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RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO ON CNN'S NEW DAY

Alisyn Camerota: Big cities across the country seeing a rise in crime so far this year, and New York City is no exception. Mayor Bill de Blasio is defending his tactics, including ending the city's stop and frisk practice. Mayor Bill de Blasio joins us now. He's also rolling out the second year of the city's universal pre-k program for all four-year-olds, and we'll talk about that as well. Mr. Mayor, thanks so much for being on New Day.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: My pleasure, Alisyn.

AC: Okay, let's start the city – crime in the city, and whether or not there's been a spike in violent crime. Yesterday, New Jersey's governor, Chris Christie, said that there has been a spike in crime and he blamed you for what he calls lawlessness on the streets. Similarly, former Police Commissioner Ray Kelly also blames you indirectly. He thinks that it's your policy of curtailing stop and frisk. Let me read to you what he said. He says murders are up, and if you have a propensity to carry a gun, and there's a policy to deemphasize stop, and question, and frisk, it's only common sense that you'll see more people carrying guns and more crime. What's your response to their complaints?

Mayor: Well, they're both wrong, Alisyn. Look at the statistics. Look at the facts. The NYPD data that shows crime is down over four percent overall this year compared to last year. Last year, we had the lowest number of murders in New York City in half a century. Now, it's true we have a few more this year – nine more precisely year-to-date in this city. That's nine too many, but I have a lot of faith in Bill Bratton, our commissioner. I have a lot of faith in the NYPD. They're driving crime down more and more. So, for all the critics who are making up stories, look at the NYPD statistics. Crime is going down –

AC: Let's do that.

Mayor: – and I believe it will go down further.

AC: Mr. Mayor, let's do that because there's a million different ways to slice and dice these numbers. So let's look at the numbers. These are from the NYPD statistics. This is as of about a week ago. And, while you're right, overall crime has gone down, violent crime – murder, rape, robbery, assault – has actually gone up. There were 205 murders in 2014, according to the latest statistics. There have been 222 so far this year – that's an eight percent rise. Rape has also gone up by five percent. Robbery has gone up –

Mayor: Alisyn, again, I want to – Alisyn, simple facts – as of midnight last night, nine is the difference in murders between last year and this year. We're going to keep driving that down. And last year was the lowest number of murders in 50 years. Bill Bratton announced a few days ago – safest summer in over 20 years when you look at all violent crime, key crime indicators – June, July, August – the safest summer in 20 years. I believe in Bill Bratton. I believe in the NYPD. I don't want to listen to politicians or folks with an axe to grind who are saying that something's happening that's just not true. We were able to reduce stop-and-frisk and treat people more fairly while bringing crime down – and we're not done. Crime is going to go down further because we're adding 1,300 more cops to the NYPD, we're adding new technology, new training. And I'm convinced this city's going to get even safer.

AC: Okay, let's talk about one of your big initiatives that is relaunching again today, and that is universal pre-k for 4-year-olds. What has that – what has that changed in the city over this past year?

Mayor: Alisyn, this is an incredible day for New York City. For the first time in our history, every child who's four years old can go to full-day free pre-k – any neighborhood anywhere in this city. 65,000-plus kids will be going today for their first day of school. By the way, that's as many children as in the entire public school system of Boston or Seattle – that's just in our pre-k. And I think it's going to have a huge impact on the lives of these children and families, really give them tremendous educational opportunity and frame their futures. I think it's going to make our school system better, because kids when they're four years old – and I speak as a parent who had two kids in full-day pre-k – when I saw what it did for my children, Chiara and Dante, it wakes them up to learning, it prepares them at an age when they can learn really in a more powerful way than later in life. When kids are three, and four, and five, it's a perfect window for learning. We want every child to have that opportunity.

AC: Okay. [inaudible] and we see people waiting in line behind you this morning for that initiative. Mr. Mayor, thanks so much for being on New Day. We will look forward to talking to you again soon.

Mayor: Thank you.

AC: Thanks so much.

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