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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO, COMMISSIONER O'NEILL DELIVER
REMARKS AT AN NYPD PROMOTION CEREMONY**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you. What an honor to be with you on this day of celebration and progress for the NYPD. This is a day where we recognize those who have achieved so much and we take this department forward. So I am honored to be here with you. I want to thank of course our Commissioner Jimmy O'Neill, our First Deputy Commissioner Ben Tucker for their great leadership.

[Applause]

I have to offer a special thanks to a man who helped us in so many ways not only in the last four years but over the last quarter century to achieve the progress we've made as a city, Commissioner Bill Bratton. Thank you so much for being here.

[Applause]

I am so happy that Councilmember Vanessa Gibson is here with us. She was for four great years, the chair of the public safety committee in the City Council and did an outstanding job. But I want to thank her for that while also noting, we're honored to have the new chair of the public safety committee in the City Council, Donovan Richards with us. Thank you for your leadership councilmember.

[Applause]

And finally a thank you to the President of the Detectives Endowment Association, Michael Palladino. Thanks for all you do.

[Applause]

Of course we are here to witness and support the promotion of these great leaders. And we're here to honor them and thank them. But it is also important to recognize everyone who supported them and helped them along the way, all the mentors, all the colleagues and most especially their

family who stood by them every step of the way. Let's applaud the family and also those who helped them to this day.

[Applause]

It's an important day for all of them, but I want to single out our new Chief of Department, Terry Monahan.

[Applause]

I like that Terry has the chair separate from everyone else. It looks like you're in trouble for some reason Terry. The last few years I've gotten to know Chief Monahan, and if you work with him every day, you recognize his passion for this work. And it's really a beautiful thing. We talked a couple of weeks back. And some of why he loves this department so much, and this city so much comes from the family tradition of membership in the NYPD and that beautiful, beautiful tradition being passed from generation to generation is something that can make the experience so deep. And I could see that that was part of it. But that wasn't all of it.

Terry Monahan, it's clear, loves the people of this city and served them in good times and bad for almost 35 years now. He has come to understand every nook and cranny of this city, all the things that make it great and all the challenges that we have. And I've been so impressed as we've talked about neighborhood policing and what it means. How personal it is for Chief Monahan, because he understands that our officers have for so long deserved to feel that they had a partnership with communities. Deserved to feel that they had real allies in every neighborhood, real friendships, real support. And community members deserve to feel that the police were shoulder to shoulder with them, understood them. As commissioner Bratton often invoked a phrase "saw them" saw them for who they were for all the good in their community.

Neighborhood policing has allowed us as a strategy to achieve things that might have been inconceivable not so many years ago. To create a bond a mutual respect in every kind of neighborhood. It's an extraordinarily powerful thing. And Chief Monahan is one of the people who brought this idea to life.

You know wherever I go when I visit precincts, when I am in communities I talk to officers; I ask them about their experience. And those who are in the front lines in neighborhood policing consistently say the same thing to me. It is absolutely random every borough, every neighborhood officers of every background know preparation just asked them what they are experiencing what they are feeling and I get almost exactly the same answer and it's very heartfelt how powerful it is to have community members truly on your side and knowing you're on their side. And the information that flows because of that, the help, the assistance that flows to our officers. The thank you's that are so much more frequent, that our officers deserve but didn't always hear in the past are finally coming out the way they should more frequently to thank our officers for their hard work.

This philosophy took a long time to bring to bear. It took hard work, it took creativity, it took persistence. Clearly we owe a debt of gratitude to Commissioner O'Neill who was the architect of neighborhood policing in this city. We owe a debt of gratitude –

[Applause]

We owe a debt of gratitude to Commissioner Bratton who started thinking these thoughts long ago on the beat in Boston decades ago.

[Applause]

But the guy who had to actually had to make it work every single day in his own special style – for those of you who know Terry Monahan, you know what I am talking about. It's good you have a fan club of one back there, Terry.

[Laughter]

His special style always believing in the mission, passionate, powerful, and someone you know where he leads, people want to follow. So this is a day to celebrate, congratulations Chief Terry Monahan.

