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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO, SENATOR SCHUMER ANNOUNCE \$108 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO REPAIR AND PROTECT SANDY-DAMAGED PUBLIC HOUSING**

**Mayor:** Well, good morning, everyone. This is a beautiful day to be in Coney Island. But more important, it's a wonderful day for Coney Island Houses. And for the residents of Coney Island Houses, it's going to be a transcendent day. What we're announcing today is something that will literally improve the lives of residents here at Coney Island Houses for – not just years – for decades to come. That's how profound an impact this new funding will have, and we know that because progress is going to be made at Coney Island Houses, it is a bellwether for more progress we'll be able to make at other public housing developments around the city, that were hit hard by Sandy, and that need to be resilient for the future.

Today we're announcing a landmark agreement between our city's Housing Authority and FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The Housing Authority will receive \$108 million dollars from the federal government, not just to repair the damage done by Sandy, but to make Coney Island Houses resilient for the future. It will affect all five buildings, and it will affect them profoundly. And, this is a model — I know everyone here at Coney Island is feeling great – but this is a model because – you know, I want to hear a little more from the folks at Coney Island Houses, are you feeling great?

[Applause]

This is a model that we know will help us in at least 15 other major NYCHA development – including Red Hook, and the Rockaways, and the Lower East Side, all the places that were hit so hard – this victory today is going to open the door for many more to come. It's an example of what can happen when we work closely with our federal government and our federal government responds. Now, I don't want to give everyone a civics lesson – I only want to say that the federal government often responds in direct correlation to how many phone calls Senator Chuck Schumer makes to key officials of the federal government. He is known for his persistence, and that persistence is benefitting the residents of Coney Island Houses today, so I'm going to introduce him in a moment, but I have to say, Senator Schumer, we're here today because of you, and because you stood up, and because since the moment Sandy made landfall, you hit the

phones, stayed on the phones, and made sure that our federal officials remembered their responsibilities to these residents.

FEMA has done the right thing here. I think it's also important to give credit where credit is due—FEMA has been responsive, they've been working with us every step of the way, they've stepped up. And so I really want to say thank you to everyone at FEMA, because we asked them to work with us, and they did, and they're delivering, and that deserves a lot of appreciation.

Also, our new HUD Secretary Julián Castro, was quick to recognize how important it was to resolve these issues. He cares deeply about public housing – he used to be a mayor – the mayor of San Antonio – has a huge amount of public housing there that he was working with constantly. So he understood how important it was to get this done, and he joined in the joint effort to get FEMA to cross the finish line here. Everyone at NYCHA deserves a lot of credit. It took a lot of work. To our chair, Shola Olatoye, who you'll hear from later, and her entire team – great work was done to get us to this day.

And the most important thing is, everyone had in mind the fact that people needed this. It wasn't just about buildings, it was about people – people who needed to know they'd be safe, people who suffered a lot after Sandy, and needed to know that there would be a better future. I also want you to know that the whole team in our administration here in the city was devoted — I want to particularly thank Dan Zarrilli, our director of the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, and Amy Peterson, director of the Office of Housing Recovery—played a crucial role working with FEMA and NYCHA to get us here.

You're going to hear from some of our elected leaders who have been great partners in this effort as well – our Congressman, Hakeem Jeffries; Assembly Member Alec Brook-Krasny; Mark Treyger, your councilmember, also chair of the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency in the City Council; Ritchie Torres, the chair of the Public Housing Committee in the council. You'll hear from them. They've been all over this to make sure we get this done, and here we are today.

Now, this is not just a matter of what happened in Sandy, and how we move forward. I want to put this in perspective to the history of Coney Island Houses. This is the biggest investment in the Coney Island Houses in decades – the biggest investment of funds in Coney Island Houses in decades – \$108 million dollars that will transform these buildings for the long haul. Out of a tragedy, a phoenix is rising – something that will make people's lives better.

You're going to hear from one of these tenants, Brigitte Purvis, in a moment. You're going to hear what it was like after Sandy, and how we've begun to make progress, but how much more progress people deserve. You know, I remember, coming through Coney Island Houses and the surrounding neighborhood after Sandy, I know Senator Schumer remembers it well too. There were sand dunes in the streets, as if the beach had migrated into the streets of this neighborhood. The basements were flooded, the boilers were knocked out, and for over three weeks, many of the residents here didn't have electricity, didn't have power, heat. They didn't have all the basics, and they remember. And they know we can't let it happen again, and we won't – \$108 million dollars will give us new and elevated boilers, it will give us standby generators, it will give us a flood protection system – so many things that will create a better environment here.

