



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 4, 2016  
**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), (212) 788-2958

**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO AND COMMISSIONER BRATTON HOLD  
PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE RECORD-LOW CRIME LEVELS FOR 2015**

**Commissioner William Bratton, NYPD:** Good afternoon.

Let me introduce those that are at the podium – Vanessa Gibson, Chairs to Public Safety Committee of the City Council; Chief of Patrol, Carlos Gomez; Chief of Department, Jim O’Neill; our mayor, Bill de Blasio; Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer. We also have Deputy Commissioner Jesse Tisch, the deputy commissioner of technology – she will be giving several presentations to you. We have the deputy commissioner that runs our CompStat systems, known very well to you, Dermot Shea, at these monthly crime briefings. Dermot will be giving you the overview of the preliminary 2015 crime summary. We also have Chief of Detectives Bob Boyce, who will be able to speak to any of the particular crime situations that occurred over the last several days – that you might want additional information.

The purpose of today’s meeting is our normal monthly crime briefing that we give each month. This one will be very specifically focused on the whole year of 2015. Some of the numbers that we will be presenting will be preliminary until we close our Uniform Crime Reports – UCR report to the FBI, but we don’t expect that they will change substantially based on the last number of years that we’ve done this.

It’s a very good year for us, 2015 – 2015, in the sense, that it was a record year for tourism in this city – almost 60 million – a record year for Broadway ticket sales, a record year in terms of the special events that this department handled – the Pope, U.N. visit, also the most recent New Year’s Eve event, with all the concerns around the heightened issues of terrorism around the world – a very good year, in the sense of successful events.

It was also a year of tragedy. Once again, we lost several of our officers – murdered in the streets of New York, and, most recently, Detective Lemm, killed in Afghanistan while on active-duty with the U.S. Air Force – but on the crime-front it’s been a continuation of what has been, now, going back to the early 1990’s – a continuing decline in crime in New York City – and I speak very specifically to the UCR categories – the seven categories that are covered by the FBI report. This past year we had a 1.7 percent decline – overall decline – preliminary figures – in our UCR crime – coupled with the decrease in 2014, it comes to a 5.8 percent decline in index UCR crime. I emphasize those two years, because when this administration – my administration with the police department and the mayor’s administration in the city – came into office, there was a great deal of concern that the downward trends in crime that began in the early 1990’s, which I had

some role in assisting, back in 1994, '95, and '96 – could they in fact continue? Well, they have in fact continued – and while there have been some fluctuations, some increases in certain categories, the overall trend in all of our crime categories continues to go down.

As Dermot Shea will reference in his comments, when we take a look at other large cities in this country – major cities, but particularly the next three largest – our declines are significantly below, in some instances, significant increases they experienced. So, it's been a very good year for the City of New York – a year to celebrate – and as we go into 2016, that we are very well positioned. By the end of 2016, we will have completed the hiring of an additional 1,300 new officers – the first increase since 2001. We'll have the equivalent of 700 additional officers through civilianization – 2,000 additional officers on the street.

Jesse Tish will be discussing some of the growing technology capabilities the department has that will allow us to continue our precision-focus on reducing crime. And we anticipate that 2016 will be another year of crime-decline in the city.

I'm going to ask the mayor to come up and speak relative to what I've referenced and outlined for him. Following the mayor, that – Dermot Shea will be up to give a more intimate perspective on the various crime categories that I've just referenced.

I'd like to thank the mayor, City Council, and the other elected officials who are very supportive of this department, particularly, in our budget processes. We are very well funded to meet the concerns of the citizens of New York, and the many people who visit this city – and a lot of that funding will really take hold this year, 2016, particularly in the area of new police officers, new technology, and new skills.

And so, I'd like to – as I bring the mayor up – thank him in front of this group for that continuing support and leadership in keeping public safety the number one priority of this city.

Mr. Mayor?

