – I know you haven't released that information yet – but how much that played into the decision here as well as maximizing time for officers?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Okay, Vinny, do you want answer the first part of that?

**Deputy Commissioner Vincent Grippo, NYPD:** If you stop [inaudible] most people will get a tab summons – it's a civil summons returnable to transit adjudication court. In certain circumstances, you can get a C-summons. And then there are other circumstances, if you don't fit all the criteria, you will still be arrested.

**Question:** What are those?

**Deputy Commissioner Grippo:** You will be arrested if you have a warrant felony, a misdemeanor warrant [inaudible] you will be arrested. If you evaded the fare and you're a transit offender – you fit under that category – you'll be arrested. If there's a legitimate law enforcement purpose, you may be arrested. And if you cannot be properly identified. We try all we can to properly identify people. If everything fails, then you will be arrested.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** So, as to the second part of your question – we are always looking to improve the way we deploy our resources, specifically the Transit Bureau Officers. We're always looking for efficiencies. We look at outcomes too, we look at the number of people that were arrested and what were the outcomes. Was there a fine paid? Was it [inaudible]? Was it not prosecuted? So, we are in constant talks with all of our prosecutor partners to make sure that we make this as efficient as possible, not necessarily looking at the disparities.

**Question:** We took a look at gun prosecutions in this city and it shows that there's a disparity borough by borough. The Manhattan DA's office, for example – 61 percent of all people arrested with a loaded gun get prosecuted on the top count, face three-and-a-half years in prison. In



Brooklyn, that number is just 25 percent; in Queens, 36 percent; in the Bronx, 34 percent. What is your thought about these disparities and how prosecutions are being handled –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Yeah, so this is without a doubt our bread and butter. This is how we reduce violence, by targeting people that carry guns and use guns. So, each and every week, we work with all of our prosecutorial partners, the local DA's, the US Attorney's offices, and we go down case by case to make sure that those prosecutions are as effective as possible and that there are consequences if you carry a gun in New York City. While there are disparities, we continue to work with all of the DA's offices and the US Attorneys to make sure that if you're carrying a gun in New York City there are severe consequences.

**Question:** Are you satisfied with these numbers?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** I'm never satisfied. I'd like it to be 100 percent. But I'm never satisfied with the numbers, I want them to continue to go up. And we're working with Eric's office, we're working with Darcel's office, we're working with Cy's office to make sure that we improve upon those numbers each and every day.

**Question:** So, when you say 100 percent and hear a number that the Brooklyn DA's office is only 25 percent –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** You putting words in my mouth here? What are you going? I know that trick, Jonathan.

**Question:** Mr. Mayor, do you have any thoughts on this?

**Mayor:** All of us have to do better. You know, we have a great deal of respect for the DA's but we would like to see more prosecutions, there's no question. And there has to be a culture of consequence. There has to be a realization that anyone who thinks that they can get away with having an illegal gun in New York City, that that's not going to work and that they'll do a lot of time. And so, this is something we've all been working on, had a lot of conversations with the folks up here over the last few years on how we can improve that. And we've also had those conversations with the DA's including talking to them about how we can help them – what they need to be able to do that more effectively.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** So, Jonathan, I do owe you a real answer. We – in Brooklyn North, Laurie spoke about the number of – the increase in shootings we've had in the month of July. So that's – we really need Eric's office that we're in lockstep with them about moving forward with the prosecutions of these cases. So, the number – what'd you say? 31 percent in Brooklyn?

**Question:** 25 –

**Commissioner O'Neill:** 25 percent – yeah, it needs to be much higher than that. And some of that is Eric's office, and some of it's the work we do, quite frankly. We have to make sure we do our jobs correctly so we present them with good cases.

**Question:** One more follow-up on that – those enforcement reporting – so are you saying [inaudible] when you're going to start publishing them? You're still working that out? And would you commit to publishing the previous quarter reports retroactively once you reach and agreement with the Council?

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Jack, you want to talk about that? Joe, you're up next.

**Chief Donohue:** Yeah, so within the next couple of weeks, we will have this resolved and we are going to retroactively produce the reports back to the – at the last quarter of 2017.

