

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON WCBS 880

Wayne Cabot: Let's go on the newslive live right now and speak with the Mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio. Mayor, good morning.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Good morning, Wayne. How you doing?

Cabot: I'm doing fine. I heard you mention last night that you have no threats that you're aware of, of any sort, nothing to really be concerned about, that it's all on the up and up so far. But I have to wonder how you feel when you look around your city and see those boarded up storefronts, as we've all seen.

Mayor: Yeah. Wayne, look, no one wants to see it, but in a sense it's organic. The whole country is on edge. People are worried because, look, the president of the United States has said he might not abide by the result of a democratic election. That's unprecedented in the entire history of the republic. So, people are reacting to that, they're reacting to the fear that there could be conflict and all. We're not seeing it so far, Wayne. And I'm happy to say this, that what we're seeing, there's no major demonstrations planned. I've been in constant touch with the NYPD. They're not getting anything particularly notable, but we'll be ready. I think the important point is here's the opportunity day, rather than worry about what might be, let's look at what's right in front of us, the chance to vote. 1.1 million New Yorkers early voted, unbelievable, unprecedented. We could add that much or even more voters voting today. People have until nine o'clock tonight to get out and express their view and register their vote. And that's what matters. Let's get that done today.

Cabot: Are you happy with what you're seeing so far this morning?

Mayor: Yes, absolutely, Wayne. So far, we're hearing a couple of poll sites opened late. That's not unprecedented. We don't like that, but it happens. But overwhelmingly we're hearing things are going smoothly, long lines in some areas, but not everywhere. And obviously the early voting took some of the pressure off Election Day. But, look, we have, here in this city, incredible energy for this Election Day. People have been waiting for it for a long time – and reminding everyone you have until nine o'clock tonight, and if you're in line by nine o'clock, the poll site must remain open until you cast your vote.

Cabot: Early voting has been at times problematic in the city we know with long lines. Do you think it's here to stay? What do you think?

Mayor: Oh, absolutely, Wayne. I was in a good, long line in Brooklyn, myself – three-and-a-half hours. But I'll tell you, people were so committed. They wanted to vote. They wanted to get their vote in no matter what. And early voting, we got to make it better. The Board of Elections needs a lot of changes and reforms in my view. But early voting is something that we fought for in the state for a long time. We finally got it. What a difference. Imagine if that 1.1 million people, Wayne, were all concentrated today on top of everyone else who is going to vote. It would have been madness. Early voting actually makes everything work better but we need a different and better Board of Elections going forward.

Cabot: And for the City of New York and finances which like every city and every municipality are really just in a precarious place, how clutch is it who gets elected?

Mayor: It's the whole ball game, Wayne. Tonight, if Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are elected I guarantee you there will be a major stimulus as early as February, and that will speed the recovery of New York City. That's what's on the line in this election. I'll give it to really straight, if Joe Biden gets elected there's going to be stimulus, New York City's going to have a strong comeback. If Joe Biden gets elected there's going to be a vaccine that people can believe in which means more people will use it, take it quickly, that'll speed our comeback. Decisive impact on New York City in this election. It's literally – our future is riding on this election.

Cabot: Mr. Mayor, before you run, one quick question about COVID. We're seeing that Connecticut now is doing some rolling back. Governor Lamont is asking people to try to stay indoors at night. Are we reaching that point in the city?

Mayor: Wayne, we're doing – still, despite a few setbacks here, we're still doing better than almost any place in the country, but we've got to stay cautious, and we've got to stay disciplined. New Yorkers have been amazing. Right now, we can continue doing what we're doing. I want to be very, very careful though, if we see the numbers continue to go up we're going to have to talk about, you know, whatever else will keep us safe but right now New York City continues to do a hell of a lot better than the rest of the country, and that's a credit to New Yorkers.

Cabot: I think a lot of us will be glad when this election season is over and certainly when this COVID season is over. Mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio, thank you as always.

Mayor: Take care, Wayne. Thanks.

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