Finally, before I turn to my colleagues, it is very important to talk about the fact this is one of a number of things that are being done in the aftermath of Sandy to change things fundamentally. Again, so much of this comes back to Senator Schumer's relentless efforts, but let me just tell you some examples. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has placed 600,000 cubic yards of sand on Coney Island's beach to protect for the future. It's a huge endeavor unto itself. We're working with the federal government to get money for resiliency at Coney Island Hospital. We're working on the effort to restore wetlands around Coney Island Creek. There are so many pieces that we need to do for the long haul, just keep building on our resiliency efforts. I've said, resiliency is a work that never stops. We just have to keep doing more each year, and we will. We're getting a lot of help from the federal government. What the Army Corps is doing is fantastic, and they've got a lot more capacity they're going to bring to bear here. What HUD did with the Rebuild by Design money for the Lower East Side is going to protect a huge number of public housing developments, and other housing as well with a flood protection system. And the city of New York—I can't thank enough Amy Peterson and Bill Goldstein and Dan Zarrilli and all the folks who are working on the resiliency efforts, on the recovery efforts.

You know, we said a few months back, and the senator is familiar with the fact that when you go and make a public pledge and you put a number to it, some people considered that a risky enterprise. We said months and months ago, by the time we get to Labor Day, we will have sent out 500 reimbursement checks to homeowners who lost so much of their day-to-day reality in Sandy, that we would help achieve at least 500 construction starts to rebuild homes. Well, here are the numbers today—563 reimbursement checks, 545 construction starts. All of that is a sea change from where we were as recently as January, and a lot more to come. We've had the partnership we needed with HUD, with FEMA, with our senator, with our elected officials. It's making a difference, and there's a lot more to come. Before I turn to the senator, I'll say a few more words about him, but first, let me just offer a few words in Spanish.

[Speaks in Spanish]

With that, I want to say, Senator Schumer loves this whole state. He loves this city. He has a special love for the district he represented, the neighborhoods he represented in the Congress, when he was just starting out. He grew up nearby. He represented this area. It's personal for him in the best sense, and that is why I can tell everyone that lives at Coney Island Houses that you get a little extra attention from your U.S. senator, and that is a very good thing, and we have a lot to thank him for. With that, our senator, Chuck Schumer.

**United States Senator Chuck Schumer:** Thanks mayor. Thank you so much. Thank you, mayor. And it is great to be back here in Coney Island. It is, as the mayor mentioned, my happy hunting grounds. This is where I was – nearby where I was raised. My wife went to Mark Twain Junior High School, right down the road. One of my favorite places in all of New York City – I recommend it to you, if you have a chance on the way back – is the beautiful statue by the Cyclones Field of Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese. When Pee Wee went over to Jackie in Cincinnati as the fans were booing him, throwing garbage on the field, put his arm around his shoulder – and they stopped. It was a wonderful moment in American history, symbolized right here by the Cyclones Field. I even care so much about this area, that last night – and this shows

how old I am – I had a dream about someone named Marcy Feigenbaum. She was the Democratic district leader of this area 30 years ago. And I probably haven't thought of her in a very long time – I had a dream about her last night, probably because I was coming here. So, that shows you.

I want to thank my colleagues in government, our great Congress Member Hakeem Jeffries; Councilman Treyger, who represents this area; Alec Brook-Krasny – they're a great team helping Coney Island, as well as Council Member Torres, who is head of the committee that has jurisdiction.

Now, we all know the hardship we had here. Residents of Coney Island can tell you the horror they lived in after Sandy – basements, first floors were all flooded; mechanical systems damaged; no power, no heat – 22 days of no power, no heat; people on top floors who couldn't even get down, older people who needed help. And the amazing volunteers who walked up 10 or 15 or 20 flights of stairs to bring food, and relief, and even toilet facilities so that people can do what they needed to do.

It was a horrible time, and people said Coney Island, New York will never come back. Well, today is proof we're back bigger and better and stronger than ever. The bottom line is that while many residents are still getting on their feet, we can now see a future – a glorious future – that's a lot better than the past for Coney Island, due to what we did in the Sandy legislation. Because we not only provided enough money – which we sure did – but we provided not just money to replace, but to build back better. And that's why we're not just going to replace these boilers with new boilers, but they're going to be flood-proof and they're going to be the most modern boilers available. That's why the electrical system will not be the same electrical system that was knocked out, but will be bigger and better and stronger than ever – both for flood resiliency, but for delivering services. That's why when we put in closed circuit television, the purpose is – if god forbid there is a Sandy – we'll know what is going on right away. But it's going to help against crime. And that was the whole purpose of our Sandy resiliency legislation, to make things – if you're going to spend all of this money – don't just do the same thing. Make it better.