**Commissioner O'Neill:** Joe?

**Question:** [Inaudible] Chief Shea. Can you describe for me different changes [inaudible]?

**Chief Dermot Shea, NYPD:** A little trouble at the end here – how was it administered today differently –

**Question:** [Inaudible] differently today than they used to be?

**Chief Shea:** So, when you look at building a case – a prosecutable case – at its fundamental core is the issue of the identification procedures. Certainly, today, we have the luxury of dealing with – I would argue, more evidence than we have at any point in time when you look at the electronics, when you look at the video that's available today, the forensic evidence. But ID procedures are, at its core, still a significant part of the case. Like anything else, we constantly assess how we police New York City, how our detectives investigate New York City cases, how we do on those cases. I'm confident that, today, as we sit here in 2018, we've worked very hard of the last couple of years, working with our partners on the prosecution side – it's not just on gun cases, Jonathan, it's how we bring evidence to prosecutions to bear. Not just with prosecutors, we also listen to and work with advocates – how do we make changes? Just because we follow an accepted practice today, a constitutional practice, does not mean that we're content to not look for other ways in an era of transparency to be fairer. So, specifically, the changes in the last couple of years – two significant changes when you look at how we administer photo arrays – the blinded procedure has been put in place. And that's not a decision that's put in place solely by the NYPD. Again, it's after long consultations with the entire community, really, of prosecutions – on the defense side, on the prosecution side. When you look at how we collect statements today in the NYPD, very different just in the last couple of years. Taking a statement – is it a written statement? Today, in the NYPD world, it's more often than not a video taped statement that then is made available to prosecutors and defense. So, I guess I would just sum it up that we're confident where we are today in how we build cases, but that's not to say that we're resting on our laurels and we're always looking outside New York City – best practices nationwide.

**Question:** [Inaudible]

**Chief Shea:** So, it's probably [inaudible] for this conversation. You have blinded photo arrays, double blinded photo arrays. This is a case where a photo array, generally speaking, six photos,

one being the suspect, shown to a defendant. The witness, or the complainant, picked out, and the person showing that array does not know what place the defendant is. That would alleviate any beliefs, whether appropriate or not, that the person is steering the person to pick one. You cannot do that if you don't know which one it is. And that's – again, that's a process put in place built on nationwide best practices.

**Question:** Police made an arrest in the murder of Ebony Young [inaudible] Texas was arrested. Do you guys have any more details?

**Chief Shea:** Just very brief – I don't have that in front of me, but that's a case earlier this year. It's a case out of Brooklyn where a woman was stabbed to death in the general vicinity of a bodega in Brooklyn. There were several people involved in that death. We've recently located one of the individuals responsible for that stabbing homicide – a female in Texas and brought back to Brooklyn to face charges. We can give you the details, DCPI can follow up.

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**Question:** For the Commissioner and the Mayor, there was a case of an immigrant taxi driver from Queens who was arrested by ICE last month after he was picked up by police on a very low-level charge back in May. The fingerprinting from the arrest obviously put him on ICE's radar and that's how they found him to arrest him. They plan to deport him next week. His name is Edison [inaudible]. Advocates have kind of raised fresh concerns about the impact of fingerprints from arrests getting transmitted to the State database that ICE can then have access to [inaudible] people for deportation. I'm wondering what the two of you – what, if anything, the City can do to protect immigrants given the city's stated goals in being a sanctuary city given kind of the framework that exists with fingerprinting and [inaudible] –

**Mayor:** Look, the first thing to say is we have to keep people in this city safe and that's our sacred obligation. In fact, that's why we have been so clear with the federal government that will not ask documentation status in our encounters with people in the city whether it's the Police Department, schools, public hospitals, you name it. The very same principle though that public safety underlies the vision applies here.

If someone commits a crime, we have to address that crime for the safety of all. I think the crucial point here is there's a whole host of low-level offenses where someone is never fingerprinted. I mean I'll even take it the step back before that. The vast majority of people don't commit any crime including immigrants, including undocumented immigrants. So, most people – this is a moot point because they never do anything that brings them into contact with law enforcement.

