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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE CONTRACT  
AGREEMENT WITH SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Well, good afternoon, everybody. And this is a good day for New York City. I have great news to announce. We have reached a contract agreement with the Sergeants Benevolent Association. And now, with this agreement, we have four contract agreements with our NYPD unions, three of which, as you know, have been ratified. This one with the sergeants will now go into the ratification process. It is an important step forward for 4,600 sergeants who do such important work for this city.

I want to emphasize – and I have spent a long career in public service, including the years I spent as a council member – the sergeants play a crucial role in keeping us safe. These are the frontline leaders in the battle to keep this city safe, and they do an extraordinary job – and I’m going to talk about some of the continued good news we’re seeing in the statistics that prove the work of our sergeants.

Before I go into that, though, I want to thank, of course, the leadership of the SBA – and you’re going to hear from Ed Mullins in just a moment. I want to thank you for all the hard work – and this was a long journey, and a lot of negotiation, but a very productive path. And I want to thank you and your team for all you’ve done. I also want to thank, of course, the team that is responsible for all the labor contracts that have been achieved, and they just continue to do extraordinary work – of course, our First Deputy Mayor Tony Shorris, our labor commissioner, Bob Linn, and our director of OMB, Dean Fuleihan. They really have outdone themselves with the pace they have kept in terms of continuing to move forward on labor agreements.

Now, to put in perspective the work that had to be done here to get to this agreement, you’ve got to start with the work the sergeants do. It is crucial, it is complicated, it is difficult, it is dangerous, but it really underlies the safety and wellbeing of this city. We needed to figure out a way to address the reality of the work, to come up with something that was fair to the people who do the work, respectful to the people who do the work, but also fair and respectful to the taxpayers, and protected the long-term interest of the taxpayers and our fiscal health – and that’s what we have done here, another labor deal that manages to strike that fair balance.

The sergeants receive raises and benefits similar to the others with the contracts that we signed last year with the three other NYPD unions. There is the additional 1 percent raise in the first year – that was true of the captains, lieutenants, and detectives as well – it follows that pattern specifically. The contract also, as with all the other contracts that were struck with all the other unions, continues the unprecedented progress on guaranteed healthcare savings. And that, again, is so crucial, because that’s what going to allow us to keep this city fiscally strong for the long-term so we can keep the kind of robust workforce we need to do all the work that the city does, but the most important crucial work of protecting our people.

This is a city that believes fundamentally in the value of hard work. No one exemplifies that more than our sergeants. They have, again, an exceedingly difficult job, but unfortunately, for years, they had to do that job without a contract – and again, this was unfortunately a reality in the previous administration that so many hardworking municipal employees did not have a contract and were not given a productive opportunity to have a contract, and yet they soldiered on and they kept us safe. We have said for a long time that we wanted

everyone under contract. We think our working people deserve that. We think the hardworking men and women of the SBA deserve to be under contract like all municipal employees. And if they're going to continue the work of the greatest police department in the world, it seems only fair that there would be a contract in place so they had those guarantees.

Now, again, it all comes back to the work. It all comes back to the work, and you know the statistics for 2014, which were extraordinary – what the sergeants and the other men and women of the NYPD achieved, absolutely extraordinary, especially in comparison to the year 2013, which was considered by many to be a year of low crime that could never be beaten, yet it was beat in so many ways in 2014. 2014 – the lowest number of murders in our history since certainly at least 1963, and the lowest number of robberies and burglaries in decades. And crucially – and this particularly has to do with the work of the sergeants – reduced the average time to complete a full investigation by 40 days. So the NYPD is not only driving down crime, it's doing its work more effectively. More is being done with the workforce we have. Things are happening quicker and better, and that is to the great credit of the men and women of our police force.

Very importantly – and you saw the preliminary Mayor's Management Report come out earlier this week – very importantly, as crime is being driven down, there are key indicators about the relationship between police and community improving. I know this is something that Ed has talked about a lot – and I appreciate the work you're doing, I know not only locally, but nationally, to talk about how to bring police and community closer together. This fact from the preliminary Mayor's Management Report – that we have a 25 percent reduction in complaints against police officers in the first four months of this fiscal year, compared to the first four months of the previous fiscal year – 25 percent reduction in complaints against members of the NYPD – that is a very positive and, I think, a very hopeful sign of where we are going.