So in a sense, you know, the scriptures always tell us that out of the greatest darkness, can come a lot of light. Out of the terrible darkness and tragedy of Sandy, we've gotten an opportunity – in a sense, a federal godsend – to rebuild across New York City and across Long Island better than it was before, stronger than it was before, an opportunity we might not have had if there was no Sandy.

And the amount of money is amazing—it's \$108 million dollars for this development here at Coney Island. But if you extrapolate the money that we're getting for this development, the first of many—and we know we're going to get it for Rockaway, and Red Hook, and the Lower East Side—if you extrapolate the amount of money here, we will get more than a billion dollars from FEMA to build back our public housing, and build it back better and stronger than it was before. So again, out of the tragedy of Sandy comes something that is pretty darn good, because it would be very hard for New York City on its own to find a billion dollars, not just to build back, but to make things better.

So, I want to thank everybody for being here. NYCHA—and our new head of NYCHA, Ms. Olatoye – has done an incredibly good job. The people who the mayor mentioned who were in charge of making Sandy work have done a great job. And I particularly want to thank the mayor, because when he first got into office, we met early on, and I said, one of the places where we lagged at Sandy is getting money for homeowners. As of January, not a single homeowner in New York City had gotten a check, while tens of thousands on Long Island and Westchester had. We structured the federal program to make housing number one, and because of the mayor's efforts, the checks are now beginning to flow. And because of his team, they're now beginning to flow – late, too late – but at least the money is there. And I say to homeowners, here in the Coney Island area and everywhere else, just as there's help for public housing, there's going to be help for you to build back bigger and better and stronger than ever. So this is really a wonderful day. You can smell the salt air here at Coney Island. I ride my bike when you're allowed to ride your bike, before 10 am, on the boardwalk right here.

**Mayor:** Good catch. Good catch.

[Laughter]

**Senator Schumer:** Right here, on early Saturday mornings, and it's a beautiful place, summer, winter, fall, and spring. And I'm going to look forward, as I ride my bike, to watch the progress as this development is made better than it ever has been, with the help of the Sandy FEMA dollars. Thank you.

**Mayor:** Thank you. Well done, well done. Our congressman, I remember in the days after Sandy, he was all over, as I was all over, and he had a challenging job—he was just going into the Congress in the aftermath of this tragedy, but he has not let his newness stop him from being incredibly vigorous in helping get the resources we need – our congressman, Hakeem Jeffries.

[Congressman Hakeem Jeffries speaks]

**Mayor:** Thank you. You know, we also have needed a lot of help from Albany, and we've been able to turn to our Assembly member, Alec Brook-Krasny, and he has been on the ball getting this neighborhood the help it deserves. Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny.

[Assembly Member Alec Brook-Krasny speaks]

**Mayor:** Thank you. We have two council members who really led the way in helping us get to this day, and they have reminded all of us in City Hall constantly of our obligations to this community. First, your councilman, and also the chair of the committee that focuses on the aftermath of Sandy, Council Member Mark Treyger.

[Council Member Mark Treyger speaks]

**Mayor:** Now, the chair of our Public Housing Committee in the City Council, Ritchie Torres.

[Councilmember Ritchie Torres speaks]

**Mayor:** I want you to hear from two more speakers, and then we're going to take questions, first on-topic then off-topic. First of all, I agree with Ritchie Torres' assessment. Shola Olatoye is the right leader for NYCHA, and one of the things we said to her from the beginning is, you're going to spend a lot of time talking to our federal partners, because we're going to need them to be part of the solution, and Shola has taken that mission on. The senator will agree that dealing with our federal officials is not always easy, but persistence is the key, and I think Shola is picking up a lot of the same habits of Senator Schumer in that persistence to get things done for our residents. I'm saying a nice thing—persistence is good. That's today's message. The chair of the New York City Housing Authority, Shola Olatoye.

[NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye speaks]

**Mayor:** Our last speaker is going to really speak for all of the good people at Coney Island Houses who went through so much. Brigitte Purvis has been a resident for 37 years at Coney Island Houses. Now, looking at her, I'm going to say that means she started at the age of two, as a resident of Coney Island Houses. That is my personal assessment. Sandy hit—she, like so many people, thrown for a huge loop, but she had to persevere. She sent her son to stay with relatives, but she stayed through no electricity, no gas, no heat, no hot water. So this is a personal moment for her, and I want her to speak on behalf of all the people here, and what this day means. Brigitte Purvis.

[Brigitte Purvis speaks]

**Mayor:** Thank you so much, Brigitte. All right, we are going to take questions first on today's announcement, then we'll do other topics. On topic, first. Josh.

**Question:** I wanted to ask you, mayor, just about the, sort of, the Build it Back program, if I may – kind of on this topic. You have criticized, today, and I think a lot of people say rightfully so, the piece –

**Mayor:** Are you editorializing?

**Question:** I'm just trying to give context here. The piece –

**Mayor:** [inaudible]

[Laughter]

**Question:** – under Build it Back. The Bloomberg administration is pushing back on that big Times article which you might have seen today, which sort of goes into granular detail about why the program was so delayed. I was wondering if, in retrospect, if both you and the senator would talk about what you would have done differently, what perhaps should have been done differently, and with climate change still – obviously – a problem today, what would be done differently, if god forbid, an event like Sandy happens during your term.

**Mayor:** Let's – let's first talk about, very, very simply – I don't want to dwell on the past. I think the difference is simple. We said, yeah, we understood the federal law was cumbersome. I know the senator would have loved a much more streamlined approach. He fought for it. But he has to deal with a congress around him that's sometimes less flexible. We still got the resources, thanks to Senator Schumer, and all of our representatives in Washington. And, what we found is, we came into office, understood the limitations of that law, but recognized there were a lot of ways to cut through the red tape and get things done. It took an assertive approach, it took holding our own feet to the fire publicly, it took the right team of people – and that wasn't existent before January 1st. It's as simple as that. I have respect for everyone in the previous administration. I'm sure they were trying their best. But the formula was not a good formula. This team – and we have Amy and Dan here with us – they came in, and they knew they had to produce. And one of the things they did – which really, I want to give them credit for – is they went out to each neighborhood, they sat with residents, they took all the complaints, because they wanted to understand how to be most effective most quickly. We then set goals. And I want to remind you, when we set the goal of the 500 and 500, months ago, at the beginning of the summer, a lot of people said that sounded like a very tall mountain to climb – it was. But because we publicly set the goals, they moved heaven and earth. We're going to be setting new goals soon, because we want to do even better. So, I'm very content that we've learned the lessons of the past, and we have changed the approach profoundly, and it will only continue to get stronger. As to future preparations, this – the resources today are going to have a huge impact. We're going to see a lot more, as Senator Schumer said, helping other developments. There's a lot of other money coming in, as we've talked about at previous events, that are going to help with resiliency. But one of the other things is what Shola Olatoye has said about a different attitude towards resiliency. We're going to teach people how to be prepared – and god forbid the day come when we have to evacuate – we've done these drills. A number of you were at OEM a few weeks back when we did a coastal storm drill. If we say evacuate, we're going to mean it. We're going to be out here in force. I'm going to send the message very clearly, and we're going to get it done. And I think the lesson of Sandy is that we have to be much clearer and stronger in our messages, and in our ability to reach the grassroots to protect people – you're going to see that change as well.

**Senator Schumer:** Yeah, I would just say this. When we drafted our federal law, there had to be a balance. One the one hand, you didn't want money to be misspent, but on the other hand, you wanted to get it done very quickly. And you can wait and wait, and say we're not going to give any money until the insurance companies totally settle in terms of private insurance with public – with homeowners. But it takes too long, and the homeowners can't wait. And so I think what the mayor has done is change the balance some, so that money – so that getting the money in the hands of homeowners is done more quickly, and you don't have to go through 38 different steps before a dollar is sent out. On Long Island – we drafted the law to allow flexibility – on Long Island, 80 percent of all the homeowners have been taken care of. So, it shows you that it was the federal law – now, I'd say this – every executive makes choices. The mayor – previous mayor – Mayor Bloomberg did a great job on resiliency – the subways, our harbors, the sands on the beaches, et cetera. That was his first choice. When Mayor de Blasio came in, we talked early on, and said we've got to do more in housing, and he's done it, and now I think the money's going to start flowing to the homeowners.