The next category of people are people who do something very, very minor that would never lead to – under our approach – fingerprinting, and therefore there is no nexus. I do think the challenge is if someone has committed a crime that leads to fingerprinting, yes, there is that potential for the information flowing but the first obligation we have is to protect the people of this city. I also think we're seeing ICE go after people in all sorts of ways that have nothing to do with flow of information from here. They're obviously doing every manner and sort of raid with no differentiation of whether someone has committed a crime or not.

That's one of the biggest things that really needs to be focused on here. They're picking up people who done nothing except are here undocumented. They're doing that on a regular basis. So, I think that's several of the angles to look at here.

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** Anybody else? Dean –

**Question:** Can you just give us an update on the departmental trial of Officer Daniel Pantaleo over the last couple of weeks? There's been a lot of talk about, you know, there will be a departmental trial in September now that's moved back. CCRB is involved. Is that trial going to be here? Is it just Daniel Pantaleo? Can you just break it all down –

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** Dean, Deputy Commissioner Kevin Richardson will speak about the process.

**Deputy Commissioner Kevin Richardson, NYPD:** Yeah, good afternoon. So, on July the 20th, disciplinary charges were served on Daniel Pantaleo. Those charges are from the Civilian Complaint Review Board. The Civilian Complaint Review Board has the case. They are prosecuting the case. They are evaluating the evidence. They're going over their witnesses and when they're ready, they're going to bring the case in front of the Deputy Commissioner of Trials in this building where a trial would be held. I can't give you the timeframe of that. That's completely in the CCRB's hands. As I said, they're evaluating their case as it stands right now.

**Question:** Can you talk to that? Is this a case where now we could be another year from now if the CCRB is evaluating the evidence in the case again or –

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** Dean, I don't see it going a year but there is a process that needs to be followed and it needs to be respected. So, he was served with the charges and as Commissioner Richardson just explained – what the process and how long it takes. So, there's really not much that we can do about that. We do have to follow the process.

**Mayor:** Dean, I get the full impression that everyone wants to move this process along. Obviously, again, respecting due process, being thorough. But no one wants to delay. Everyone wants to move. We've resolved the issue with the Justice Department. It's time to put this behind us.

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** Jonathan?

**Question:** Commissioner or for Chief Shea, the Schneiderman case [inaudible] a new woman had stepped forward, yet to file charges. Has anyone stepped forward to file a complaint [inaudible] criminal investigation [inaudible]?

**Chief Shea:** Yeah, nothing has changed in that case, Jonathan. Nobody has come forward.

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** Tony?

**Question:** For Chief Shea, could you – do you have extensive briefing on the criminal homicide, suicide out in Astoria? Is there any clarity now on those final minutes or moments that led to that in terms of the investigation. I believe it was a custody dispute [inaudible] –

**Chief Shea:** What I'll say is that there are some facts that have come to light not to change what we know. I won't get into great detail. Tragic incident. The heart goes out to the family, for that young child, for the families of the victims first and foremost. In terms of motivation, I don't know that we will have a complete picture.

But what we have is we have social media posts, we have interviews of many people now as we've gone forward from that incident of a disturbed person and a couple themes come up. Money and finances have been raised. Issues with his business have come up. I'm not going to tell you how I know this but it has come up in the investigation. And the custody issue. All those three things have been raised by the individual that took the lives of the three innocent people [inaudible] and that's a combination of what I've said – it's a combination of open source social media, it's a combination of talking to witnesses and family, and somethings that I won't get into.

**Question:** Commissioner, in the back and forth with the DOJ over proceeding with the Pantaleo disciplinary process, the Department of Justice recently said, and this was on the record, that they informed Lawrence Byrne in the spring that the NYPD could go ahead and proceed with the case. Have you gotten to the bottom of that? Do you know whether he actually was informed and why there would have been this –

**Police Commissioner O'Neill:** No. He was not informed of that. This is something that we've been following very closely obviously for years. He's had many discussions with DOJ and never at any point prior to a couple of weeks did they say it was okay to move forward.

**Unknown:** Thanks, everybody.

[...]

**Mayor:** I want to give you an opening statement before we go into other off-topic questions. Alright, the door is about to close. Okay, so I have a bittersweet announcement to make. Some of you may have heard already, our Health Commissioner, Dr. Mary Bassett has accepted a teaching position at Harvard School of Public Health and will also lead their Center for Health and Human Rights as the director.