You know, we've talked about how important it is to get our people under contract because it's the right thing to do, because it's fair to the workforce. Again, it also is one of the things that determines our fiscal future. All of those rating agencies and monitors out there are looking for certainty and clarity. Every time we clarify further our labor situation, it puts the city in a stronger place for its future. I said in the beginning – I told Bob Linn, get me to 50 percent of the workforce by the end of the year, and I will get you the gold medal. I said that would be an extraordinary achievement – very high-bar. Well, with this, today's announcement, we are at 76 percent of the workforce that now will be under contract. And it's a great example of what can be achieved through dialogue and partnership and hard work – how we can get some place better for everyone. Just a couple of quick words in Spanish, and then I'm going to make a few introductions of others to speak.

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

With that, I want to introduce Ed Mullins. I have come to appreciate deeply in our conversations our ability to find common ground. Again, also, appreciate what Ed is doing on the larger relationship between police and community – I think that is a very positive sign when leaders of our police unions work deeply with community leaders, clergy, and others – and I want to thank you for that, Ed.

Over 30 years ago, he swore an oath as a member of the NYPD. He has continued to serve and to lead over that time, and today is a great example of that leadership – helping us all move forward together.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ed Mullins.

[Applause]

[Sergeants Benevolent Association President Edward Mullins speaks]

[Applause]

**Mayor:** Thank you very much. Thank you. Dean and Bob, why don't you come up, because I'm sure we will have lots of questions. So, we're going to take questions on this topic first, and then we will go to off-topic.  
Dave –

**Question:** Mayor, I [inaudible] 76 percent of the city's workforce [inaudible], but because this is sergeants union – and we all are well aware of that there's been some tension in the last couple of weeks – the significance of this in your opinion. And also, Ed, I think you know the question coming – I think you once called the mayor a nincompoop. So, what's changed?

**Mayor:** I want to speak to that first.

**Question:** Okay.

**Mayor:** I've been called a lot worse.

[Laughter]

Well, I think the point is the significance is, first of all, this is a crucial – the sergeants are a crucial element of the NYPD. And I think it moves us forward as a city to have more and more of the hardworking members of the NYPD under contract. I think, again, Ed is recognized as a leader, and the fact that we together found common ground I think sends a very positive message about what can be achieved when people seek common ground. I think that's really the important point here. Our door is always open at City Hall. And people are going to have differences – it's New York City. I represent 8.4 million people who have 8.4 million different opinions. That is the New York tradition, but that doesn't mean we don't work together. I think this a place where people have strong views and passions, and yet we find common ground. We're strong, we're resilient, we know how to come together and move forward. So I think what's crucial here is we've shown what cooperation can achieve, and we've shown that we're all in this together, and that in fact what binds us all is we want a better city and a safer city. The sergeants are doing an extraordinary job keeping us safe. They deserve a good and fair contract. But as to the relationship, the more Ed and I have spent time together, the more we have found that common ground. I respect his leadership, I respect his intellect, I respect the fact that he raises serious issues in a serious way – and I think that's how people can find common ground, even if they don't agree on everything to begin with. That is the basis for finding common ground and actually getting to a productive place.

**Edward Mullins, President, Sergeants Benevolent Association:** I think, to answer your question, what's changed is a refocus of what's important – and that being the people of the city of New York. As you know, both the mayor and I had private conversation a while back, and we – we definitely have differences, and we have things that we do agree on, but the one thing that we agree on the most is that the city of New York, which I believe is the capital of the world, should not crumble – and it shouldn't crumble because of two people stomping their feet on the ground. We have to be mature enough and big boys enough to put priorities – if we look back at Abraham Lincoln who had a cabinet and team of rivals that was totally unable to work with each other – he forgone all the hostilities for the purpose of the nation. And I think that that's what's changed – it's for the purpose of the city of New York.

**Mayor:** Amen. Amen. Okay, you then you, go ahead.

**Question:** This is for Sergeant Mullins – [inaudible]?

**Sergeant Mullins:** The parameters of the deal we needed to structure were as important to our particular rank – every rank is different, every rank has different needs, there's different numbers of personnel within each rank, and through the work of negotiating those particular needs with Commissioner Linn, we were able to address that for a deal that worked for our members.

**Question:** Question for Sergeant Mullins, so can you speak more about how your opinion of the mayor has changed, and do you still think that New York City is not safe enough to host a convention like the Democratic

Convention? If conventions up in the future, do you still have the opinion you had last summer that it's not safe enough?

