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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON CNN'S NEW DAY**

**Alisyn Camerota:** Cities across the United States are obviously facing a lot of uncertainty as they weigh how and when to reopen. What will that mean for America's largest city? Joining us now is the Mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio. Mr. Mayor, great to see you this morning.

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you, Alisyn.

**Camerota:** If you could give us just a timeline of what you're thinking, of what's going on behind the scenes. I mean, let's just start with something that is on everyone's minds, particularly parents, of course, schools. Will schools, the public schools in New York City be reopened in September?

**Mayor:** So, Alisyn, first and most importantly, New Yorkers have done an amazing job with social distancing, with shelter in place, and that's why you see the health situation here improving so intensely. We've got to keep to it, though. We've got to be really, really disciplined. And the school's decision is several months away. You know, we're almost four months until the beginning of school and we're going to make that decision based on the health and safety. My goal, my plan-A is open schools as normal. That would be the best thing for our kids and families but only if we can do it safely. If we don't feel we can, then we've got a lot of plan-Bs and Cs that we can look at as alternatives to make sure our kids are educated. But we've got a while before that decision.

**Camerota:** How about restaurants? I don't know, Mr. Mayor, if you've seen the video from Wisconsin, but last night the Wisconsin State Supreme Court decided that the stay at home order that the governor had issued was over, effective immediately. They ruled against the governor and within 45 minutes this video was taken. People in Wisconsin were apparently very thirsty because they raced out and you see them reveling in bars. Obviously, New Yorkers want to be able to do the same thing. What's your timeline?

**Mayor:** Look what the Supreme Court did in Wisconsin is just dangerous. A governor, a mayor – we're elected by the people to make decisions about health and safety. That's what we do. And for a court to interfere with that is very problematic. The idea of people rushing to gather together in a moment where the coronavirus is still alive and well, that worries me deeply. So, Alisyn, we're going to be slow and steady here in New York City. We're going to be very careful. It's about health and safety first. It's about avoiding that boomerang where the disease reasserts which will be the worst of all worlds. If we are not careful and that disease makes a comeback here or anywhere else, the restart, the recovery gets delayed much, much longer. So, I would say

when you think about restaurants in New York City, we're talking to restaurant owners, bar owners about the right way to do this, the stages do this carefully. There's interesting talk about focusing on outdoor rather than indoor, but it has to be with social distancing. It has to be with a safety first mentality.

**Camerota:** And so, what will be the first things in New York to open?

**Mayor:** So, we're looking forward – hopefully as early as next month in June if the health indicators continue to move in the right direction, we're going to talk about the things that we can start up again with a lot of social distancing, with a lot of precautions in place where people do not have to gather in tight spaces in large numbers. The last things we're going to be able to do are where there's large crowds. That's months away, but there are some things that we hope to do and we'll delineate them soon, some of the retail sector, for example, where people can go and do what they do without creating a health danger.

**Camerota:** You said that New York needs federal aid, that New York is financially in trouble. How much exactly do you want?

**Mayor:** So, I'll tell you immediately, we found in just the first weeks of this crisis that we were losing billions of dollars. The money we use, Alisyn, to pay for basic services, the money we use to pay police officers, firefighters, teachers, everyone, health care workers who have been the heroes – over \$7 billion lost already. You've seen the economic forecast, it's going to get a lot worse this year and next year. So, right now, if we don't get a massive infusion of federal support, we cannot go through this recovery. We cannot get our city back on our feet because we won't be able to pay for the basics. What the House of Representatives has done, Alisyn, is exactly the right thing to really make sure it is a stimulus. Not, here is a small amount so you can keep limping along, but actually the ability to get back on your feet and revive your economy, which we're going to need all the stimulus we can get if the American economy is going to come back. So, the proposal in the House of Representatives would actually allow New York City, New York State, cities and states everywhere, blue states, red states, everyone, to get back on their feet. That's the direction we need to take.

**Camerota:** And is there a specific dollar sign you can give us of how much you think you need?

**Mayor:** What the House of Representatives delineated over two years, \$17 billion, that's a very realistic figure. I know I've lost \$7 billion already. The next year is going to be similar. So, I guarantee you, and I hate saying it, the lost revenue alone over the next few years will likely be \$17 billion. This is just getting us back to the point where we can run our government, provide the basic services, keep the people who have been the heroes in this crisis. I mean, think about it, the very same people we have lauded, the health care workers, the first responders, the essential workers, their jobs only survive if we get the federal support to stay whole. Otherwise we're hemorrhaging so much money, we're not going to be able to do what people expect in terms of basic services. How do you have an economy if you can't provide the basics to people? You can't have a recovery without this stimulus.

**Camerota:** I want to ask you about the death toll. Yesterday, you announced that 20,000 New Yorkers have died. Our reporting is that President Trump is privately questioning the death toll numbers. He, in private, is suggesting that he thinks they've been inflated. Your response?

**Mayor:** Alisyn, just think for a moment when you asked the question, I mean, pain came over to me – 20,000 of our fellow New Yorkers, our fellow Americans, just one city, 20,000 lives lost to a disease we never heard of seven months ago. So, just the sheer pain of this has to be remembered, the human reality. How many families are grieving right now? We have to be honest about it, Alisyn. Look, what I'd say to the president is when we said New York City really led the way in terms of transparency, we said we know that doctors, medical personnel noted on death certificates that even though they couldn't confirm it was the coronavirus, they thought it was the probable cause or a key contributor in the deaths of now over 5,000 New Yorkers. We wanted to be honest about that. Why do we want to try and minimize this horrible crisis rather than acknowledging its human toll and then learning what we can learn to protect people in the future and find ways to make people whole and move us forward now. It begins, everything begins in life with acknowledging the truth of the problem. So, we're simply trying to say what really has happened here. And I think this country needs to do that too.

**Camerota:** Mayor Bill de Blasio, thank you very much for your time, great to see you.

**Mayor:** Thank you, Alisyn.

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