I will speak for the whole administration in saying New York City's loss is Harvard's gain. And I certainly understand why she was attracted to such a prestigious and important position. Her tenure here, I'm very happy to say, of four-and-a-half years – everything I hoped it would be and more. I think she did extraordinary work. I want to mention a few things in particular. I think in the midst of some of the biggest challenges we faced in recent year, she was an extraordinarily calm and clear and methodical voice addressing really complex issues.

Most notably the Ebola crisis which I think for all us was the ultimate in uncharted territory. And Mary Bassett, at that moment, really was particularly a powerful and important voice in this city helping everyone to understand the disease and to recognize how we would work our way through that crisis, and we did, and I'm very, very proud of what New York City did at that time and in many other moments.

She played a crucial role in the success of the Thrive NYC mental health initiative and that work will continue to deepen at Department of Health. She created something very important, the Center for Health Equity and took existing efforts but really focused them on addressing disparities effectively.

She also made the Health Department, itself, a fairer place to work. She did something I know was near and dear to Ben Tucker's heart and she instituted implicit bias training and that has been a very high impact initiative at the Department of Health.

So, her whole career – consistently about addressing disparity, addressing racial injustice. She'll have the, I think, extraordinary opportunity to continue that work by literally teaching the next generation of public health leaders in this country, to follow her good example. So, we are definitely going to miss her but appreciate her deeply.

And with that said, I also want to let you know that the Health Department will be in very capable hands in the interim as we determine our pathway to new leadership. Dr. Oxiris Barbot who is the First Deputy Commissioner will be the interim Health Commissioner. She has been at Dr. Bassett's side the whole time and knows her work well, also served in a very important

position previously for four years as the Health Commissioner of Baltimore and oversaw some really extraordinary reforms and improvements there.

So, the people of New York City can rest assured that we are all in good hands with Dr. Barbot leading the agency for the foreseeable future. With that I want to open up for questions about that or anything else. Yes?

**Question:** Mr. Mayor, a lot has been [inaudible] about the speed camera program and Vision Zero through your tenure and we ran the big numbers for 17,000 vehicles – City vehicles. We found nearly 2,000 with open recalls not fixed [inaudible] airbags, ignition switches. These are issues that have killed upwards of 50 people and it's injured more than 200 people across the country. Just your comment on that and why DCAS doesn't get these cars fixed.

**Mayor:** First, I appreciate you doing that. That is a great example of the media alerting us to a problem we have to fix. So, thank you. I don't know a lot about this issue to be very honest with you. I do not – not an expert of DCAS's approach to recalls but that needs to be vigorous as it would with anybody's vehicle. So, we'll certainly look into that and I want to make sure that anyone who drives a vehicle for this City, it's safe and if there's something we have to tighten up, we will.

**Question:** [Inaudible] two of them are FDNY ambulances with [inaudible] airbags –

**Mayor:** Again, I want to caution not knowing the specifics. I think the bottom line is whether it's DCAS or any of our agencies, we have to make sure the vehicles are safe for everyone involved, and particularly want to protect our employees. And so, we need to hold our agencies to a high standard but I need to get some specifics from them before I can comment further. Yes?

**Question:** Just quickly on Dr. Bassett stepping down. I wonder if you know anything about whether the revelations that the Health Department's failure to communicate those cases of elevated lead levels to NYCHA and that the subsequent DOI investigation into that that's been reported – if that played any role –

**Mayor:** No, absolutely not. Look, that matter is an ongoing investigation but really was about flow of information and clearly all the agencies involved are doing everything they can to address the underlying issues and the Health Department has done extraordinary work. Lead poisoning in this city is down 90 percent since 2005 and that's a lot because of the work of the Health Department. But in terms of communication between agencies and reportings – there obviously was work that had to be addressed and that has been addressed.

No, she's made clear the outreach she received from Harvard goes back many months. And a tenured professorship at Harvard and the head of a major center, that's a pretty amazing offer.