**Sergeant Mullins:** What's changed with the relationship, myself and the mayor, is what I just said – is the purpose of what we do is about people, and when you're not sitting in the same room, and it's clouded by other people's opinions and desires for their own specific needs, you don't get to discuss the real values of what's important. And what we were able to do was realize that the issues facing the city of New York are much more important than Mayor de Blasio and Sergeant Ed Mullins. And that unless we can find that common ground to move this city forward – and you know, he has his job to do, I have my job to do, but most importantly, the people who travel about this city, whether you live here or reside here, they rely on what he does and what we do – and that changes things. And as far as what takes place for crime, and the convention, that ship sailed – it's no longer an issue.

**Question:** [inaudible] the future [inaudible] –

**Sergeant Mullins:** I'm – I'm not a big convention guy. I don't attend birthday parties, and so, for conventions – it's a little bit out of my reach.

**Mayor:** Excellent. Yes–

**Question:** [inaudible] your opinion on the mayor was clouded by other people's views. Could you just talk –

**Sergeant Mullins:** It's not so much other people's views – it's the politics that comes into play that – I don't understand at certain times when the mayor is doing something, because him and I didn't talk about it, and he doesn't understand why I'm doing something, because him and I didn't talk about it. But when you could sit down and understand what is taking place, and agree to disagree or to find common ground on something that you can reason with, those issues – whether they're other people's opinions or issues – are able to be dissected to be understood. And when you can understand the issue there, then you can understand the way an individual would think.

**Question:** Can I just follow up on that? Do you feel that his – the mayor's issues with Pat Lynch impacted your relationship with the mayor at all? Is that what you're getting at?

**Sergeant Mullins:** I'm not even going to get into the mayor's relationship with Pat Lynch, because I don't discuss that. I have family members I don't talk to, so I'm not going to get into the issue of Pat Lynch and the relationship with the mayor.

**Question:** Mayor, back in December when tensions were a little bit tough with police, you said that a lot of it was because of union rhetoric having to do with contracts. Do you feel that today's agreement vindicates that view of what you put forward, which is that this may sound really bad, it may sound like we're not getting along with cops, but this has to do with contracts?

**Mayor:** Look, I think – two points. One – what matters is the ability to move forward. I am not – I know it is your job, and I respect it, to sort of take all the different quotes and moments in the past and try and rehash them and analyze them – I have to move forward. That's my job on behalf of the people – keep moving forward. And I think Ed shares that view. So, I'm not interested in talking about any specific quotes from the past. I'm interested in talking about the fact that we've come to an agreement. But I also think it's important to say that sometimes when people have differences and they state them, it obscures some of the underlying commonality – and I think that's the point that Ed made I agree with. There actually was – even when there were differences – there was a lot more that we could find in common. Everyone wants a safe city. I, for one, believe in our municipal workforce. That was not always the case in previous administrations, meaning I don't even think there was a philosophy of honoring, respecting, upholding the municipal workforce. I believe in our municipal workforce. I believe in the importance of labor unions in our society. I believe if you're going to talk about the tale of two cities, you're talking about all working men and women and trying to give them a fair outcome for

their hard work. So that's really what was the most important thing in the end. Sometimes that got obscured by other differences, but now I think we're back on the most important topic.

**Question:** Question for Sergeant Mullins – you mentioned Patrick Lynch – the PBA –

**Sergeant Mullins:** You mentioned Patrick Lynch.

**Mayor:** Mm, [laughs].

**Question:** The PBA is now the lone NYPD without a contract. Did you discuss this deal with Mr. Lynch? Have – did you urge him to accept a similar deal?

**Sergeant Mullins:** No. Pat Lynch and I are good friends. Pat has a different membership, as I explained earlier. I have a different membership than detectives and lieutenants. You know, this deal has been worked on in the wee hours of the night. We haven't had an opportunity to discuss. You know, Pat is going to do what he believes is best for his members, as I do what's best for my members. And him and I will continue to remain close friends.

**Question:** Two questions – after the comptroller issued his report this week saying that he thinks the city has about \$1.5 – \$1.6 billion more than you projected for FY15 and FY16, Pat Lynch said that that report demonstrates that the city has the money to give his members a better contract, so I'm looking for your response to that.

