



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
New York, NY 10007

“LIVE FROM CITY HALL WITH MAYOR MIKE AND JOHN GAMBLING”

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Location: WABC Studios

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Topics:

- **Winning Reelection**
- **Election Time Terror Alert**
- **Murder of Officer Dillon Stewart**
- **Role of Courts in Crime Rate**
- **How to Reduce the Crime Rate**
- **Getting Guns Off the Streets**
- **Gun Trafficking**
- **Plaque Dedication for Christian Engeldrum**
- **MTA-TWU Labor Negotiations**
- **Involvement Radio City Music Hall Labor Dispute**
- **Impact of a Transit Strike**
- **Queens Bus Takeover**
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- **Building Mixed-Use Facilities**
- **Building Simultaneously as Opposed to Consecutively**
- **Test Scores**
- **Regents Diplomas**
- **Giving Kids Extra Help**
- **Implementing the Agreement with the UFT**
- **Second Term Changes in the Administration**

John Gambling, Host: Johnny Donovan you are right. The triumphant return of Mayor Michael Bloomberg. It's been three months since I've last seen you. What have you been up to?

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg: Well I've been talking to an awful lot of your listeners who say, 'Where are you? Why aren't you there?' Good morning.

Gambling: Good morning and congratulations.

Mayor: Thank you for having me back.

Gambling: Are you kidding? Missed you while you were gone. I know you were busy and you did a great campaign. Obviously a lot of New Yorkers agreed that you were the guy.

Mayor: Well I think a lot of New Yorkers thought the City is going in the right direction. We aren't perfect, but the City, you know, the schools are getting better and crime is coming down and jobs are coming here and housing is getting built and quality of life is going up. And there's still plenty of tragedies. I just came from visiting the 70th Precinct where Officer Dillon Stewart worked when he was killed the other day. But you know, the public basically likes the direction and didn't see any reason to change.

Gambling: Absolutely. So I have to ask you before- and then we can kind of back off on the election thing because everybody knows the story. You're challenger accused you of trumping up the terror alert as part of a campaign tactic.

Mayor: Well every- I think every single editorial board wrote that we did the right things. You know, you can't stop and wait to find out whether every threat is legit. By the time you find out it's much too late. You have to analyze those. This was one- it's been a while now- but my recollection is the guy that originally started talked about the threat passed a lie detector set. Some other who later on passed lie detector sets saying the other thing screamed, 'It's too late, you can't stop us.' There was other evidence, and when there is evidence you deploy your police officers and do all the other things in advance and you hope, the greatest thing you pray for...

Gambling: Is that we're wrong.

Mayor: Is that we're wrong. Absolutely.

Gambling: Exactly. It's one of the few areas where you really want to be wrong.

Mayor: It's like, you know, your life insurance policy. You always want your life insurance company to win. You don't ever want to beat your life insurance policy.

Gambling: Let's talk about Officer Dillon Stewart and the guy who has been indicted as of today for first degree murder Allan Cameron. You and I have talked about the gun issue. I know how adamant you are about reducing the number of guns on the street. Obviously if Cameron didn't have a gun this wouldn't have happened, but there's the other question about the system and recidivism and people on the street, mistakes done in court...

Mayor: Well clearly this guy is a guy that shouldn't be on the streets, shouldn't have been on the streets, and in fact from what I can tell there was a warrant out for his arrest in Philadelphia and I think we have to really look and see. Is there a better ways to share information? That's one issue. Another issue is the judges who have to make decisions that turn out to be life and death decisions but aren't easy ones in all fairness to them, I think they've got to looking the mirror and say, 'Are they doing the right thing.' They can't incarcerate everybody for every crime, the system just couldn't handle it. And when you see a case like this, and you say, 'We should have never let this guy out,' and it would have prevented this terrible tragedy from taking place, was it that the judge did what a judge should do given that bit of information, or did he just not pay attention, or whatever. Maybe the judge did exactly what he should have done and it just isn't a perfect world. You know, judges have to make decision all the time, put somebody back on the streets or lock them up and you don't know which ones are going to commit crimes and you can't lock up everybody.