**Question:** I think the last time a commissioner post came open was the DOE commissioner position and that was interesting that you had a person and that person went away –



**Mayor:** Interesting, yes. I agree with that statement. I think it was kind of operatic actually but go ahead.

**Question:** Have you learned anything about trying to hire –

**Mayor:** Don't let that happen. That's – I, look, I said at the time, I've never seen something like that. I'm happy to put it out of my mind. Thank you for bringing it back. In all of my days, I never saw anything like that. I think we can say that was a pretty singular episode but no, look, I'm very, very proud that we have a whole lot of people in this administration who have gone the distance now which is pretty unusual in public life.

You know, a lot of people in these high-intensity public jobs do two years. We got a lot of people who are now in their fifth year. And we've had very – I think, real success finding strong successors. Except at PD, everywhere else – oh, wait, I'm sorry. I didn't realize you were here.

We found fantastic people and, I will say for the record, the Commissioner is a good example. Richard Carranza is a good example. I know we'll find someone really good. Public health – the Commissioner of Health in New York City is one of the most prized health jobs in America. There will be great people for it.

**Question:** Mr. Mayor, how was jury duty?

**Mayor:** It was actually – I'm a sucker for democracy so it's a very moving experience. The last time that I served, I served for a substantial period of time on a murder trial back in I think it was '96 and I was deeply moved by that experience. I said to people – we were all talking while we were waiting to know what would happen in the jury room and I said to people that it's actually one of the most powerful experiences in democracy you can have, to have everyday people of all walks of life brought together to make such an important decision.

And it's interesting, I talked to people there and everyone had that – we're all busy New Yorkers and hoping they would not be – have their life disrupted for too long but there was also a really strong undercurrent of people saying this is important. And if it were me who had a case that I was involved, I would want to know that good people were there trying to make sense of it. So, I found it an inspiring experience in its own way.

**Question:** Hear you're heading to New Orleans this weekend. You discussed with us your new path and how you're going to sort of wade into some Democratic races outside of New York City. But you've yet to make an endorsement in the gubernatorial race here in New York or in any number of pretty hotly challenged primary races in the State Senate. Some of these IDC – why should people trust your endorsement for out of town races if you haven't yet made an endorsement in the ones you know the best?

**Mayor:** Well, as I've said to you, I am reserving my right to get involved in any number of races and some of that I expect to speak to pretty soon. There's a lot that I have to do every day and I have to consider anything I do in the State in light of that. But I fully intend to make my views known before this election cycle is over. That said, what's happening around the country is going

to deeply affect New York City. By the way, when I talk to every-day New Yorkers, they get this immediately. Whether there's a Democratic House representatives in Washington, or a Democratic Senate in Washington – massive impact on New York City. The possibility of having Chuck Schumer as majority leader of the Senate alone – a huge, huge impact for this city and this state. So, I think I've got to attend to both and I intend to.

**Question:** Mr. Mayor, the federal complaint that was submitted against NYCHA by the Manhattan US Attorney's office, it said that the Department of Health – there were a few lines about the Department of Health, and one of them said that from 2010-2015, DOH only inspected 60 percent of the apartments where a child registered elevated lead levels that meet its criteria for inspection, meaning, under DOH's own policies they should have inspected 202 apartments, they only inspected 121. I'm wondering, since then, have you made any effort to get to the bottom of that?

**Mayor:** We've already addressed the substantive issue, meaning I don't have the complaint in front of me and, with all due respect, I would need to see the literal wording to be able to speak to it. But the underlying question, we obviously have put out a policy now where in any instance, public housing or private housing, where there's evidence of a child having an elevated lead level that Department of Health will be available to inspect. The vast majority of that is happening in private housing and we intend to be just as vigorous there as in public housing. Obviously, meanwhile, a whole host of things are being done differently with both Department of Health and NYCHA, including getting to the original question with NYCHA and going and inspecting 130,000 units at their foundation using better technology to determine if there's lead there to begin with. So, all of those approaches have now been updated regardless of what happened, going back to 2010.

**Question:** I mean, the policy then was that they should have been inspecting these apartments and weren't. Don't you have any interest in finding out why they weren't following –

**Mayor:** I have an interest in fixing the problem once and for all, and I really don't want to retread. Obviously, if we find anything along the way that suggests something was missed, we are always going to look at it, but the bottom line here is – right now, what matters in this city is inspecting every unit that needs to be inspected, getting care to any child that needs it, and addressing the underlying issues once and for all, and that's what the consent decree gets at for NYCHA.