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Well, thank you, Commissioner Bratton. You have a lot to be proud of today. All the men and women of the NYPD have a lot to be proud of as we look back on 2015. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who was a part of the extraordinary preparations for New Year's Eve, and all the officers who served that day. We have to always remember these officers, like all of us, would love to be home with their families, but they were where they were needed, and that was a holiday for everyone else, but not for them. The end result – a beautiful job on New Year's Eve that came off without a hitch. It was a safe, secure environment. Commissioner Bratton and I said to some of the folks in the media who interviewed us in the day or two before New Years – one of the safest places in America to be that night would be at Times Square, and, lo and behold, that was true. So, when you look back on 2015, remember how well New Year's Eve went, remember how well the Thanksgiving Parade went, remember how well the Pope's visit went, and that credit goes to the leadership team here at the NYPD, and to all the men and women of the NYPD who do the job every day. It took three – just three among many examples that we could [inaudible]. Three extraordinarily difficult events, and made them look easy – that's how good they are, and that's a lot to be proud of.

These numbers overall are extraordinary, but I want to start by talking about another example of what our officers do every day. So, the numbers are powerful. You know, there's been some debate about numbers versus the reality of human lives – both matter. We have to measure by the numbers. The statistics tell us a lot. They represent human beings. They represent families. They represent things that deeply affect people's lives. But it's also important to hear the human stories. It's also important to put a human face on the extraordinary work of the NYPD. So, I want to give you an example right now.

Saturday – this last Saturday, five officers from Midtown North proved, once again, what the NYPD does in the face of adversity and what a huge difference it makes in people's lives. There was a tourist from Scotland. He was in a cab near the corner of West 52nd Street and Broadway. He lost consciousness and was struggling to catch his breathe. And the five officers I'm about to speak about are right over there, and I want to – I'll name each of them, and I want to thank them all. As you hear this story, you'll appreciate why. So, this tourist was in dire shape, and that is when Officer Xhoana Tozaj – I hope I'm saying that right – who had been picking up barriers after the New Year's Eve celebration, came to the tourist's aid and started administering CPR. Then Officers David Basquez and Matthew Widmer came to the scene. They didn't hesitate – they helped administer CPR – got additional assistance there. About a minute later, Officers William Helbock and Timothy Landy arrived with a defibrillator, and they were able to stabilize the man from Scotland until the FDNY EMS crews arrived. I'm proud to say – I'm pleased to say the man is now recovering at the NYU Medical Center. He is alive and well because of these five officers. Let's give them all a round of applause right now.

[Applause]

So, when they think about protecting and serving, I'm sure each one of them has other great examples they could raise, but here's one – a life they saved – a person who will keep walking this earth – a family that will be intact because of the work that these five officers did, and that happens every single day in this city, and we have to always remember to appreciate the work of our officers.

Now, it is related to the fact that we choose our officers well, that we train our officers better than ever, that we provide them with what they need to do their job. And, in fact, with each passing year, that effort gets better and better. Our officers are given better tools than ever before, and it shows. And I want to give credit to Commissioner Bratton, and the whole leadership team up here for constantly focusing on how to take this winning team that is the NYPD and make it stronger every single year – better training, better technology, better equipment – the things that also keep our officers safer – the new vests, and the technology, the training, also are crucial in keeping our officers safer. So, this is a constant dynamic of progress, and that has been the watchword of Commissioner Bratton's entire career.

I want to thank all of the other leadership of the NYPD up here. And, as Commissioner Bratton said, a lot of the progress we have made has been because of the support of the City Council. So, thank you Chair Gibson, and to all the members of the council. Thank you Borough President Brewer for your support. Elected officials have been very, very supportive as we've made a series of changes and improvements in the work of the NYPD.

2015 – not only did we prove the point that Commissioner Bratton raised earlier, that the success he started – and the men and women of this department started in the early 90s – could and would continue. We did it at the same time as we drew police and community closer together. We said over the last two years we could have a safer city and a fairer city at the same time. These numbers – these statistics for 2015 prove it. Yes, both can be done, both have been done. As the commissioner said, we’re very proud of the fact that over the two years that we’ve been here – a combined 5.8 percent drop in major crime. That proves the point that, in fact, by bringing police and community closer together, it makes us constantly safer. We’re very pleased with the numbers for 2015. As you’ve heard – about a 1.7 percent drop in major crimes – and again, that is preliminary information.