Gambling: How much pressure is there on these judges to maybe err to the side of letting them go because the pressure of limited space, cost, and the like is...

Mayor: I think there is some of that but there's also pressure on the other side to keep them incarcerated because of the editorials and the talk shows, which tend to stir things up. Judges don't have an easy job and you know, I wasn't in the position that judge was in. I don't know the exact facts, I don't know, nor do you know, nor does anybody else know what we would do if we were in that situation. Everybody acknowledges it would have been - including the judge I'm sure- would have been better had he decided to keep this guy in jail, but you have to make these kinds of decisions all the time and the real world is there is a limited number of lawyers and court rooms and the public will only spend so much money and you know, there's no easy answer to these kinds of questions. I think that if you really want to do things long-term there are some things to do. We know how to do this. Good police work, keep supporting your police department and training and numbers and the NYPD, even- murder arrests, murders are down, murder arrests are up so we're actually doing an even better job...

Gambling: of policing...

Mayor: of policing. Right. You want to do both those things and since some murderers might commit second and third murders the quicker you incarcerate- catch them and incarcerate them- you really are helping to bring down the crime rate. So that's one of the things. Improving the school system. In the end, people who don't have the skills to get a job and knowledge of how to deal in a society and deal with each other, those are the

people who have a much higher chance of becoming the killers of tomorrow. Not always- there are people who are well-educated who become killers, but there's no question that better education would help reduce the crime rate, that's another thing you can do. Making sure that we have jobs for people, and you know, all of these things come together and getting guns off the streets.

Gambling: To that point. Statistically we know that crime is way, way down, but I also read that statistically that the number of gun shots discharged in the city is up somewhat.

Mayor: Shootings are down from four years ago, but up this past year I think. And look...

Gambling: Who do you point the finger at for the guns that get into New York City. Is it the State? Is it the local government, State government, Federal government?

Mayor: This is a national issue because every State has it's own laws and it's so easy to take your car, drive to another state, buy guns, and come back in. So if one- if 49 States really take this seriously and try to protect the lives of their police officers and their children, because in the end it's their children and their police officers whose lives are on the end- on the line, if every, if 49 States acted responsibly and one acted irresponsibly and said anybody without a background check can come in and buy, you know, 100 guns, then it doesn't work. That's why you've got to deal with this at a national level. I think having stricter State laws makes some sense, but fundamentally if you want to solve the problem it is up to Congress and congress keeps getting rolled by the NRA. We can't even restrict sales to guns to people who are on the No Fly list. After 9/11, we create this list, the people...

Gambling: Yeah but I've got to give up my scissor.

Mayor: That's right.

Gambling: I've got to give up my scissors.

Mayor: Yeah you're right. The scissors. But I think actually they're letting you keep the scissors again. It's turned out not to be that big a threat.

Gambling: Yeah, but you know what I mean. It's embarrassing. It's laughable.

Mayor: This is plain and simple, the NRA versus the lives of our children and our police officers. I have no problems with the constitutional right to bear arms. But you know, high velocity armor piercing- vest piercing- They advertise vest-piercing bullets in guns that you can conceal. The last time I saw a deer wearing a bullet-proof vest was a long time ago. And this- you know, they just- you don't have absolute rights. We for example limit freedom of speech in the sense that you can't walk into a crowded theater as a joke and yell 'fire.' You can argue it's an abridgement of the first amendment, but in the practical sense it isn't. And there is a ways to allow people to bear arms but not to have

hundreds of millions of guns on the streets of this country. And other countries that don't allow guns have a lot fewer murders than we do. Not all, but there's no reason why you cannot do something about this problem and at the same time protect the constitutional right to bear arms.

Gambling: Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Right back here where he belongs. It's 77 WABC. Lot's more to talk about. We're coming right back.

BREAK

Gambling: We continue. Mayor Michael Bloomberg is with us today. I understand that we're going to be abbreviated this morning. You're actually going to leave early.

Mayor: A plaque dedication for a firefighter who was killed in Iraq- former police officer then firefighter. Engeldrum is the guy's name.

Gambling: Christian.