**Question:** A couple of questions on the PAC and your trip this weekend. The first is – could you respond to your decision to hire the head of your PAC, Tate Hausman, was convicted of voter fraud. It sounds like you were aware of that –

**Mayor:** Yes.

**Question:** – when you hired him. And then, my second question is, have you raised any PAC money? And the third question is –

**Mayor:** Okay, wait, let's – my brain can't go that fast. Tate – I've seen the coverage. I've talked to him about it, but, more importantly, I wanted to see the objective coverage of what happened then, and it's very clear and consistent. He was involved in a major voter registration and turnout effort in Ohio. He spent months there. He believed he was doing the right and appropriate thing to register and vote there, because he was living there. He wasn't voting any place else. He thought he had done it the right way, turned out he didn't. He went back and accepted that he made a mistake, and paid the appropriate fine, and went on. But the – if you look at the history, it was clearly consistent with the work he was doing trying to help people vote, and absolutely understandable. What's your second question?

**Question:** The second question was have you raised any PAC money since the –

**Mayor:** I have been raising money, you know you call people and you make a request and it takes a while for money to come in. And you know that will all be proceeding now and then we're going to be following the reporting structures of the Federal Elections Commission and the State Board of Elections, and then doing some additional disclosure beyond that.

**Question:** And the final question was with New Orleans. Our understanding is that some of the trip will be paid for by tax-payers, by the city, and some from the PAC. What's sort of the rough breakdown, and what qualifies this for some tax-payer funding?

**Mayor:** So, look, again I'll give a laymen's answer. The lawyers can give a more exact answer. But the central point is. When you're working on substantive issues not partisan politics it is governmental. When you're working on partisan politics it's political. Most of this trip is clearly governmental. I am going to be meeting with fellow mayor's and elected officials and talking about common efforts to address issues in our cities and to achieve changes that we all need. I also think that speaking to people about a bigger agenda for progressive change is crucial to achieving what we need here in New York City. We've got to push the spectrum on some of these issues to get the kind of changes we need in Washington. So, that all will be determined by lawyers, and obviously with a check in with the Conflict Interest Board. But I think the simple way to define it is the partisan politics is the part that needs to be addressed with the PAC.

**Mayor:** Anyone, yes?

**Question:** Grace asked a question but so – if you will be doing some partisan stuff there can you tell us a little bit more about that. Do you plan to meet with other candidates, or people who are running for office there? I mean what's your political involvement?

**Mayor:** Yeah, so I can't in this case speak to the trip because some of the details are still being worked through. I think a more typical example just to give you something to make sense of it all is. For example, if I go somewhere – often have gone to U.S Conference of Mayor's meetings for example, and while at one of those meetings then campaigned for someone in a partisan fashion. You know that amount of the trip has to be split off. And there's a – it's not a new thing. There's a formula for how to do that.

**Question:** So will you be campaigning for anyone there?

**Mayor:** Again the trip has – even though it's real soon. The final details have not been resolved. Okay any other topics on other people's minds. Yes?

**Question:** I just want to get your thoughts on the [inaudible] corporation study that was put out yesterday about a proposal for a single-payer health care in New York have found that implementing the system under the Dick Gottfried's bill would actually decrease overall health care spending across the state and kind of shift the cost burden in new taxation to the wealthiest New Yorkers. I am wondering what you think of that given that there's kind of a picture now of the practical implications in your favorability toward taxing the rich.

**Mayor:** Yes, thank you for noting that. I believe, and I believed when I first ran that the wealthy were not paying their fair share in tax and it's gotten worse because of the recent legislation passed by the Congress. I have not seen the [inaudible] study but I do support Assemblyman Gottfried's bill and I think it's in the right direction. So in a good way it does not surprise me that the objective study of it showed that it could reduce costs and create a more equitable burden in terms of who pays for health care. But I'd have to see it to give you a more exact answer. Okay, last call. Anything else on people's minds gong once, going twice, thank you everyone.