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RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON WOR

Len Berman: Mayor de Blasio – Len Berman and Todd Schnitt in the morning – how are you today?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Well, good morning, and happy anniversary. Tomorrow, I know – one year for this great show. Congratulations.

Berman: So, you've been counting the days now until our anniversary, mayor?

Mayor: I have a big circle on the calendar tomorrow.

Tod Schnitt: So, that means that a proclamation is coming and keys to the city, correct?

Mayor: There'll be a whole big show. There'll be all sorts of stuff we're doing.

[Laughter]

Berman: That's very nice. Thank you, mayor. So, what is the latest as of 8:45 on Monday morning?

Mayor: Well, I think that the sanitation department – our sanitation workers have done a great job all over this city, and certainly our first responders did as well. I think the bottom line is this, our biggest roads in this city – our highways, our primary roads – in great shape. Most of our secondary roads – in very good shape. Certainly, people can get around on them. The problem we've had in some areas – the tertiary roads, the smallest roads – I think we did proportionally better in most boroughs other than Queens. There are some neighborhoods in Queens where there's still work being done. There was work going on overnight – but still more to be done. But I'd say, overall, the sanitation department did a hell of a job. The city is up and running this morning. And considering there was 27 inches of snow – you know, point-one inch away from setting the record for the biggest snowfall in the history of this city – I think the people of this city should be very satisfied that our public employees did a hell of a job.

Schnitt: Which – I've got to be honest, now, the last record was '06, and it seems kind of ludicrous that we missed the record by a tenth of an inch. What if the measuring gauge back in '06 was off by a tenth? What if the gauge was like six feet further to the left? Would it have broken the record? It seems kind of silly – we missed it by a tenth of an inch.

Mayor: Well, one of my deputy mayors said we should demand a recount.

[Laughter]

Schnitt: Mayor, I grew up in Queens. It always just – for a hundred years it seems like Queens is always bitching when it comes to snow removal. Is there something about that borough that makes it so difficult?

Mayor: I think there's a couple of objective factors. First of all, you know, the snow measure at Central Park was just under 27 inches, but at JFK – was 30.5. So, actually, some parts of Queens literally got a few more inches of snow – that didn't help. The streets – we have some very narrow streets that makes it harder for the plowing to happen – obviously, a lot of smaller residential side streets. So, I think there are some objective reasons why Queens takes a little longer. But, again, for what is effectively the biggest snowstorm in our history, the fact that so much of the city is up and running pretty normally this morning – that's a very good sign. We're going to be doing more though, going forward, to get ahead of any situation in Queens, because we want to get every neighborhood up and running quickly. And certainly, in the course of today, those smaller streets in Queens are going to get a lot of attention today.

Schnitt: Does Manhattan just inherently get the early attention? Is that fair?

Mayor: No, no, absolutely not. And this is – you know, I understand the mythology around these things, but a lot of this was based on ideas from many years ago where some of the problems that happened in 2010 – that was obviously a horrible storm and it took the city a long time. Nowadays, in fact, not only does each borough and each neighborhood get very equal attention, but you can see it online. We have a plow-tracker that shows where the plows are, what they're doing. And, in fact, one of the lessons of the 2010 storm was that equipment was not moved where it was needed the most. Our sanitation team did a great job getting equipment out of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx once neighborhoods were looking good – they sent them over to Queens. At a high-point yesterday, we have 850 plows in Queens alone. So, I think people did a great job of making adjustments, sending the plows where the need was greatest.

Berman: Mayor, with the difficulties on some sidewalks, and with some of the streets in Queens – was there any thought to giving a day off from school.

Mayor: No, there wasn't, to be honest. And, you know, until June, I was a public school parent, so, I certainly know what parents go through and what kids go through. Number one concern is safety, but we obviously have a city that is running pretty damn well at this point given what we went through. We know we can keep our kids safe. And for working parents, which are many, many of our parents, you know, if kids don't go to school, that creates a host of challenges for them as well. So, I think we were in good shape. Now, I will say, I want people to be careful out there. Be careful, the sidewalks are slippery. Don't walk in the street unless it's absolutely necessary. And we're actually looking for more people to come help. We're hiring day-laborers – \$13 dollars an hour, and they overtime if they go more than 40 hours. We need day-laborers to help us clear out some of the crosswalks and bus stops. So, anyone who wants –

Schnitt: By the way, Mr. Mayor, Len's hand is up. Can you send you driver and suburban over to pick up Len?

Mayor: We're going to come get Len. And Len needs some honest work, so we've going to give –

[Laughter]

Berman: Oh, you've been listening to the show?

Mayor: Yeah.

Berman: Hey, before you run – and I know we only have you for a limited time – since you mentioned tomorrow is our first anniversary, if Todd shoots somebody on Fifth Avenue, do you think it'll help our ratings?

Mayor: Yeah, I have to say, I've heard a lot of crazy comments, and I keep saying, you know, there's one part of Trump that comes across almost comically, but, you know, broadly, he's said many dangerous things, many exclusionary things about women, about Mexican-Americans, Muslim-Americans – and then he says something

like that in a country that's trying to deal with gun violence. It's absolutely inappropriate. It's certainly not presidential. And what an incredibly arrogant thing to say – I think it's another example of why people ultimately are not going to buy what Donald Trump is selling.

Schnitt: Before you roll, what are your thoughts on the business that didn't send somebody in on a Sunday to clear the sidewalks in front of their stores?

Mayor: Look, this is a tough storm all-around, and one of the things we're going to work on in the future is telling business very intensely and early on to not even open or to close early when we're in these situations, because, to begin with, we had the problem that once we had to move to a travel ban, we had to get all those employees home. So, one of the things I'll be talking about more and more is – we're now in the age of extreme weather. You know, this is what climate change has done to us. These storms are much bigger than what we've seen in the past – you saw the one that hit Boston last year. The mega-storm is going to be with us for a while now, and that means we have to make earlier adjustments and send earlier messages to people. But for the next day – for Sunday – when the travel ban came off and stores were opening up again – absolutely, it's there obligation to clear their sidewalks. They have to take that seriously, and there'll be real consequences if they don't.

Schnitt: Alright. Mayor Bill de Blasio, joining us live. Thank you so much, and Len will be shoveling by, I think –

Berman: Can't wait.

Schnitt: – 10:30 this morning.

Mayor: Yeah, I'm going to send sanitation police out to check on that.

[Laughter]

Berman: Don't most politicians shovel anyway? So, it's all – I'll just fit right in.

Mayor: Ah, very funny, very funny. Happy anniversary.

[Laughter]

Berman: Thanks, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor: Take care.

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