Mayor: Christian Engeldrum. You know, it's dangerous in the streets, it's certainly dangerous overseas and this is one of those guys who devoted his life to public service. It's very sad. The Fire Department has a tradition of a year after a death putting a plaque up on the wall of the firehouse and they have a- you know a little coffee and cake and a few speeches and the family, people get together and reminisce. It's a nice anniversary so you don't forget.

Gambling: Okay, before we have to let you go here in a little while, let's talk about the MTA. A couple of items there. A threatened strike, a lot of noise coming from the workers underground and then the business.

Mayor: I hope that everybody keeps their sanity. Striking is illegal and I don't think that anybody is going to break the law. The law is the law. We are a country where our freedoms are protected by the law and whether you disagree with the law or you agree with it, you have to obey by it. And the law says no strikes and my hope is...

Gambling: So you're confident?

Mayor: You know, I hope. I hope, but let's face that way, I hope that's the case. The union clearly wants to get more money for their members and that's fair. The MTA is trying to provide a service where the public doesn't want to pay any more. And that's understandable. And we want to make sure that the subways are safe and clean and reliable because mass transit is really the only solution to get around this city. So hopefully they'll come to an agreement, and you know, the sad history of these is that the brinkmanship typically gets them together. You always think, why couldn't they do it weeks before. But the City is going to go through all of its planning so that we have in place procedures the best we can to allow people to get around. It would be devastating to

this city, to the economy, to an awful lot of people who's jobs would just disappear if people can't get to work. And my hope is, as I say, that they will all come together.

Gambling: You got involved with the Radio City Music Hall musicians. Will you jump in here between the MTA and the workers?

Mayor: Well with the Radio City musicians it's a private company, private union. I did volunteer to provide a venue and a moderator or a mediator. They for a while said, 'Thank you but no.' They thought they could do it themselves. They did set a deadline with us of, if they didn't get it done by a certain date then they would accept. I called Frank Macchiarola, the former Schools Chancellor and president of St. Francis College.

Gambling: He knows what he's doing.

Mayor: He knows what he's doing. The first time he came in and he helped me as a mediator in the- the price for that was I had to go to a Wagner-St. Francis basketball on Staten Island, which was a lot of fun, but from Frank's point of view it wasn't good because Wagner crushed St. Francis that night. This time the cost of getting him to volunteer a couple of days of his time, and he really does a spectacular job of getting everybody together was I had to welcome to City Hall the St. Francis water polo team. You have no idea how tall water polo players are.

Gambling: They try to touch the bottom of the pool.

Mayor: But anyways, he got everybody together and we still- now we have live music again for the holiday season. It's great for the musicians, it's great for the Rockettes, and Cablevision, who owns Radio City Music Hall, and for the public so I'm glad that worked out. In the case of the MTA that's not a dispute that the City really can get involved in. They have plenty of professionals at the table and you know, all I can do is make sure the City's as prepared as it can be and it will still be chaos, make no mistake about it. You just can't replace the mass transit system with anything else. The roads will be terrible, the...

Gambling: You'll have people walking everywhere...

Mayor: Yeah, but if you live a decent- you know this city is big. You can drive 30 or 40 miles in this city and not be outside the city limits. You can't walk that. When there was the blackout people did walk home, but some only walked part way and stayed with friends or whatever.

Gambling: Or don't come to work.

Mayor: Or don't come to work.

Gambling: Don't go to school.

Mayor: This would not be good and this is a terrible time of the year for this. The kids need the help before vacation so that they can continue their studies. Lot's of companies depend on this for the bulk of their profits. They call the Friday after Thanksgiving "Black Friday" not because it's Friday but because the companies go into the black from the red. And if they don't make the money they don't keep people working. This would devastate particularly a lot of people who are at the lower struggling levels starting up the economic ladder. They're the ones who really get hurt.

Gambling: Years ago, a couple of years ago, you and I talked about the buses in Queen, speaking of the MTA. That deal is supposedly done but it seems to be very different from the way you and I first talked about it.

Mayor: No, no, no.

Gambling: The costs?