We believe that the investments we’re making are part of the success story, and that’s why we’re going to continue those investments, making sure the men and women of this department have in their hands the information they need – that’s the iPhones and the tablets – making sure they have the best information to help them in investigations – that’s ShotSpotter – and making sure that we have the personnel we need to continue this progress. And I’ve said it, but I want to emphasize it – it’s not just fighting the most serious crimes, the most violent crimes. We want to constantly deepen our focus on quality of life crimes. As the P-D does a better and better job at bringing down violent crime and serious crime, it’s opening up the space, and the time, and the energy to go after a whole host of quality of life crimes too. Those 2,000 more officers – the 1,300 that came out of the budget with the help of the council – the 700 who are going to have an opportunity to serve on the streets through civilianization – 2,000 more officers and [inaudible] by this point next year. That’s going to help us to go even farther, and I’m looking forward to the successes that those officers will bring. Obviously, even though I made the point that these big events that come off without a hitch – and we’ve seen for 14 straight years the NYPD protecting us effectively against terrorism. We said it over these last weeks – it is true, we are the best prepared city in this nation to prevent terrorism. We’re going to keep deepening our investment on that front – the 500-plus members of the Critical Response Command, coming online now, are going to add immeasurably to our ability to prevent terrorist acts.

And some other very big initiatives we care about – we care deeply about getting guns off the streets. At the end of 2015, gun arrests had gone up almost 10 percent compared to the year before. We are very, very pleased with that progress – and expect to see more. And Vision Zero, a tremendous success story – the NYPD has been at the core of the successes of Vision Zero. To put it in perspective, the year before we all came into office, 297 traffic fatalities. At the end of this year, 230 – that’s real progress, and a big part of it was the enforcement by the NYPD. Three times as many tickets given for failure to yield to pedestrians; twice as many speeding tickets; this is very much a part of why more people are alive today and didn’t die in traffic crashes – because of the great work of the NYPD.

So, in 2016, we will build further. We very much look forward to the presence of our new officers – as the commissioner said, the first time we’re getting this kind of infusion of new officers in well over a decade. It’s going to make a big difference. And we look forward to all of these initiatives – the training, the technology – really coming into full force in 2016, and making this an even safer city. Just very quickly in Spanish –

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

Thank you to everyone, and congratulations for this extraordinary success.

[...]

**Commissioner Bratton:** We are available for on-topic initially, but then we can [inaudible] to any public safety-related questions that you might have.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** The experience we have had has not been a surprising one because it mirrors the experiences in most other cities, and to put in that technology – that’s 75 percent of the public failing to call in shots-fired – is pretty consistent in many other cities around the country. But, as Jesse reported, we get incredible value from it because we get to scenes where there are no 9-1-1 calls, we make arrests, we recover evidence [inaudible] detectives make cases. So, it’s similar to back in 1994 where we started tracking shooting incidents. As we move forward, this is just another tracking of information relative to shootings that will help us get a better picture of what’s actually happening in the city – and over time, that we would hope that as we go up to 60-square miles, that we, in fact, see a decrease in the number of shootings documented by ShotSpotter, and an increase in the public calling in when they do hear it, with the understanding that we will come.

**Question:** [Inaudible].

**Commissioner Bratton:** I’ll ask Dermot and Bob Boyce, who spend a lot of time investigating these, to give you specifics on that.

**Deputy Commissioner Dermot Shea, NYPD:** David, off the top of my head, three things really jump out – number one, the intelligence and the knowledge of who is doing burglaries. When a career burglar is getting out of prison, now, we know about. We’re not following this person around, but we have an awareness, and it would be something curious there’s a sudden spike right where that person used to do burglaries. It’s just another piece of data for awareness purposes. Second factor would be the – not just for burglaries, but the DNA capabilities, and the role that DNA has played for shootings. We’re hoping that it really significantly improves the sentencing on our gun arrests and for purposes of burglaries – a crime where, often, we have absolutely no witness – it provides an integral lead for our detectives. And the last category is something that we started a couple of years ago for the [inaudible] – when the iPhones were big, up-and-coming, and everyone was trying to steal iPhones across the country, it seemed. The attention to detail in tracking of property really has paid dividends in tracking down, after-the-fact, somebody that’s stolen property, and leading us to the burglar. So, that’s three things right off the top of my head that, when you look back five years ago, really wasn’t done to the extent it is now.