[Applause]

And I'll be very quick, but I got to talk about just what it means to everyone here. Because all of these good people started in neighborhood, started working with everyday people and rose to the top because of their hard work, because of their vision, because they did things the right way. They are the finest of the finest. And that is a very high standard to reach, but they're going to take us forward. One of the things I remind people about, this is a department that not only does not rest on its laurels. This is a department that doesn't know how to rest on its laurels and that is an incredibly positive thing. I've been in so many meetings with the leadership of this department over years now and I've never heard a moment of complaisance, I've never heard a moment where people said we've done good enough, we've gone far enough let's stop trying.

You saw what happened in 2017. The unimaginable was achieved by the NYPD. I want you to just take this in for a quick second. The last time crime was this low in New York City was in the 1950's, the 1950's. The example I give and it always captures the breath of people when I talk to them around the country about what the NYPD has achieved here in this city working with partners in every neighborhood. I said the last time we had this few murders in New York City was 1951. And the Dodgers were still playing at Ebbets Field.

So that kind of achievement a phrase we use. "The safest big city in America" that is an earned achievement. And it's not static. No one says, hey we we're the safest big city in America at 2017, we're done here. People understand at this department, we're going to go and set the next record. And that's what these leaders are going to be in the vanguard of achieving. It's exciting and it's particularly exciting as we build a new model of policing that will supercharge the efforts of our men and women in uniform. Because now they're going to have the greatest force

multiplier possible. 8.5 million New Yorkers were on their side and have their back. That's what we're creating here today in New York City. And I congratulate all of these leaders for the role they will play going forward. And I thank them, for all they have given so far. And I look forward to many great years together. Thank you, and congratulations. God bless you all.

[...]

Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill: Let's keep it down in the upper row there please.

[Laughter]

Terry, they were clapping because I told them to clap for you.

[Laughter]

So to the families and friends of Rodney, Tracie, Eddie, Nilda, Theresa Shortell, Harry, Jack, Billy, Steve, Fausto, Maria, thank you for being here because I know Monahan doesn't have any friends.

[Laughter]

Actually, I actually had to cut him down to size a little bit. I was outside his office with Rodney the other day and he asked me, -- he goes so how long are going to speak for Thursday? I said about five minutes. And he said could you cut it down a little bit? I got a lot to say on Thursday.

[Laughter]

Morning everyone, thank you Mayor de Blasio for joining us today. This is truly an important day for our NYPD family and an important time for the people of our great city. NYPD's neighborhood policing philosophy which puts cops and people we serve on equal footing in our fight against crime and disorder is revolutionizing the way the NYPD keeps all New Yorkers safe.

So we have to make sure we have the right people in the right places at the right time. And that time is now. And to complete this change we require the talent, the vision, and the leadership of the people we are promoting today. At the department in 2017, we achieved what many thought was unachievable -- the City hasn't been this safe for nearly 70 years. And it's impossible to overstate how remarkable that is.

No matter how extraordinary it is, it's now in the past. As soon as that clock went past midnight on January 1st -- we're all standing in Times Square, a little cold, and we said to ourselves okay it's 2018, now what are we going to do?

We do have so much to be proud of and New Yorkers do appreciate how hard the men and women of the NYPD work every day but we can't ever stop moving forward and we won't stop. Now is the time to redouble our sense of urgency to make every neighborhood in New York City

safe at all times. Part of this push ahead is completing the NYPD's transformation. To see this through, we absolutely need the full partnership of the people who live in, work in, and play in New York every day.

Today's promotions are a major step towards that goal. Our neighborhood policing model is already working 56 of our 77 patrol precincts and in all nine of our housing commands. As we keep expanding neighborhood policing we must advance the modifications of our most basic organizational systems, like training, technology, human resources, community outreach, and more.

We made a promise to our cops and to the communities we serve that we would always support them, that we would never stop trying to improve. With the team assembled here today, we're making good on that promise. I truly believe, and I know our Chief of Department Terry Monahan, believes it too – Terry began his career in his home borough the Bronx, out of patrol in the 41 Precinct. He's risen through the ranks during his 36 year career so far – yes, that's right – he's got a year more than me.