**Mayor:** I could not be more clear and consistent – and I will restate, because I appreciate the value of repetition. We have established a pattern. There's a uniform pattern. There's a civilian pattern. That is the only reality. We are not deviating from it, period. And I think the larger question of our fiscal future – I think you were here for our budget presentation – we believe there are a host of financial challenges ahead. As we speak – and particularly pertinent standing here with some of the people who protect us – as we speak, the Congress of the United States is on the verge of allowing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down. That is one of many, many examples where vitally needed resources for this city may not be available. We talked the other day about the importance of the transportation bill, which is going to lapse in May, which has a \$2 billion dollar impact on this region. We are – we have so many threats and uncertainties in terms of federal funding. There are huge question marks, obviously, in terms of state funding. And the economy itself, although, seemingly good at this moment, so many people hurting – and the economy, by no means a guarantee. So we are being very careful about our resources and we're going to continue to be, because we've seen what happens in a downturn, and how quickly the revenue collapses. But the pattern is now established. It's not moving.

**Question:** Following up [inaudible], I know that the PBA and the city have agreed to binding arbitration. Why hasn't an arbitration session actually taken place, and are there any discussions happening –

**Mayor:** Before I bring up Bob Linn, who deserves great accolades today – my point to all the unions in the now roughly 24 percent of our – representing 24 percent of our workforce that are not under contract or in agreement – is we welcome further dialogue. We always welcome dialogue. My door is open. Bob's door is open. It's up to each and every union to make their own choices. But as to the specific situation, let's get Bob up here.

**Commissioner Bob Linn, Office of Labor Relations:** Let me just say one thing before that. I really want to thank Ed and Bob Ganley for the work together that we did. I believe – and I've said this from the start of when I was appointed – the genius of collective bargaining is the ability of people to work at the table together on difficult problems and solving them in a collaborative and respectful way. That's what we've done with 76 percent of the workforce. That's what we just did in an extraordinarily important settlement with the sergeants. And I really appreciate the joint effort that we did. We've been saying to the PBA all along, we're ready to sit down, we're ready to try and find solutions to our problems, and we should do that. No dates have been scheduled for specific hearing dates yet. I imagine dates will be scheduled in the months to come.

**Question:** Are there any discussions happening?

**Commissioner Linn:** There are no discussions going on. All we're – we're working on dates for the arbitration.

**Question:** This question is for Sergeant Mullins. Sergeant, you enumerated – or I should say, you said there were differences you have with the mayor. Can you enumerate those for us? What are they specifically?

**Sergeant Mullins:** What I'm highlighting is – and I'm not going to be specific, because we're moving forward – but my [inaudible] is, when there are differences, when you don't understand what another man is thinking and the reasons why he's thinking, those differences will be opposite of what your beliefs are and what your differences are. Him and I still have different beliefs in different areas. We have common beliefs in other areas. And until you sit at a table and have an opportunity to have an uninterrupted conversation, you don't get the ability to agree to disagree. And I think that's what's changed.

**Mayor:** That's right. And I would say, you know, the important thing is, in terms of when – I agree with that entirely – and when you find some of the areas you agree on – we obviously agree on the crucial need to keep this city safe, and on some of the things we have to do to keep it safe. We obviously agree on the need to improve the relationship between police and community – and again, Ed has gone out of his way and put a lot of time into trying to develop some of the relationships to help move that process forward, as have I, obviously. So I think there are some very clear areas of agreement that allow good dialogue. I think there's also – I agree – when people start to understand each other, when they respect each other's way of thinking, in terms of just the way that they analyze information and compare notes together, that helps get a lot of other things done, and that's what happened here.

**Question:** I have a question for Ed. It seems like the big benefit for your members that the other unions didn't get is the longevity increase. How much is that and is it uniform on all steps of the experience scale?

**Sergeant Mullins:** It's a benefit to my members, but as I said earlier, we have different needs than the other bargaining units. Other bargaining units had choices. Our choice was somewhat different, so we tried to take care of the needs of our members. Those values will be calculated into – you know, once a sergeant hits top pay. We'll have a significant boost in our salary over the last seven-years period by the time we reach the end of this agreement. So going forward, we'll be at a different base salary from where we wanted to be – and we'll have achieved those goals.

**Question:** Can either you or Bob talk about the specifics as to where that money is going to – the – you know, the numbers?

**Commissioner Linn:** So let me make – be clear – there were no extra payments in this contract that aren't – isn't pattern-conforming. Any change in benefits, any modification in benefits were paid for out of savings in the contract. But what was agreed to is that the – the final four or five increases apply to the experience schedule, to the longevity schedule, and that is paid for through other benefit changes and contractual provisions that make it completely pattern-conforming.