**Commissioner Bratton:** If I may, that – Jesse has one additional brief presentation that benefits, certainly, you and the press – of significant benefit to the public – an initiative that the mayor in his emphasis on transparency of our numbers, Gale Brewer has been particularly involved in this as Manhattan Borough President – requesting this and participating with us – and it’s what we describe as CompStat Two – it’s taking the CompStat system and the information that we used internally, and finding a way to get it out to the public – to you in the media – in a much more

intimate, transparent fashion. So, that's beginning around February of this year – the public will literally be – take a much closer look at what's going on in their neighborhoods as it relates to the CompStat information that we gather. Jesse?

[...]

**Commissioner Bratton:** We'll open it up for any questions you might have at this time on public safety issues.

**Question:** [Inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** It's on a new emphasis on transparency – it's a continuing evolution of it as we develop capabilities that allow us to share information – first, CompStat in '94 – we shared intimate information within the department that had not been available to the department as a whole. Over time, that – we are now in a position to push it out to 35,000 cops through smartphones. The amount of information that cop is going to have in his hand is basically just about everything I can get sitting at my computer up in the office. Now, we're making it available to the public and making it available to you. A lot of the requests that you make of us, you're going to be able to sit at your computer and basically, punch it up – it'll do pie charts, it'll do bar graphs, it'll date day-of-the-week, month – week to month, month to year – literally, what I expect my precinct commanders to do, I'm going to expect my NCO's to do in the new sectors – that the public can take a close look and see what's going on in their neighborhood. It's like – my compliments to Jesse and her people, a phenomenal growth of technology in the department. Nobody in America is going to have this capability – all these capabilities we just described to you.

**Deputy Commissioner Jessica Tisch, NYPD:** This is an initiative that we've been working on for the past six months – and, in fact, when many of you came in for a briefing in the commissioner's office, three or four months ago, we demonstrated the NYPD version and we had committed to getting this new tool out by February. And so, we're planning to live up to that commitment.

**Question:** [Inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** We have not changed. UCR came into being back in the 50's or 60's – Uniform Crime Reports. There have been minor changes and our crime has been recorded through that system that the NYPD has always participated in. The only major change in crime reporting in New York State, New York City, was a few years ago, when the law relative to how you recorded a strangulation was changed, making it a felony. So, you could see an increase at that time in that categorization in aggravated assaults.

Other than that, we have made no changes in how we record information to UCR, or in the case of shootings. Shootings are a NYPD defined incident. In other words, shootings are captioned within aggravated assault in UCR. Back in '94, when I was working with Jack Maple, we had with 5,000 shootings – we wanted more intimacy. So, we defined what a shooting would be. We have made no changes in that definition since 1994 when the NYPD recreated a focus on that particular problem that was huge – 5,700 people, I think, shot that year. Many other police

departments around the country now track shootings, but they may have their own definition of what a shooting is because it is not a specific, defined category within UCR.

What we're attempting to do is, effectively – we're only as good as the information we get, that's why we want the public to call us because that's how we assign our police officers. So, with the benefit of ShotSpotter, for example, that gives us a much clearer picture of where are guns actually being used in the city versus just having murder victims, or shooting victims, or 9-1-1 calls. We now have this fourth element, which is the unreported incidents of gun shots being fired. So, it's the continuing evolution of the use of technology, and use of technology to improve accountability on how we assign our personnel.

**Question:** [Inaudible].

**Commissioner Bratton:** Perception often times is the reality for somebody. What we're trying to do as much as possible is present the reality. So, that in some instances we can push against perception, and in some instances that we may actually reinforce the perception. But the reality of policing is that we're continually improving, trying to find better ways to ensure the accuracy of the information we work with because it really is life or death. I don't want to be sending my cops over here when I have the problem over here – and the beauty of the evolution of CompStat now since 1994 when we created it here, to where it is today – it's great to see this evolution because it really does allow us to assign our people in a much more precise manner.

