



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

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CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO HOLDS IMPROMPTU PRESS GAGGLE

Mayor Bill de Blasio: So, I just want to say on behalf of all New Yorkers, I am disgusted at the insult that Ted Cruz threw at this city, and its people. And the bottom line is he does not understand, in the least, New York values. I find myself, for once, in agreement with Donald Trump. I think it was right for Donald Trump to defend New York City, and to talk about the heroic actions of the people of this city after 9/11. I think Ted Cruz owes the people of New York City an apology. He owes the first responders an apology. I also find it very ironic that Ted Cruz does not hesitate to come to New York City to raise millions and millions of dollars. I find it very ironic that Ted Cruz went running to Goldman Sachs when he needed a big loan. So, he has no trouble taking money from New York City, but he's quick to insult our people and our values. And I think it's really going to back fire on him. I think people are going to see through this as hypocrisy of the highest order. I just want to share that front, if you have any questions on that or other couple quick questions I'd be happy to take them. Yes?

Question: On the horse carriages, it sounded like there was deal imminent last night, then –

Mayor: It's an ongoing discussion, just like so many other things between the legislative branch and the executive branch. So, we know – there's been some good discussions happening. As soon as we have something we'll announce it.

Question: On the Uber traffic study, what is your take on it? And if Uber cars aren't causing the traffic then what is?

Mayor: Again, the study has just been put together. We're looking at trying to make decisions about where we go from here. So we'll have more to say on that in the coming days, but I think there are a lot of causes of congestion. Obviously construction, which has been very strong in the last couple of years, is one of them, but we'll have more to say on where we go from here.

Question: Mr. Mayor, what is your latest understanding of how the budget is going to impact CUNY and Medicaid?

Mayor: Just what I said in the statement – the statement yesterday. We look forward to working with the Governor on reforms, and on efficiencies. And I take him at his word. He said that there will be no cut to the city, and we appreciate that.

Question: CUNY professors have signed an authorization for a strike – to authorize a strike.

Mayor: That's a different matter. That's about their contracts.

Question: I know, but that's kind of tied in with this budget deal. Do you think that might effect – you just said that the unions –

Mayor: Well, we obviously, think they deserve a fair outcome. We've been very fair to the workers of the city. And we certainly think they deserve [inaudible].

Okay, I'm about to go.

Question: Mr. Mayor, how do you respond to animal rights activist who say that you're not holding up your promise that you made when you ran for mayor?

Mayor: Again, when we have an agreement – we don't have an agreement yet. When we have an agreement, we'll go over it with you. And we'll answer all those questions.

Thanks, everyone.

Question: [inaudible].

Mayor: We believe it's the right thing to do with the reforms we put in place. You know, we think we've come back with – over the last months – with a much better idea of how to get the taxpayers their money's worth, and get a lot more affordable housing. We think it made sense. I don't have the latest on the negotiations; I'm waiting for a report. But it's the right thing to do – would be to settle it today.

Thank you.

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