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RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER

Commissioner Bill Bratton, NYPD: Thank you for joining us this afternoon.

At approximately 1:15 pm this afternoon, a uniformed police officer assigned to a transit foot post near West 1st Street in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn was stabbed in the neck by a 58-year-old male suspect, who was subsequently shot by the officer. The male suspect was later pronounced deceased at the scene.

The police officer, who was assigned to Transit District 34 in Brooklyn, was standing on the elevated subway platform at the Ocean Parkway station on the Q line when he heard a commotion coming from the street level. When he descended to the street, the police officer encountered a 58-year-old white male who had just assaulted a 78-year-old white female.

While attempting to apprehend the male suspect, the officer was assaulted with an 11-inch hunting knife – I believe we have photos of that knife that will be made available to you – sustaining a wound to the neck. The officer fired two rounds, striking the suspect in the torso.

The injured police officer was transported to Lutheran Medical Center, where we are now, where he is currently being treated and is listed in stable condition. The mayor and I just visited him and his family upstairs.

The male suspect was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity is being withheld, pending family notification. The knife was recovered at the scene.

The preliminary investigation reveals that the suspect had been involved in an earlier altercation in a nearby store and assaulted the female after she attempted to intervene. The details of this police encounter are still being investigated. All that I'm relating to you is preliminary at this time. It appears at this time that there was no known connection between the deceased suspect and the 78-year-old female victim.

Police Officer Fillippo Gugliara was appointed in January of 2013. He is 24 years old and is not married – a very active police officer. Members of his family are here at the hospital with him – we met with them upstairs. The mayor and I had a very good conversation with the officer – awake, alert – and, again, we are very pleased that he is in such good condition.

I want to thank the staff here at the New York University Lutheran Medical Center for their outstanding care of our officer.

Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you, commissioner.

Well, I just want to say it was a tremendous honor to meet Officer Fillippo Gugliara. He was brave – he pursued this perp, followed his training, did the right thing – went toward the danger. It was so good to see him – thank God – in great shape upstairs.

This is an example to this city of the kind of men and women who join the NYPD, who are ready to serve, who are ready to walk into harm's way to make sure their fellow New Yorkers are safe. He heard the cries of the elderly woman. He went to the scene. He confronted the perpetrator. And thank God, the officer came out okay.

He is a great guy. We had a great conversation with him and his family. His father Joe and his sister Dina were upstairs with us. We had a great conversation – born and bred Brooklynite – and we got into a conversation about his little league baseball career, and he actually played baseball in a lot of the same fields that my son Dante did. We had a great conversation – and a guy who had just went through such a tough experience. He was positive. He was proud of what he had done. And we told him how proud we were of him.

So I want to thank everyone here at Lutheran. I want to echo the commissioner's point that the folks here at this hospital did a great job – and thank God, the officer is well. And he is an example to us all. Thank you.

Commissioner Bratton: Any on-topic questions [inaudible]?

Question: [inaudible] suspect's criminal history [inaudible]?

Commissioner Bratton: [inaudible] in a position to give that to Chief of Detectives Bob Boyce – well known to all of you, a rising star in the department [inaudible].

Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce, NYPD: Yeah – yes – I'll – I'll try to hold through. Right now, he has one prior arrest – and that has been sealed. It's an aggravated arrest, but it's been sealed and that's – and it's – the complainant wanted to go no further than that. So we don't have – he doesn't have much of a criminal history.

Question: [inaudible] to go back to the incident between the man and the woman in the store and then, what? It ends up on the street again?

Chief Boyce: That's being vetted right now. Apparently, it was a store owner he had an incident with. That 78-year-old woman interceded in that, and we believe that was the nexus for the assault on that lady.

Question: It's my understanding the incident happened just a few blocks away from Coney Island Hospital. Why was the officer taken here?

Chief Boyce: This is – that was the choice of EMS. You'd have to ask them, but this is a trauma center. I think we have one of the doctors here – you can ask him that question.

Question: [inaudible] maybe this is what you mean by vetting – in other words, it happens in the store and then you're not clear on how it ends up back on the street?

Chief Boyce: That's right. We have the 78-year-old lady. We're speaking to her. We're seeking that – that merchant right now.

Question: [inaudible]

Chief Boyce: Yes, she was at – she was taken to the ground by the perpetrator, and he was on the ground, and she has several bruises right now.

Question: [inaudible] can you describe what the transit officer [inaudible]?

Commissioner Bratton: He was part of, ironically, an initiative that I created back in 1990 when I was chief of transit police. But I'll ask Chief Fox to describe the circumstances of that assignment and what – what he is there specifically for.

Transit Bureau Chief Joseph Fox, NYPD: An important part of safety in our subway system is helping our young people get to and from school safely. As you know, as you would expect, it's large crowds, and so we call that Safe Passage, where we have officers specifically dedicated to these platform stations and train lines to make that work well and keep them safe and keep the system running well.

Commissioner Bratton: This is a photo of the knife that was recovered at the scene. In the initial photographs taken of the deceased suspect, the knife was within a few inches of his hands. The protocol is that it was moved several feet away [inaudible], but as you can see, it's – our officer is very fortunate. We – one of the treating physicians here at the hospital opined that he believed that the officer probably was saved by the fact that the knife seemed to have initially struck the officer's shoulder strap of his vest, and that deflected the knife – versus, as you can see, if that had penetrated the officer's neck, it would be a very different story that we'd be telling with you here this afternoon.

Question: But the – it did cut the skin [inaudible]?

Commissioner Bratton: It – it – it – it – it – it – and that's why he's being treated, and he'll be held overnight here at the hospital.

Question: [inaudible] someone to be stabbed in the neck and then still be able to fire the gun? Can somebody address that?

Commissioner Bratton: I don't know how you can address it. It happened. And our investigation will continue, but, again, by all accounts, our initial review that the officer performed admirably, had the occasion to listen to the radio transmissions – he was giving very good radio transmissions to get officers – get assistance to him. And he faced a – quite clearly – a life-threatening situation with this individual. And we don't – it's only conjecture, but but for his intercession in the assault on the 78-year-old woman, the suspect armed with this knife, that we really don't know what might've occurred there, but for the interruption of that assault by the officer.

Question: [inaudible]

Commissioner Bratton: Doctor, he's asking what treatment he received here [inaudible]?

Mayor: Come on up.

Doctor: The officer received a few stitches. He underwent some testing to make sure that there were no more major injuries, which there was none. And that was the extent of his treatment at this point.

Question: Is this more of a slash or a stab? Was this a deep wound?

Doctor: It wasn't that deep.

Question: Just for – just for clarification purposes, the – the shop owner and the 78-year-old woman had gotten into some sort of an altercation inside that ended up outside –

Chief Boyce: That's not what happened. No. No. She intervened in the argument between the two – the shop owner and this individual – the 58-year-old man. She intervened to help. That's what happened.

Question: So the – okay, so the – the suspect got into an argument with the shop owner, and the woman tried to intervene. Somehow this argument ended up outside with the suspect and the woman arguing, and that’s when the officer –

Chief Boyce: That’s correct. That’s preliminary [inaudible] our investigation we have heard. We do not have the shop owner yet.

Unknown: Thank you very much.

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