We're moving – we have a number of predictive-policing initiatives underway, where we'll be able to predict within a certain period of time – we want to have our cops at this location because there's a likelihood there's going to be a shooting or there's going to be a robbery at that location based on our analysis of crime. It is 21st-century policing – it's great.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** We always talk about preliminary crime numbers because the numbers do change. Great detective work – they investigate, they find that it's not the original story. The original story of the video we just showed you – that character reporting that he was shot by somebody else, when, in fact, he shot himself. That – there is – where a preliminary crime report changes from a shooting, in which he was shot, to a self-inflicted shooting. So, what we are constantly trying to do is improve our accuracy. But it's like medicine, you get a good prescription from a doctor, sometimes you get a bad prescription. Similarly, we are only as good as the information that we get in the investigations we conduct. And in that regard, the accuracy of our information is to the best of our ability. We have it monitored by UCR – to comply with UCR standards of the federal government. We are creating a very large auditing unit in the police department to continually ensure the accuracy of our figures. But there will be variations, that's the nature of the business. As we investigate, we find something that started off with this story – ends up being something entirely different by the time we get the investigation complete.

**Mayor:** I think this is an important question because it gets at the history here. Before Bill Bratton was commissioner the first time, we didn't have CompStat. So, bluntly, a lot of the information was not being tracked, a lot of information was not being acted on. And I remember vividly New York City in the 1980s, going into the 90s, a lot of folks felt that they could call about a problem and there was no response. You know, I think a lot of us remember certain kinds

of crimes were considered unimportant given the much more horrible violent crimes that were more pervasive at the time. So, you know, you've got something stolen – a lot of people would say, if I call it in, would anything even happen? When Commissioner Bratton took over in the early 90s, he put a focus on information, and the accuracy of the information, and the fact that it had to be discussed, it had to be owned by each precinct, and there had to be results, there had to be follow-through. That has continued and has deepened ever since. And now, as you see, more and more of this information is going to be made available to the public – we want that to happen. ShotSpotter, in effect, means there's much more to follow up on. But we paid for it, we wanted it, we wanted to know where those shots were that were going unreported. In a sense, some of the concern that's been raised suggests the notion of trying to minimize – in fact, ShotSpotter's an example where we draw attention to shootings that we would not have known of because people didn't call them in. But we want that information because that's how we go after those hardened criminals. That's how we go after – as you've heard Dermot say that targeted focus on the small number of hardened criminals who are doing the vast majority of the violence. So, this is a point in a progression. There's going to be more transparency, there's going to be more information. I think it's going to help the public feel more comfortable. Obviously, 2,000 more cops in terms of patrol strength is going to help the public feel more comfortable. Just like everything else in public service, we have to earn it. We have to show people constant improvement. And obviously, if they themselves are a victim of a crime, or if a crime happened on their block, they're going to be worried – they have a right to be worried. We have to constantly show them that our work is improving.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** I'll ask Bob Boyce to come up and bring up to speed on – I think there's about three we're looking at that have been of interest in the last two days.

**Chief of Detectives Bob Boyce, NYPD:** In regards to the stabbing in the 5-0 Precinct on Broadway [inaudible] we have worker there – a young man was leaving that day and there was someone sitting in the chairs in the McDonalds. He had been there for several hours. This young man who was stabbed asked him to leave, and they walked out together. Now, apparently this person might have been homeless – we're trying to find out right now because he was there for about eight hours, and they knew him from the area. He walked out with the individual – there was no problem initially. In the parking lot, there became a fight. We have a person who looked out the window and saw the two arguing, and then, off camera – I'm sorry, out of the view of the witness, he is stabbed in the back and then stabbed in the chest as well, as well as some defensive wounds also. He comes back into the restaurant, and then he's moved to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where he was pronounced dead about an hour later. So, right now, we're looking for this individual. We're hoping to have video to be put out to show who he is. Apparently, people up in the area know him. He comes in often into the restaurant – so, that's the story there. Do you want an update on the 6-1? We have a double homicide in Batchelder Street in the Sheepshead Bay houses. Two individuals – a 40-year-old male and a 39-year-old female were found by police being brought there by family members. The woman was sitting in a chair and the male was on the living room floor. We have arrested a 15-year-old in regard to that homicide. She is the daughter of the lady who was in the chair. We're still investigating this homicide to see who else was there. But she's placed under arrest – she'll be charged with murder-two. Right now, we're trying to find out where she got the gun to commit the homicide.