**Mayor:** On topic. Yes.

**Question:** Can you just explain the mechanics of when the money was authorized, where it came from –

**Mayor:** The \$108 million?

**Question:** Yeah – you said that this would be a model for 15 other similarly vulnerable developments. Is that money in place?

**Mayor:** The process is going on one-by-one. Coney Island was the first applied for through FEMA. It was a successful process, it was a great partnership with FEMA, and it's clear now what FEMA is looking for, to be able to authorize those funds. Now, we're going to take the exact same model and apply it to at least 15 other developments. So, it will be a rolling situation –

**Senator Schumer:** It will move – the future developments will get money more quickly. The first one's always the hardest. What is resiliency, how far can you push resiliency to do new things. Now that we set a model, it'll work, and as I said – I think, you know, within the next short while, within a year, you're going to see up to a – more than a billion dollars flow to NYCHA, NYCHA programs, in all our various – in all our various developments. So, the model was set here. The first one takes the longest time. The others will flow more quickly.

**Question:** – authorized [inaudible]?

**Senator Schumer:** This was part of the \$60 billion dollar Sandy package that came about through the hard work of the delegation, and those of us in the senate. And the money continues to flow, we didn't just – you can't just give any entity, here's a big check, do whatever you want with it. There are rules. And there's a push and pull on how to make the rules. We're pushing further and further in terms of resiliency, which allows us to build back better.

**Question:** [inaudible] billion dollar package, that was a huge number, you guys have described \$108 million as a huge number, but in reality, given the number of people who live in NYCHA projects, [inaudible] is that really that big a number?

**Senator Schumer:** Well, it's a big number for NYCHA. You ask NYCHA where they can just sort of get \$108 billion dollars, not from the city and state, they'd be hard pressed to find out – \$108 million dollars – but I would say this – tens of billions have already been spent, whether it's on rebuilding our subways, whether it's on money to homeowners, whether it's on reimbursing localities for the basic cost of cleaning up. Tens of billions have already gone out. The hardest thing to do is on these large development projects, where you have so much resiliency, to get those through.

**Mayor:** Media questions, we're taking media questions on topic.

**Question:** Mr. Mayor, you know, you briefly talked about what happened here after Sandy, and these improvements, and building it back better. After these improvements are made, what would these places look like, if another storm –

**Mayor:** If you say a storm very similar to Sandy hit, I asked this very same question earlier today of a lot of the people who worked on this. First of all, the floodwaters would not have gotten as close because there's going to be barriers in place. Second, the generators would have been put higher in the building so they would not have been affected by any flooding that occurred. There'd be backup generators as well if any were knocked out. A whole host of things that fundamentally change the ability of this development to withstand another Sandy, so it's going to be really profoundly different.

On topic, one more on topic. Yes, sir.

**Question:** Residents say this is great what you're doing, but still there's a lot of work to do here, there's still [inaudible] security cameras, people say, just over here, they don't feel safe here at night, there are no lights – what kinds of improvements, if this money's not going to go to any of those improvements, so how will this area be more –

**Mayor:** Some of this money, as the senator said, does affect security issues as well, because it has the dual purpose of dealing with disastrous situations, and day-to-day security. Second of all, the scaffoldings will be coming down. First some work has to be done. But we've made very clear we want that work done, and we want the scaffoldings down as quickly as possible. We're not going to have any more idle scaffolding in the NYCHA system. That's something we're very committed to, and we –

[Applause]

**Mayor:** Thank you. And we – we had a great day at the Lincoln Houses in Manhattan last week when we took scaffolding down that had been up for over four years. You're not going to see what you saw in the past. And there'll be additional – there have been additional commitments of NYPD officers to developments that have been experiencing challenges, but you know, I have to emphasize, I appreciate what Chair Torres said – we are going to making a lot of new investments of different types in NYCHA. It's long overdue. It'll take us some time, but we'll get there.

Off topic, Rich.

**Question:** One more –

**Mayor:** [inaudible] go ahead, Rich.

**Question:** Goofy question – a number of these windows over here have Xs on them. I'm wondering if anyone knows what that means. Does that mean that an apartment is somehow –

**Unknown:** [inaudible] the window won't burst out into your apartment.

**Mayor:** There you go. Okay, off topic.

**Question:** Some teachers in their classrooms are wearing T-shirts in support of the NYPD. The UFT sent out a memo to teachers asking them not to wear what they call political statements. Do you feel that teachers should be wearing T-shirts supporting the police in the classroom?