Mayor: I don't know. I'd have to go back and see. The issues are we had to negotiate with each of the companies.

Gambling: It took a long time.

Mayor: There were- some of the owners did not want to sell and so whether they really didn't or they just wanted to negotiate...

Gambling: Hold the City up?

Mayor: I would phrase politely 'Negotiate the best deal for themselves.' John that's a private company. They have a right to do that and Mark Page who did the negotiations for the city did a masterful job. He's got the patience of Job. There are a number of different unions involved and there are politics as well as making sure they continue with their benefits and when you have different unions and different schedules and promotion policies, blending that all together is never easy. There are some employees that are not unionized and these companies who went to court and there's one judge who kept issuing injunction after in junction stopping this. Fortunately every time in the appeals court the appeals said- threw it all out instantly, but that slowed it down. There are some things that weren't quite so simple. For example, we have to take over or buy the terminals as well as the lines because you have to have a place to store the buses and to dispatch them and for the workers to show up- the drivers and the mechanics- and that sort of thing. And we can take those over but some of these yards were being used by other companies. For example a company that has buses to serve the school system. And so where were they going to go until they found a place? So there's lots of dominos. What was fascinating to me was at the very beginning when I called in a bunch of elected officials to tell them that we were finally going to do this and this would provide much better service for the riding public- and the MTA remember was created to provide public transportation, they didn't do it in this case, now we're going to do it. There will be modern buses and buses that were interchangeable with other places so we can have reliability and all that- a lot of

the elected officials- nobody cared. Nobody asked me about- I won't tell you who was in the room, but not one asked me about the public. A couple asked about the unions and all of them asked about the bus companies. Does that tell you where their funding was coming from?

Gambling: It certainly does.

Mayor: It was fascinating to me and I will never reveal who was in the room. That's why- that's another reason why this was done. This was a good deal for the city. The City was paying all of the expenses and there was no control. Now at least the MTA, which I've always thought does a reasonably decent job, will be in charge.

Gambling: All right, Police Commissioner Kelly this morning, getting rid of the panhandlers in Penn Station, wants them out not only of the station but the surrounding areas, that's one thing. It's just a statement really, more than a question. What about – how do you feel about the fact that they haven't found David Braunstein yet? The Halloween rapist, it's been a long time.

Mayor: It's been a long time. You know, sometimes – listen, sometimes you go decades and the police don't forget and eventually they will get this guy. The panhandler story is a separate thing and that was – it seemed to me a story blown out of proportion. Kelly goes around, when he sees something that he doesn't think is right, he calls his commanders. When I go down the street and I see something wrong, I would call him or call the Sanitation Commissioner or call 311 and then they respond. There's no special thing going on right now other than as it gets colder, panhandlers tend to come inside and so the police, whether it's the MTA police, the Port Authority police, or the world's greatest police department, the NYPD, you know, this is the time of the year and more people...

Gambling: Some of these people are homeless too...

Mayor: I understand that and the advocates, you know, would try to make sure – Linda Gibbs, our Homeless Service Commissioner, has just done a wonderful job. The number of homeless is going down. We just closed the biggest shelter the city had, Carlton House out in Queens, because there are fewer homeless. And for the first time we're actually counting those on the streets. We've got real numbers which a lot of the advocates never wanted. You know, advocates don't...

Gambling: Exactly, because then they could make up any number they want.

Mayor: Right, but now we have some real – there's a real science behind it and we'll be able to track it year from year and we'll know whether we're doing a good job or not. But I don't think this city has ever had as good a Homeless Commissioner as Linda Gibbs.

Gambling: All right, let me take another break right here and when we come back, I've got a name that will win a Caribbean cruise so hang on for that.

BREAK

Newsbreak

George Webber: And finally, John, it seems even the President of the United States can get called up for jury duty. The White House now talking with a local judge in Texas after President Bush reportedly was summoned to perform his civic duty. The White House says it just can't seem to find that jury summons.

Gambling: That – though they can't find the summons?

Webber: They can't find the summons, no.

Gambling: Well this is a release out of Texas, then, from somebody, that he has been called.