**Commissioner Bratton:** [inaudible] made reference in just a moment the double homicide that the chief just discussed. On the bar graphs we showed earlier, we showed 348 murders – preliminary. That figure is now 350 because the investigation determined that that double homicide actually occurred in 2015, so it needs to be incorporated into those numbers. So, even as we're standing here with you now, those numbers are changing as we basically investigate and determine when that double homicide actually occurred.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** I'll ask, once again, Chief Boyce to give you what he has. I think some of the early reporting of the circumstances of that case was erroneous. So, Bob, if you have anything further –

**Chief Boyce:** We got a full narrative from that young lady, and had changed some of the information. Initially, what she told us – she had a complaint against the mother more so than her mother's boyfriend – that the mother was physically abusive to her on at least one occasion that she was able to articulate. So, that's where we are with that. The mother's boyfriend did live with them, but she said basically it was the mother that was actually abusive to her – physically abusive to her in the past. We don't believe this is at all, initially, an act of self defense. She went and got a gun from another individual that we're trying to find right now to commit the homicide. So, that's not consistent with someone who was in self defense at that time.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** I don't see that the governor's executive order changes anything that we do that we haven't already been doing. Going back to when I was chief of transit police in 1990 – police commissioner in 1994 – Chief O'Neill will be issuing a [inaudible] message shortly because tonight it's believed it's going to go below 32 degrees, in which our officers will be advised about cold-weather procedures as it relates to people out in the street who might not be in shelter. So, the executive order put out by the governor – I don't see it changes anything that we actually do in the NYPD, and have done for many, many years.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** That – the governor basically issued an order that was state-wide. That – I'm not familiar with what other cities do. He also controls the police forces – the MTA, Port Authority – that – Port Authority in Penn Station and Grand Central Terminal. They all recently – Logan Airport, which we've – Logan Airport – my Boston roots –

[Laughter]

– LaGuardia airport had homeless issues. So, there are many state facilities where there are these issues that his mandate would be pertinent. But as we're looking at it, it really doesn't change significantly what we already have the tools to work with.

**Mayor:** It's what I said earlier – we appreciate the intent, for sure, but it doesn't – I agree with Commissioner Bratton, it doesn't change what we do and what we have done for many years. The state law is what's operative here, and the executive order, from our understanding, does not

change that basic reality. So, look, if someone's in danger, we will take them off the streets – that's always been the policy – that's NYPD policy, that's true of our department of health, that's true of our department of homeless services. If we deem someone is in danger, we have the right to remove them. If they're not in danger, by law, the person has a right to be on the streets if they choose to be. But, as I said earlier, there's three things that we're doing differently now. The HOME-STAT initiative, which is the biggest homeless outreach initiative of any city in this country, where we'll be crisscrossing the city, particularly Manhattan between Canal Street and 145th Street, daily with city employees and with nonprofit outreach workers, constantly checking on homeless individuals with the purpose of getting them off the streets permanently. And I want to emphasize this – we care deeply about cold-weather conditions. We also care, by the way, about heat alerts, which have been more common lately. But we want to get people off the streets across the board. We don't want anyone living on our streets. So, that HOME-STAT initiative will every day be working to get people off the streets – obviously will be very usable when there are particularly difficult, you know, moments like climate problems and weather problems. And we'll have people out constantly engaging the homeless to bring them in. So, that's one – Code Blue, which we greatly intensified when I came into office. It previously did not apply to families, so families could not come into shelter automatically. Now, it doesn't matter if you're an individual or a family, you can come into any of our shelters, no questions asked, when we have weather emergency. You don't have to go through the normal intake – that's something I did on the first days in office as mayor. And then the initiative that we talked about NYC Safe, where we're tracking people with mental health problems and a history of violence, and we're ensuring that there's very specific follow-up in each case, whether it might be law enforcement follow-up or mental health services that we make sure they get. These are all substantial policy changes that will have a real impact on the ground. So, all of those initiatives are going on, as Commissioner Bratton said, for years and years. If the NYPD thought anyone was in danger, in distress, they of course have the right to bring them in and get them treatment.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Mayor:** Again, the intent is appreciated. I think Commissioner Bratton's right, in other parts of the state, or in state-run elements – the airports, for example – the train stations run by the state – could be very helpful. But in terms of the NYPD, it's something we've already been doing.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Mayor:** Say again?

