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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON MSNBC'S KASIE DC WITH
KASIE HUNT**

Kasie Hunt: I think we have New York Mayor, Bill de Blasio, standing by with us and considering what we saw there where President Trump did show clips of the state's governor. Mr. Mayor, I'm hoping to get your reaction first to what the president had to say there, but then also answer the basic question, what does New York need right now? And are you sure getting what you need from the federal government?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Yeah, Kasie, we are not, it's as simple as that. You know, Donald Trump spent months turning his back on his hometown. We pleaded for the testing before this crisis really hit. We got nothing. And now, when we are in the middle of this horrendous, you know, painful reality – I've talked to him directly multiple times and I've said, look, New York City will not be able to provide basic services. We are not going to be able to ensure that we've got police, fire, sanitation, all the things that we need going forward after we've just lost \$7 billion in revenue. We're not going to be able to take care of the basics so we're not going to be able to restart and we're not going to be able to recover and that's horrible for our people, but also if he wants to see this country back on his feet, it's not going to happen without the largest city in the country. He has ignored that entirely, Kasie. Here's the bottom line, I laid it out to him, he's ignored it. He hasn't lifted a finger. He could've told Mitch McConnell there had to be money for cities and localities in this stimulus that's being debated right now. And the president literally walked away from his obligation and has had nothing to say, including in that press conference. He acts like someone else's president, and he doesn't even have to comment on it. So, he's leaving New York City high and dry, but also cities and states all over the country. And there's no way in hell we can recover if we've got giant holes in our budgets and we can't provide basic services.

Hunt: Mr. Mayor, as I've talked to my sources as this deal is coming together and you underscore a good point, one thing that Democrats, that congressional Democrats had wanted was money for state and local governments in this package, but it's not there at this very moment. Part of the reasoning seems to be potentially that, well it means that states won't take all of the actions that they could to try and keep the economy stabilized potentially to put some pressure. It could also be simply that these negotiations are too thorny. They take more time. It sounds like your message is that if you don't get this money right now, the damage is not going to be able to be undone.

Mayor: Kasie, right now we are not able to do the things we would normally be doing to support our people and we're in the midst of a crisis. So, I'm talking about hospitals that have been week

to week on whether we even had enough of the personal protective equipment for our health care workers. And I'm talking about a city that right now has no capacity to recover if we can't provide basic services going forward. So, look, we haven't heard a word from the president. If he said, Kasie, I absolutely support aid to cities and to states, and we got to make them whole because they're never going to be able to replace this revenue, they're never going to be able to keep their workforce together and provide services without it – if he said this must happen and there's going to be another stimulus in May, that'd be a different discussion. He has literally ignored the entire issue and acts like somehow there's going to be a recovery without the places that actually are the economic engines of the country. I mean, it's just an absolute disregard for his responsibilities. So, Kasie, I understand the legislative process goes up and down, but my problem is the Senate Republicans will not move if they don't hear Donald Trump's voice. And he's absolutely silent on what's happening to our cities and our states right now. We're bearing the brunt.

Hunt: Well, we certainly have seen plenty of evidence that when the president speaks or says he'll support something, that Republicans in Congress have certainly gone right along with it. Mr. Mayor, we hit a pretty grim milestone just before we started having this conversation, 40,000 deaths, 750,000 cases, excuse me, in this country, 40,000 people dying, the curve overall, still ticking upward, even as some localities have had some success in fighting this. Where do you feel New York's needs are most pressing right this moment on the testing front? Are you among those that is concerned about, sort of, the materials that are going into these tests as we heard some governors say this morning, or what are your concerns in that area?

Mayor: Yeah, so Kasie, we're the epicenter and the only way we can get out of this phase of this pandemic is if we have truly widespread testing. The president is simply lying about the availability of all those components of testing, the swabs – I mean, you can't get those things. You cannot get them. So, right now for me to get a city of 8.6 million people out of the thick of a crisis and onto a point where we could start to restart our economy, it will take testing on a scale that's nowhere near our reach right now. And we have tried to look all over the world for the test kits and all of the elements we need in the quantity we need, which is probably, Kasie, going to be something like hundreds of thousands of tests per day for a city this big to really eradicate this disease, to really be able to control the situation, and track everyone who might be infected and all their contacts and make sure that no one goes to a workplace who's sick.

You need really widespread testing. We learned that from other parts of the world that have had some success fighting it back. We're nowhere near that now. And the federal government has no plan to provide it, no timeline, no vision for it. So, this was the beginning of this crisis where testing was what we needed to try and stop the coronavirus from overtaking us. The federal government was absent. They're still absent on the testing issue. I think this is Donald Trump's last chance. I really mean it. He blew it in the first instance on testing. He is blowing it again on testing. He's nowhere to be found on support for the cities and states that bore the brunt of the crisis. History is going to judge him very harshly if that – the last chance he had to make things right and let the country recover, he was absent and missing in action again, and you know the final word on Donald Trump will be, he saw this crisis coming. He did nothing about it. When he had a chance to help the country recover, he did nothing about it.

Hunt: Certainly, some of the president's critics have suggested that he is looking to shift responsibility to governors to avoid accountability for himself. We will see if it plays out as you outline here. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, our thoughts, of course, are always with those health care workers on the front lines in your city and across the country. Please, our hearts are with them. Thanks to them and thanks to you for your time tonight.

Mayor: Thank you – thank you, Kasie.

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