And he continues to prove himself as a highly skilled crime fighter. I would say one of the best in country along with Dermot Shea. From the Bronx –

[Applause]

Thank you, Deidre.

[Laughter]

From the Bronx to Manhattan North, to Narcotics, and elsewhere he saw what I saw – that the old model of policing just wasn't working in the most efficient way possible. But to his immense credit, Terry didn't just realize there was a problem, he got to work fixing it. Like all great leaders, Terry identified the problem and saw an opportunity. He's been involved in each careful step in the department's restructuring ever since including the precise roll out of the new neighborhood policing commands.

He's been there from the very beginning of our effort to fundamentally reshape this department. And now, as the NYPD's highest ranking uniformed officer, Terry is uniquely qualified to see this through. New Yorkers are fortunate to have you on their side and I'm looking forward to everything NYPD and our city will keep accomplishing together. Congratulations Terry.

[Applause]

The man replacing Terry as Chief of Patrol is also an integral part of our transformation. As the ex-o of Patrol Services, at least for the next few minutes, Rodney Harrison is the operation leader of the Bureau's

[Applause]

So, the right side is for you Rodney?

[Laughter]

And upstairs is for Terry?

[Laughter]

Okay. Rodney Harrison is the Operational Leader of the Bureau's neighborhood policing roll out. In his nearly 27 year career, Rodney has worked in every borough of this city. This wide experience helped him understand and truly connect with the communities all across our city. And he uses that comprehensive knowledge of what works and why to help make neighborhood policing successful everywhere it's implemented. Make no mistake, neighborhood policing is not a one size fits all solution. And if we tried to do it that way it would never work. Luckily we have leaders like Rodney to ensure that it is tailored correctly and that it works well everywhere. Congratulations Chief Harrison.

[Applause]

Today we also gained new leadership in our Transit Bureau with Chief Ed Delatorre, thank you Ed for all the work –

[Applause]

Thank you for all the work, the terrific work you've done out on Staten Island. We have a new Head of Personal in Chief Bill Morris.

[Applause]

Bill, thank you for everything that you have done in Manhattan South – just a hard job and you did it tremendously for five years.

We have a new Chief of Training, Theresa Shortell.

[Applause]

A new Community Affairs leader in Chief Nilda [inaudible] Hofmann.

[Applause]

Chief Jack Donohue becomes head of Strategic Initiatives, Jack.

[Applause]

And Chief Harry Wedin will spear head all of our Special Operations, Harry thank you.

[Applause]

In my four years working with this administration, I don't think there is a scene I've been to where Harry hasn't been so thank you for your leadership at Special Operation.

[Applause]

Your men and women do a terrific job each and every day. We have a new Chief of Patrol Borough Manhattan South, Chief Steve Hughes.

[Applause]

He comes from a very large family so, that's why this auditorium is so packed.

[Laughter]

And then Assistant Chief Fausto Pichardo.

[Applause]

Monahan, I think Fausto wins.

[Laughter]

We are also very fortunate to be able to promote Assistant Commissioner Maria Otero.

[Applause]

Thank you, thank you so much for what you do for this police department and what you do for the families of our fallen heroes. Your worth is immeasurable, thank you Maria, thank you very much.

[Applause]

And we are putting Deputy Commissioner Tracie Keese's extensive talents to even better use now as head of our new Office of Equity and Inclusion. She and her staff will greatly enhance the progress we are already making to development strong woman and minority candidates for leadership roles throughout the NYPD. Thank you all for playing such important roles and congratulations to each of you.

[Applause]

Almost done, almost done. All these men and women before you today bring fresh perspectives and unique visions to their perspective offices. But all the hard work and growing pains are necessary because this is how we make out way forward. I'm confident our best days lie ahead.

It's up to all of us now to live up to that promise we made to our cops and to all the people of New York – to not only keep them safe, but to make them feel safe too.

Congratulations again to the newest members of our executive team and to their families. Enjoy today with your loved one because you are never going to see them again.

[Laughter]

You think I'm kidding right?

[Laughter]

Tomorrow we are getting right back to what the NYPD does better – actually not tomorrow, probably this afternoon. And we are doing it hand with every New Yorker, in every neighborhood all the time, thank you very much and congratulations once again.

[Applause]

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