**Mayor:** Okay, on topic – looking around – yes, Sally.

**Question:** One other question for Bob Linn, [inaudible] the first increase, 1 percent, I know with the Uniformed Coalition, it kicked in on the eleventh month of the first year. Is this one sooner? It seems like – it seems like the sergeants get their first 1 percent sooner.

**Commissioner Linn:** So with the eight unions, I think four or five had the increase kick on the first day.

**Mayor:** [inaudible] Superior Officers Coalition.

**Commissioner Linn:** Yes, and the Superior Officers Coalition – I’m sorry. The four or five had the first increase kick in on the first day of the eleventh month – the twelfth month. The others had it kick in the first day of the seventh month – and that’s a perfect example of what the mayor said, that each contract had specific bargaining and produced savings that were necessary to make those changes. Here, the first increase does occur on the first day of the first year, and that’s paid for within the contract.

**Mayor:** I am reminded of my – my running joke about Bob Linn. On the first day of the seventh year in the third month on a Tuesday –

[Laughter]

So – I don’t know how he does that, but I’m glad he knows how to do that.

Yes–

**Question:** And at the risk offending the mayor –

**Mayor:** You – you – you’re not alone, so go ahead.

**Question:** Do you now regret anything you said about him last fall?

**Mayor:** Again, I – you know, I appreciate your effort to take us back into history, but I think the point is this – people are going to have opinions – that’s normal. I don’t know any place where everyone agrees on everything. I think the point is, you voice your opinions and you then try and figure out what you can do with it. And the hope in the job I do is that you’re going to find common ground. Sometimes, by the way, you change someone’s mind. Sometimes they change your mind. Sometimes you find common ground. Ed said a crucial point – agree to disagree is sometimes one of the most mature things people can do who are leaders, is say, “We agree to disagree on these points, but here is where we can find common ground for our people.” So, I don’t regret anything. I believe that everyone spoke the truth that they felt, but I also honor anyone who can say, “Even though we have differences we have commonalities, and we want to focus on those commonalities.”

Yes–

**Question:** A question then for Mr. Mullins – sort of dovetailing on that, going forward, when you do have disagreements with the mayor, do you think you’ll voice them publicly the way you have in the past, or will you first call him to –

**Sergeant Mullins:** I think at this point that we have a relationship where I can pick a phone up and discuss them, and set up a meeting and have a real conversation. If there’s ever a time that you think we’re going into mud wrestling, when that happens, well, we’ll let you know, but until then, I think that we have an opportunity to have a conversation. And as mature individuals that have a bigger purpose, I think that based on what I know now and the relationship that we’ve started to work on that we should be able to work through differences.

**Mayor:** I agree.

**Phil:** Couple more, guys.

**Question:** What do you think prevented you from doing that in the first place, just calling up and kind of hashing it out face to face instead of kind of this back and forth?

**Mayor:** I’ll just start on that and then – I think the point is, you know, over the years, for those of us who’ve been in public life a long time, some relationships develop very naturally – you just happen to work on a lot of things together. Others – there just – there isn’t that organic opportunity to get to know someone. And by the time we were all in here together, you know, in a very busy, busy circumstance – meaning, you know, we come

into office, we're building an administration – sometimes it's hard to take the time to stop and build some of the relationships you ideally would like to have. I remind everyone that I think in the first six months of last year, a lot of good was happening, a lot of progress was happening in terms of the work of the NYPD, in terms of the relationship between police and community. Some tragedies made the whole situation very difficult for everyone. But I think what has come out of even some of the painful moments is that people finally got a chance to stop and say, "Wait a minute, we have to have a relationship. We have to understand each other. If we didn't develop it in the past, just in the normal course of business, let's stop and do that now, and let's do it the right way." And that's what happened here.

Wait – Rich –

**Question:** So, mayor, are we witnessing a kiss-and-make-up session here?

**Mayor:** I'll put my arm around him, but I don't – that'll be good enough.

[Laughter]

Yeah, I think we're – you're witnessing people who have found a way to work together, and clearly care deeply for this city and for the good of the people who do the work.