Webber: Could you even imagine that? The President?

Gambling: What can't you imagine?

Webber: Sitting in a jury box.

Mayor: The Mayor gets called.

Gambling: Have you been summoned for the jury?

Mayor: Absolutely. Now I haven't had to serve since I became Mayor but I've been called. I went there and they had too many jurors and dismissed a whole bunch of us. But I've been on a murder case and a kidnapping case, on an automobile case which was settled out of court. We never deliberated on that. The other two we did. You know, over the years, you know, you get called. Everybody should get called.

Gambling: No I think...

Mayor: Why shouldn't they?

Gambling: Oh I agree, I absolutely agree.

Mayor: I mean, I always thought, the Mayor works for the people. The Mayor should be the first one to get called. I mean...

Webber: Well imagine the distraction of that though? I mean, having the Mayor of New York or the President...

Mayor: But that's up to the lawyers to argue to the judge that it would be a distraction. Maybe it would be good, maybe it would be. Rudy was on a jury as I remember.

Gambling: Yeah, I think he was.

Mayor: Yeah.

Gambling: No, see, but the President, if there was a conviction, could commute the conviction.

Mayor: I don't know, does the President have that power for state and...

Gambling: I think he can commute only...

Mayor: Only for federal crimes?

Webber: I think he makes a phone call.

Gambling: Who knows, anyway, let's get to Ray Hoffman and find out what's going on on Wall St. real fast.

BREAK

Gambling: All right Ray, thank you very much. Mr. Mayor, in anticipation and congratulations and celebration of your return here for a second term on the John Gambling show, we...

Mayor: What happened to your ratings for the last three months?

Gambling: They sunk.

Mayor: They probably skyrocketed.

Gambling: Sunk.

Gambling: I wasn't going to answer that. They're still strong. They're still strong, let me put it that way. Let me be as political as I can here. We have decided to celebrate and let one of our listeners have a trip to the Caribbean thanks to the folks at Holland America Lines.

Mayor: Wait a second, what's wrong with this? You and I are working here and your listener is going. Why don't – can we go with him?

Gambling: I bet we could probably arrange that. If you want, you can find the ten days, ten or eleven days, we can probably arrange that and right now our winner, which you're

going to announce here in just a second, will have seven minutes to call us at our contest line, write it down, 212-268-WABC. And the winner, Mr. Mayor, is?

Mayor: Kevin Epstein from Manalapan, New Jersey, Kevin Epstein.

Gambling: All right Kevin, you've got seven minutes to call us, 212- 268-WABC, for that cruise for two from Holland America on the MS Noordam which will be departing from New York City so call us now, the clock is ticking, 212-268-WABC. If we don't hear from Kevin, I've got another name so we'll get to that but hopefully Kevin will be our grand prize winner. Let us continue because you have to leave here early this morning. Ground Zero.

Mayor: Yup.

Gambling: The memorial.

Mayor: Yup.

Gambling: You have strongly inserted yourself once again in that. You have made the statement that you are going to be very much in the decision making process of what develops.

Mayor: Well the City has a responsibility here. So does the Port Authority, so does the MTA. The Governor has really been the spearhead here and he's worked very hard. This is not easy. This is probably the most complex construction project and one of the more complex projects in the country to try to bring together all of the objectives of remembrance and storytelling and economic development and so there are no easy answers here. What I've tried to do lately is say, look, we're four years into it and let's make sure that what we're building is what the marketplace wants.

Gambling: Should we be further down the road than we are? Four years later?

Mayor: You know, I think, number one the most important thing is to do it right rather than do it quickly. Number two, I think if you go back and look at it from the perspective of a decade from now, you'll say, look, it was very complex and, yeah, they could always have shaved a month here or there but fundamentally – if people want instant solutions and some of these things, number one, are better off if you wait a little while to get the perspective of looking back, and number two, there are no easy answers when you have so much complexity from a physical point of view but we – also, incidentally, in all fairness to the governor, we're making a lot of progress. The Calatrava Port Authority terminal is about to start, the Freedom Tower is about to start this spring, the memorial construction is about to start this spring. The City has been focusing on the rest of downtown, whether it's parks or infrastructure under the streets or building, you know, there's an awful lot going on. The Governor and I broke ground the other day at the new Goldman Sachs building. Larry Silverstein, in all fairness, did build Number Seven, now he's got to rent it but he's got a building already up already.