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Mayor:** The shelters absolutely have to be improved, and that's part of what we've invested in. Look, when I came into office, for years our shelters had been substandard. We put together a repair squad after a report done earlier in 2015 by my commissioner of investigation that I requested – came back with a report, he said a lot of these shelter facilities aren't up to the standard they should be. We put together a rapid repair squad. We're now, I think, between 70 and 80 percent of those violations have been [inaudible]. We'll get you the exact numbers. But we're continuing to work on every one of those violations to fix them. So, we're committed to improving the quality of our shelters. But beyond that, there's been a safety issue in shelters for years, in fact, for decades. We've added hundreds of peace officers to patrol those shelters. We

have a much closer relationship now between NYPD and Department of Homeless Services to help ensure that there's safety in the shelters. If there's anybody who's problematic and they break any law, they'll be dealt with by NYPD. If there's someone, as I said, with a history of violence and mental health issues, we'll isolate them away from the shelter population, get them to the kind of separate care they need. So, there are very real things that have to be fixed in our shelters. We're on that case. But the second thing we did, which is crucial to getting people off the streets – we just added 500 more Safe Haven beds. Some of you may have been at the announcement I did with Cardinal Dolan. A lot of these are being managed by houses of worship, and the archdiocese is playing a particularly crucial role. Listen to the difference here – a shelter could be many dozens of people – hundreds of people – and a lot of folks who are living on the street feel scared to go in that environment, don't feel secure, have had bad experiences. A Safe Haven is maybe 10 people, 15 people in a house of worship, in many cases – a much more intimate and supportive environment. And what we've seen is a lot of people resistant to shelter will go into a Safe Haven, will accept mental health services, will accept substance abuse services, and it's a chance to get them off the street permanently. And what is the other piece of the equation? Supportive housing – we announced a commitment of 15,000 apartments – the most the city has ever committed to. We're going to follow through on that. We obviously would like to see the state join us in that. This is how we get people off the streets permanently. And yes, we have to continue to make the shelter's safer and better for anyone who ends up in them. But our goal is to make sure people get out of shelter – 22,000 out of shelter so far since I took office. We want to speed that process up and get people out of shelter and into better housing.

**Question:** [inaudible]

**Commissioner Bratton:** It has multiple purposes and multiple benefits. From a management perspective – as Jesse indicated, it will improve our ability to get the closest police car to a call for service – to get that car there, because we'll be able to, one, visibly see it, but the computer will also see it. So, the computer will be able to eventually determine what is the closest car [inaudible] from miles away. Secondly, it will allow us to have the history of that vehicle, so when we get a complaint, of example, that comes in, that [inaudible] incident with an officer the day before yesterday on this corner, at this time, we would have the ability to identify, was there in fact a New York City police car on that corner at that time. From an officer-safety standpoint, officers so frequently in the midst of turmoil, gun fights, whatever – officer-in-trouble calls are not able to give a correct location, and very frequently during incidents they are giving incorrect locations in the excitement of what's going on. We would be able to determine exactly where that vehicle is, so that instead of going to an incorrect address, we can get there much more quickly. So, the benefits – officer safety – the benefits for accountability; the benefits for management of resources – phenomenal benefits for officers, for the public, and for the management of the department.

Thank you, all.

###