



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, FIRST LADY CHIRLANE MCCRAY APPEAR LIVE ON CNN'S NEW DAY

Chris Cuomo: ISIS makes threats – that's what they do. However, when they come to two American cities, including the biggest, you know, the Big Apple, New York City, just ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday parade – millions are going to be there – you have to deal with it.

Alisyn Camerota: So the NYPD is stepping up their counterterrorism training, including a major drill this past Sunday.

Michaela Pereira: Here to discuss the security efforts and so much more, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and his wife Chirlane McCray. Really a pleasure to have you both here, in fact, we want to talk to you about a very important, very exciting new mental health initiative that's taking place and is ongoing. But obviously, with the Thanksgiving Day Parade around the corner, we've got to talk about – with urgency – what's going on in the city. I understand there's some major preparations underway, and have been going on. We saw some drills that the NYPD was conducting. How are you feeling about security in your fair city, Mayor?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I feel very good about what the NYPD is doing. Remember, we've had the Macy's Parade, the Thanksgiving Parade for years. It's always been –

Michaela Pereira: For a few years, yeah.

Mayor: Yeah, a few years. It's been a very big event. But the NYPD has really perfected over the years how to handle these large events. And actually, the most impressive version of that was when we had the pope here simultaneously with 140 leaders from around the world – presidents of different countries – and the President of the United States, all in the course of one week. And the NYPD literally made it look easy – they were that good. Since then, we have now added the beginning of a 500 person counterterror force, which we call the Critical Response Command. And this is a specifically trained, armed force for counterterror activities only. You saw the drills on Sunday – very impressive group of men and women on our police force who have volunteered to focus on fighting terror, and they are the best of the NYPD. And I'm – I'm really happy to say, this is the best prepared city in the country to both prevent terrorism and to respond if, God forbid, we ever had anything here.

Alisyn Camerota: But, I mean, given what happened in Paris, where soft targets were hit, how can you feel confident that that wouldn't happen in New York?

Mayor: I think in the age of the lone wolf, we have to be sober about the fact you can never account for everyone. But we can say this: for 14 years, since 9/11, the NYPD – working with our federal partners, FBI, etcetera – have kept this city safe. And part of that is an extraordinary intelligence gathering capacity and a real focus on prevention, which has worked. Now we're adding to that capacity. So, what we find is, having close relationships to the community, getting the intelligence early, looking for those leads using a variety of

techniques – that has helped us to stay ahead of anyone who may have evil intentions. But in the age of the lone wolf, it's also important to be able to respond very, very quickly. As Commissioner Bratton said last week, we now have this 500 person plus counterterror force, on top of all the other capacity we have. If there are even multiple events around New York City, they can respond within minutes and with a lot of fire power and a lot of training.

Chris Cuomo: And also, look, the experts – you hear it all the time in your briefings – they're surprised that things haven't happened – you know, how much stuff they stop. The bad guys only have to be successful once. And you do have big advantages over Paris. That is an obviously fractured society. They have big problems –

Mayor: Yes.

Chris Cuomo: ... with community that, thank God, we don't have here yet. So it's a little bit of a different equation, but you can over – over prepare.

Michaela Pereira: Well, add to it we have technology on our side. We understand someone's brother has launched an initiative – an app. We know of “see something, say something” –

Mayor: Yes.

Michaela Pereira: But now there's “see something, send something” – the idea that if you see something, take a picture, and then send that image to the proper authorities.

Mayor: Yeah, that's exactly right. People should feel empowered – that if they have information, they can actually help to fight terrorism. What we shouldn't do is play into the terrorists' hands, and change our habits, change our lifestyle, change our democracy. Secretary Jeh Johnson, our Homeland Security Secretary, said it beautifully the other day. He said, “Terrorists can't succeed if we refuse to be terrorized.” This is psychological warfare – that's what it is. I remember – you know, think back to World War II, how the different sides tried to convince each other that they were going to lose – this is psychological warfare. If we say, no, you know, we're better than that, we can prevail. But it's also important for the average citizen, if they do see something, if they hear something, if they think someone's up to no good, report it to the authorities immediately.

Chris Cuomo: An organic segue is, if we're dealing with terrorists, we're dealing with people who are unstable of mind.

Mayor: Yes.

Chris Cuomo: Mental health is an issue, Chirlane. You know, we're trying to figure out how to deal with it because the stigma, you know –

First Lady Chirlane McCray: That's right.

Chris Cuomo: When people – if you have diabetes, you have diabetes. If you have leukemia, you have leukemia. If you have schizophrenia or bipolar, they call you crazy. There's stigma that you're dealing with – doesn't really have parity with, you know, physical healthcare the way we want it to be. What can you do?

First Lady McCray: That's right. We want it – we need to change the mindset around the mind. It is very much a part of the body. And that's what ThriveNYC sets out to do, is bring about a culture change and help people understand that mental illness is, first of all, is pervasive – the number is one in five New Yorkers have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year – and it's treatable. This is something that we can address in children, and seniors, and parents. There's something for everyone.

Michaela Pereira: Well, it's so interesting, too, because I think people think that, and they think extreme cases, but there is a spectrum.

First Lady McCray: Absolutely.

Michaela Pereira: We – and included in that spectrum – one of the focuses of ThriveNYC is dealing with mothers. This is very important to you. Talk about that.

First Lady McCray: Maternal depression is very common. The estimate is one in ten women who are pregnant or new mothers have maternal depression. But we don't really know, because we don't collect data. Pediatricians and OB/GYNs don't always do the screening.

Michaela Pereira: And there's a stigma, too.

First Lady McCray: [Inaudible]

Michaela Pereira: You don't necessarily want to say I'm struggling.

First Lady McCray: Who wants to be a bad mom?

Michaela Pereira: Right.

First Lady McCray: No one.

Chris Cuomo: They're among the least likely to self-report.

First Lady McCray: Yes, it's –

Michaela Pereira: Yeah.

First Lady McCray: That's right, because there's such a stigma. It's a mark of disgrace not to feel anything but joyous because you have a new child. But it's a real condition. It's a disease, and – but again, it can be treated, so we want women to get screened.

Alisyn Camerota: And – and Mr. Mayor, this is a personal issue for you. Your father suffered.

Mayor: Yes.

Alisyn Camerota: Your daughter has been public about suffering. It's – it's heartbreaking.

Mayor: And we have to talk about it. I – I give Chirlane such credit for talking about what our daughter Chiara has gone through. And Chiara has been very open, because she sees it as her obligation to talk about her struggles, both mental health struggles and substance abuse struggles, because that's part of how we heal our society. That's part of how we help reach people, is to talk about it. I talked yesterday about what my dad went through. You know, World War II hero – he was a wounded veteran, Battle of Okinawa – came back with what we would now call PTSD. We didn't call it back – back when I was growing up, we didn't say PTSD. We tried to avoid the fact that he obviously had something he was carrying from the war with him. It devolved in his case into alcoholism – and substance abuse and mental health problems so often go together. But we have to talk about it, because as Chirlane was saying, the stigma is keeping people from getting treatment.

First Lady McCray: Yes.

Michaela Pereira: Avoidance is never a good tactic, is it?

First Lady McCray: No.

Michaela Pereira: We are so glad you both joined us. Thank you so much. We wish you both a wonderful Thanksgiving, and a safe one. Thanks for joining today.

Mayor: Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving.

First Lady McCray: Thank you. [Inaudible] Happy Thanksgiving.

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