**Phil:** Last call.

**Mayor:** And then we'll go to off-topic.

**Question:** A question again for Sergeant Mullins – you said before that, you know, you haven't – you don't go to birthday parties, you don't talk about conventions. Then why did you send that letter last summer, if you just said you don't go to conventions, you don't know about –

**Sergeant Mullins:** Because there are people who do. There are people who do. NYPD cops police these conventions. And when you go back to the Republican convention when President Bush had it here, New York City cops were assaulted in the street, beaten with bicycles, sued, had complaints made over them – you want to work in that kind of atmosphere every day? Would you invite that into your office? So why should we invite it into ours? I don't agree with the atmosphere that it creates, and I just don't feel that it was beneficial to the job of the working men and women of the NYPD.

**Mayor:** Last call on this topic. And by the way, that's another example we can agree to disagree. [Laughs].

Okay, off topic. Off topic – yeah –

**Question:** I wanted to ask you, what's the city's policy on – like, how long do guys keep emails? The – you know, the state has a policy where they delete them after 90 days. I'm just wondering how long do you guys –

**Mayor:** I personally don't know, but I'll make sure that our corporation counsel and others get you an answer.

**Question:** Mayor, on the terror investigation, what is your confidence level that the so-called lone wolves or ingrown terrorists that are here in New York have now been apprehended? Do you believe there are more in the city right now?

**Mayor:** Look, it – I think we have to put this into some context. We have a challenge of terrorism in this world that has been deepening over decades. It's not new. I want to remind people – you can go back over much of history and find examples of terrorism of all different kinds. So, this is not the first time in human history we've confronted this challenge, but we have a particular challenge now, that was growing over decades and now, in form of ISIS, presents new and particular threats. That being said, we understand the time we're living in. I've said that in the entire time I will be in office – however long the people chose that to be – this challenge will be



front-and-center that whole time. No one should expect it to go away any time soon. I pray that with enough good work, the threat can be greatly reduced internationally, but in the short term, this is going to be a part of our lives, and we have to deal with it. So, the way we deal with it here in this city is – one – we have the finest police force anywhere in the world, and the finest police leader in Commissioner Bratton. Two – we have 1,000 of our men and women of the NYPD focused on counterterrorism activities, which is a huge and appropriate commitment. No other city in this country has anything like that kind of capacity. Three – we not only have a strong working relationship with our federal partners, especially with the FBI, but we have deepened that relationship. I've had a number of conversations with FBI Director Comey, who I think is an outstanding leader, and he is very, very focused on the kind of partnership he needs with New York City and other localities to fight against terror. We understand – the federal government's very focused in this fashion – one of the ways we do that is deepening the relationship between the city government and the NYPD together with the communities of this city. This is what the FBI is saying, this is what the Department of Homeland Security is saying – we need to keep deepening the relationship on the ground with communities, because that's where information comes from. These individuals who were apprehended are an example. We need people in the community to tell us if they suspect anyone has taken the wrong path. And I think we are doing a good job of deepening those relationships, but there's more to be done. So what I'd say is – I am convinced all the right tools are being used, and the focus is intense. The challenge with lone wolves, whether they are someone who is self-motivated, or someone who is reading a website and determining that they want to take an action suggested on a website, or as I've said – you could parallel – we have another type of lone wolf that's tragic and horrible to consider, and we've seen it in places like Newtown and Columbine – that's not a Muslim-inspired lone wolf, that's another kind of lone wolf that creates a horrible and tragic outcome – no matter how good our police force, there will be individuals that don't appear on the radar screen who could pose a threat to others. That's why we need people who have any idea, any sense that someone may be a threat to report it immediately. Just like we've talked about if you see something, say something, like a bag left on a subway platform – equally, if you know someone in your life, if you come across someone who you believe may be either deeply troubled and thinking about violence, or may have been inspired to a negative act by an outside organization, we need to know that. Someone who has any information like that has to call the NYPD or call 9-1-1 immediately and report it. So, the better we develop information on the ground, the more we'll be able to get at those situations. But it's a reality that's not going to go away. Our job is to create the strongest possible apparatus – and by the way, in this case, with the great work of the FBI and the cooperation of the NYPD, these individuals were captured before they could do any harm to others.

Yes–

**Question:** What's your opinion on Benjamin Netanyahu addressing Congress? Do you feel like it's a blatantly partisan move, or do you feel like, you know, it should happen?

**Mayor:** I think it's quite clear that there's been a tradition that foreign leaders are not invited to address Congress in the immediate weeks before their elections – and that is for a good reason. There should be a separation. The Congress of the United States should not involve itself in elections in other countries, so I think it was a mistake by Speaker Boehner to offer that invitation in that timeframe and in that particular manner. Any other questions off topic? Going once, going twice – thank you, everyone.

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