**Mayor:** You know, first of all, every individual in our society has the right to make their own decisions about how they want to express themselves, and every union has a right to communicate with their own members. So, from my point of view, it's a choice that each individual makes. Look, I honor the NYPD every day. I was at One Police Plaza this morning. I think people appreciate the NYPD in this city. But as to how you should comport yourself at your workplace, and the individual choice you make, that's up to the individual.  
Yes.

Senator – thank Senator Schumer, he's off to another mission.

[Applause]

**Question:** New York Press Club sent you a letter specifically criticizing you for dividing a question and answer session into on and off topic. Do you have a specific response to their criticism about –

**Mayor:** We think we're doing it the right way. We think we're doing it the right way – I try to make myself available a lot. We've had a number of availabilities this week, as you've seen, and we think that's the best way to organize these.

**Question:** The on and off topic –

**Mayor:** We think it's the best way to organize them.

**Question:** [inaudible] details this morning [inaudible] the housing plan [inaudible] mandatory –

**Mayor:** Right.

**Question:** [inaudible] whether developers have been receptive to that so far?

**Mayor:** Well, I think developers understand that there was an election, and this is what we said we were going to do, and there was no two ways about it. We're going to build a lot more affordable housing, or we're going to ask more of them. We're also going to work with them practically to get the job done. So, I think developers in this city understand this is where things are going. I think most of them have been willing to work with it.

**Question:** Mayor, a follow-up on the NYPD T-shirts. Are you concerned at all that there's a teachers vs. cops mentality in this city, and what would you do to defuse that?

**Mayor:** Respectfully, that is a media fabrication. I know so many police officers, I know so many teachers – the vast majority of both believe we're all on the same side. Because we are all on the same side. So, I'm just not interested in artificial conflicts. I'm thrilled with yesterday, the way our teachers all over this city went to work to help our kids, and I'm so appreciative of the work the NYPD does every day. I think the vast majority of our public servants are actually trying to work together, and not allow themselves to be divided.

**Question:** Mr. Mayor... I forgot what I was saying.

**Mayor:** Josh gets your question. No, we're doing – I'm sorry, we're doing media only.

**Question:** I wanted to ask you about the Build it Back, if I – one more time. The – there was some criticism that a lot of the money is used for general resiliency, the kind of big-ticket items that are taking years to build. Do you think that the money that was allotted by congress was the right balance to restore people's homes as is, and also to build resiliency citywide to make sure that they don't get hit in the future?

**Mayor:** Well, I think we're able to work with the law that we got. Look, I think the bill could have been more flexible. I think it could have provided more options. But, that being said, we have a lot we can work with, thank god, and I think Senator Schumer's exactly right, what was missing in the previous approach is a focus on real human beings – homeowners, and public housing residents, who needed relief immediately. So, the resiliency piece and the day-to-day recovery have to go hand-in-hand. You can't just do one without the other. But at least we can say that the federal legislation has given us a substantial amount of resources to work with. Now it's our job to make it happen.

Rich, you get a moment of redemption, Rich.

**Question:** [inaudible] in a flash. Mr. Mayor –

**Mayor:** You had a revelation.

**Question:** I want to ask you about the body cams, the PD is moving forward with the body cams. They're talking about it being pretty expensive, though, and it's possibly tens of millions of dollars just for storing the data. What goes through your mind?

**Mayor:** Well, first of all, I saw some of the body cams this morning at Police Plaza. It's pretty impressive technology in the sense of how small it is, how lightweight it is, and that's promising. But we've said very clearly, this is a pilot program because we need to figure out what it means in a city of this scale. There's no comparable example in the country. So, we're going to start small, test it, find out how it looks in real life, and then decide from there how far we should go, and how much we can afford. But the important thing now is to, you know, start down this road. We agreed to it with the settlement of the Floyd case, the stop and frisk case, and we agreed to it with a whole heart, because we think it's something we need to know more about. And it might be something that actually fundamentally improves the relationship between police and community, and our ability to figure out what happened in a particular incident, and it also might

improve our ability in terms of prosecution, because we'll have an additional record of things that happened. You know, I think a lot of criminals out there are reading the same news, and probably don't like the idea of their every action being videoed, because they know it can and will be used against them in a court of law. So, there's something promising here, but we have to test it carefully to figure out how well it will work, how we deal with the confidentiality issues, how much we can fund – those are questions for up ahead.

**Phil:** Thanks, guys.

**Mayor:** Thanks, guys.

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