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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO, COMMISSIONER NIGRO DELIVER
REMARKS AT A PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR DEPUTY CHIEF
MICHAEL FAHY**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you very much, Chief. And I want to thank everybody who is here, every single person who is here to honor Deputy Chief Michael Fahy for all he did for all of us. And I want to take a moment to thank everyone who was part of putting together and constructing this beautiful memorial wall, it's really striking and moving. And this is something we have to do to remember the greatness of those who sacrifice for us.

When we do that – when we put someone's name permanently into our history, it's not something that most New Yorkers ever assume would happen to them. It's something that has to be merited, to be etched into the history of this city and this department forever. We wish with all of our hearts it was not through tragedy, but we know that in the case of Michael Fahy we are remembering a man who was great in every way. Who was exemplary, who was heroic, who was the kind of person we want future generations to remember and reflect upon and learn from. It's so important we do this for the family.

It's so important we do this for all brother and sister members of the FDNY, but we also do it for our community, for our city, to remember the greatness and those who walked among us and did things so extraordinary. I want to thank all of the leadership of the FDNY who are here today, Commissioner Nigro, First Deputy Commissioner Kavanagh, Chief Leonard, all the leaders who have continued the extraordinary tradition of this department and continued to make it greater. I want to thank for their tremendous support for the FDNY, Assembly Member Victor Pichardo and Council Member Fernando Cabrera, thank you. And those who represent the men and women of this department, I want to thank the union leadership present, Jake LaMonda, President UFOA, and LeRoy McGinnis, Vice President of the UFA, thank you for being here.

You know, the more I heard the stories of Michael Fahy's life, the more struck I was that he was truly a man who had everything, who had the brains, who had the skill, who had the leadership qualities, someone who literally could have done anything, and for sure someone who could have devoted his life to his own betterment with that kind of talent. With those kind of brains, he could have said I'm going to make millions of millions of dollars, no one would have been surprised. But inside him burned a desire to do something greater and it's impressive in anyone, but when you think about someone who passes up fortune in the name of doing something for

everyday people, including strangers he would never know the names of, that takes a particular strength, a particular conviction, a particular goodness.

Back in 1999, Michael was a young lawyer. All the talent in the world everyone could see it. And he reached the cross roads and he made a decision. And he wrote a letter back then and he said while I enjoy the study of law, I feel that I need a career with a higher more honorable purpose and I would like to be a New York City firefighter.

To everyone here, I think we would all agree Michael chose the career with the highest purpose. And he joined the finest department anywhere in the world. He knew what he believed in. And it is not a surprise that once he applied those extraordinary skills and that extraordinary conviction and that extraordinary heart to his work he rose up in this department rapidly. Many have noted that had he stayed with us, had we had the blessing of his presence, there is a very good chance he would have been sitting in one of these chairs not so long from now. But indeed we did lose him two years ago. I, like so many of us watched his family in their hour of pain and my respect for them grew with every passing moment because it's so difficult for a family going through this and their not only thrust into tragedy, their thrust into the public eye. But this family showed us something truly special.

Fiona, your strength, your dignity, your grace was exceptional and I know it was never easy, but God bless you for it. And Michael, I can see, I can imagine how proud your dad was of you, and all the great things ahead for you. To Michael Sr.'s dad, retired Battalion Chief Thomas Fahy, you'll be speaking to us later, but thank you for all you have done for this city and this department, and for the example you have set. To Michael's mom, Mary, thank you for bringing him up the right way, and for the values you gave him, and to all the family members.

You see the measure of family in the moment of tragedy and this family is good and strong. They care deeply for each other, and they care for all those around them and that's what each generation has passed to the next. To young Michael, I want to say something I hope you remember, and we – I reflected on this at the time of the tragedy and during the funeral, but I want to say it to you one more time, and in another way – that you've probably in just these last two years felt a whole lot, a whole lot of complicated difficult things and you've missed your dad. But I imagine you've also had so many wonderful occasions to remember how good he was and to hear the stories of him from everyone who knew him. You know, it's a sad truth in the world there's a lot of young men who never get to know their dad at all. And there's a lot of young men who sometimes have to wonder later in life what their dad left them. But I can tell you from my own personal experience, losing my dad way to young, and that he also served in uniform. When you know your dad is a hero, you will take that with you every day of your life. It will boost you, it will strengthen you. And even in the moment of doubt you'll know that the blood coursing through your veins is the blood of a hero. So carry that with you as a strength.

To everyone, the plaque we dedicate, the street we rename should remind us, should inspire us, first, to always be there for this family; second, to always be there for each other, to continue that great tradition of the FDNY that extraordinary family; and third, to be there for a greater good. That is how Michael lived. Let's all try and live as best we can the way Michael did and the way Michael wishes to.

God bless you all, God bless this family, and God bless the FDNY.

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Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro: Good morning, everyone, and thank you Mayor for those very kind words. At this very moment two years ago today, we were all reeling from the death of such an extraordinary young man – a firefighter destined to lead others for the years to come. Michael Fahy didn't just rise through the ranks he soared. After five years on the job he was a lieutenant, three years later a captain, and only five years after that he was promoted to Battalion Chief. In fact, in our 153 year history, Michael Fahy is the second fastest to reach that rank. That's an incredible achievement.

He was a brilliant man, loaded with immense talent and ability. You all know he worked on Wall Street and was a lawyer as well, graduating with honors. Easily passed the New York and New Jersey Bar, and serving as editor of the Law Review while he attended New York Law School. But what brought him fulfillment was serving as a New York City firefighter. He loved helping others. He cared deeply for those he served with, his tight knit firehouse family from his first days at Engine 35 and Ladder 14 in Harlem. And he cared deeply for those he led as well, especially here in this house. His mission everyday was not only to the battalion – in his final moments he was doing what he loved. His decisions made sure no one else was seriously hurt. He put himself directly in harm's way so that others would be protected and saved. This plaque we dedicate this morning as an enduring symbol of Michael incredible leadership and bravery.

To Michael's family – Fiona, his incredibly strong wife; Tom and Mary, his wonderful parents; and most of all, Anna, Michael, and Cormac, his beautiful children – I know these two years have been painful, but I know you've also seen that this FDNY family will never leave your side. Your husband, your son, your father was a leader that all of us looked up to and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

May God bless Chief Michael Fahy, and the entire Fahy family. And may God continue to bless the FDNY.

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