Gambling: Are you concerned that there aren't – that there's not a marketplace for this commercial space?

Mayor: There's some differences of opinion. Some elected officials say we must go build ten million square feet of office space and if we don't we won't have a future. I'm not a believer in that. I think if you take a look at how long it took to fill the World Trade Center when it was built. I think it was 13 years before we filled the space and then it wasn't filled with market rate customers, it was filled with State employees that were there for other reasons. There's two things going on. One, you want to have office space, we need a lot, but the market - you don't want to get so much built in advance that it destroys other kinds of construction. And World Trade Center, when it was built, stopped construction for the whole area. Because it was just so much space, nobody built anything else. Number two, I think city planners today feel differently than they did 20 years ago, you want to build mixed use. You want— companies want to rent office space where there are cabs and restaurants and bars and stores and that sort of thing and to do that you have to have residential and a lot of retail space. Mixed use is the way you're building in this day and age and those cities...

Gambling: Also gives you a hedge, if you're the building owner.

Mayor: Well, yeah. I mean but...

Gambling: Cause you're working with two different profits.

Mayor: Absolutely but if you take a look at cities around this country that built these big, barren commercial areas, in retrospect it's not – they've not done well. There's a reason why midtown, for example, is so attractive, because you go out on the street and there's a lot of other things to do. People want to be able to live, for example, near where they work, so we need that. Now some people say, oh there's plenty of other places for residential. Yes, that is also true, but you want to spread around all of this and mix it. You don't want one area that's just one and one area that's just another. That's not as good, most city planners would say, and I happen to be a big believer in that. And the other thing is, I'm very strong on getting a lot of these things going simultaneously rather than consecutively because it's harder to rent space when people say, this is going to be a building site for the next 15 years. If it's only going to be for the next five years, seven years, they'll commit to a lease now because by the time they move in there will only be a couple years left to go and they can see the end. So it's important that we do these things at the same time which, maybe one developer can do it all or maybe different developers can do simultaneously. And the buildings that I've been focusing on are number three and four which sort of connect the World Trade Center site to the rest of the downtown and I want to make sure those get going at the same time as the others. We should go ahead with the Freedom Tower, we should go ahead with the memorial. We've got big challenges ahead of us. There's design, there's construction, there's fundraising, but that's what the...

Gambling: About the memorial, did you read the editorial piece in the *Post* last week which said the – had not very good things about...

Mayor: It was an op-ed piece, as I remember.

Gambling: It was an op-ed piece, it absolutely was, we talked about it here. Has the restriction of the footprints of the towers been a mistake because of limiting options?

Mayor: I don't know that you can say it's a mistake. It is a factor that went into the design. There was a commitment made by the Mayor then and the Governor to preserve those footprints and I, for all I know, would have made the same decision if I had been mayor at the time. I wasn't. But once that was done, then that did have a big influence on the design, there's no question about that, and I was vocal back then about what I thought should be in the design. But the process – look, we picked a process and we said it's going to be a public process with all of these different interests represented and whatever they decide, that's what we're going to do. So whether I agreed with it, or you agreed with it, back then isn't really important. Once it's at the process, I believe you should go ahead, and we're trying to do that. And I still, for example, am a believer in the Libeskind design for the whole thing. That was a public process, we should – what goes on in each building can be changed but the fundamental layout, we should follow just as the fundamentals of Michael Arad's design that we should follow. And there will be people who will look back and say you should have done this, you should have done that. Number one, they should have testified back then. And number two, even if they did testify back then, we had a public process. That's what democracy's all about. You pick it, let's go build it.

Gambling: Schools. Some good news, bad news. Good news with the fourth and eighth graders. Nationally, the testing numbers for New York City showing very very strong and very very...

Mayor: Encouraging. Long way to go.

