Notes from Governor Cuomo's Announcement:

COVID:
- Gov. said he will not be providing COVID numbers today, as the state is entering the "post-COVID" phase
- Gov. said vaccine incentives are working, as 145,000 youths have been vaccinated since the start of the raffle for a college tuition scholarship, which will continue for another week
- Gov. stressed that caution is still needed given the number of variants
- Gov. said the COVID state of emergency expires tomorrow and will not be renewed
- However, CDC requirements will remain in effect for those who are unvaccinated
- Gov. said the post-COVID phase will focus on continuing to rebuild, learn lessons from COVID

Announcements:
- Gov. thanked essential workers, announced the Circle of Heroes Monument to Essential Workers will be unveiled this Labor Day in Battery Park City
- Gov. also announced effective today, the state will provide $25 million in childcare scholarships to essential workers to extend support for working families

Safe Staffing Bill Signing:
- The Governor also held a bill signing ceremony for "Safe Staffing" legislation
- Assemblymember Gunther, also in attendance, thanked the Governor for his work, and for signing the bills into law

Q&A:
On Gov.'s opinion on Eric Adams' lead in NYC mayoral race:
- Gov. said electing a new mayor is "very, very positive" for NYC, as "confidence and competence" in the mayor are important

Follow up on the mayoral race in Buffalo, and whether a different message is being sent in that race:
- Gov. said this is not "one size fits all", and in Buffalo, there was low turnout and Mayor Brown avoided engaging in a campaign

On how the new mayor should approach his or her relationship with the Gov.:
- Gov. said the relationship "will be better", said he has a "good" relationship with Eric Adams, and a "casual" relationship with Andrew Yang
- Gov. said it is difficult for him to work with a mayor who is "hyper-political" and "not competent"

On how Gov.’s relationship with de Blasio affected how the government was run:
- Gov. said the state worked "better and faster" in New York City, particularly during COVID, aside from school districts, which the Gov. asserted was left to the City to handle

On whether the delay in closing down the state at the onset of the pandemic cost lives:
- Gov. said Republican mayors argued that he closed areas he did not need to close, some Democratic mayors wanted to close sooner
- Gov. asserted this is politically-motivated, and the decision to close is much more complicated, as decisions surrounding childcare, essential businesses needed to be taken into account

On the Gov.’s most and least successful experiences with Eric Adams:
- Gov. said they worked together closely while Adams served in the Senate, less so when he was the borough president
- Gov. said they have a good personal and professional relationship, and he believes Adams will "show real leadership"