Gambling: Right, a long way to go. Regents numbers, Regents numbers from graduates of the high schools here, down from four years ago.

Mayor: Yeah, although I think you've got to be careful reading this. Number one, they have – the state has decided to make getting a Regents diploma more difficult over the last few years.

Gambling: Which is a good thing, don't you think?

Mayor: Oh I've always been in favor of raising standards but then don't rush back and attach too much num – too much to the – if the numbers don't look as good. We should always be raising our standards and we should always be struggling to meet those standards. But if you want to know why the number of re – kids with Regents diplomas has gone down a little bit, it is partly that. It is also that we look at Regents diplomas as a

percentage of all the kids graduating and more and more kids are graduating. We've been able to raise the graduation rate, not much, but it's going in the right direction, went from about 50 to 54 percent and going, I think – as the kids who got extra help during elementary school and now middle school by the ending of social promotion and more accountability, as they get into high school, you should see a very big change. And we're also doing a lot of things for existing high school students, these small schools, these theme schools, these schools that try to attract kids back in who have dropped out. All of that stuff is going to help. But there's no question that Regents diplomas are a higher standard than the general diploma and it would be great if we can get the day where every child gets a Regents diploma.

Gambling: I think it's in the 32% range or something, the last number.

Mayor: It's a long – we have a long way to go. I would like to tell you that there's an easy fix. There is not. I think if we stay the course the dramatic gains that we've made over the last two or three years should continue and not everybody's happy with it. I'll tell you, one of the big things is this extra period as part of our agreement with the Teachers Union. They've gotten, in three years, a 33% increase in their salaries but also now they're teaching and working in the halls and in the lunchrooms for that circular sixth period which was...

Gambling: Which the Chancellor wants to start Feb. 1 but Randi says – she says hold it up until September.

Mayor: John, the pay increase went in right away and the work is going in right away. That was the deal and we're going to stick with the deal. And what I was going to say is I think one of the biggest things is this extra period of 37 and a half minutes for...

Gambling: For tutoring.

Mayor: For tutoring or – the agreement is: ten students or less, every school, every class, an extra period, Monday through Thursday, required for the kids who we decide need the extra help to come. It'll cost us some more in the busing because there's different schedules. It'll be disruptive to some parents, it'll be a – you know, getting it going will be the normal headline stories of, this bus didn't show up on that day, I mean, none of these things are simple. We're trying to do something overnight for a million, one hundred thousand kids. But I would – in good conscience, we could not wait till next September to give the kids who need the help the extra help that we can and the extra help that we're paying for and the extra help that we agreed to and we made a deal, we're going to stick to the deal.

Gambling: All right, you've made at least one change in your administration. Patricia Harris is going to take over for Marc Shaw. Will there be others?

Mayor: I think that when you look back, and I'll hopefully in the next couple of weeks get everybody settled in, out of the 40 or 50 commissioners, maybe one or two won't

stay. The others will all stay. All but one of the major ones have agreed to stay. Everybody – every commissioner I’ve talked to, with the exception of one, is going to stay. One Deputy Mayor is leaving. He’s got a kid in college, he’s worked in the public sector all his life, he’s done an enormous amount for this city, worked for the MTA, worked for the state. He’ll be missed but he’s trained me well, I hope, and, you know, I’m trying to help him get a job and I think he’ll be – he’s very saleable, he really is a classy guy. And Patti Harris is somebody that, as you know, has worked with me for a long time. She has judgment, she has intellect, she has a great knowledge of city government. She’s worked – she worked for Ed Koch and she’s been in the public domain for most of her adult life. This is a woman that, if I’m out of town, the city will be well served.

Gambling: All right, you’ve got to run right now. Joe Bruno, I understand, asked you to run for governor next year. True? Did he ask you?

Mayor: I have – he mentioned it. I have no intention, take it to the bank. I will not run for governor, this year or any other year. I have the best job, I’m going to work hard at that.

Gambling: I’m thrilled you’re back here on Fridays.

Mayor: I’ll see you next Friday.

Gambling: Yeah, next Friday.

Mayor: All the best to everybody.

Gambling: Mayor Michael Bloomberg.