6.2.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

GENERAL:
- Day 9 of dealing with George Floyd's death.
- Gov named current events as a social crisis that tests the capacity and leadership of gov't. Also explained tensions rising due to two issues dealing with racial disparities colliding.

COVID-19:
- Day 94 of the pandemic.
- Hospitalizations down, number of new cases at an all time low (154).

REOPENING:
- WNY enters Phase II today, Cap Region enters Phase II tomorrow.
- NYC on track to enter Phase I on June 8.
- Summer day camps can open June 29, no final decision on sleep-away camps yet.

CIVIL UNREST:
- Gov claimed protesters need to identify a specific agenda for justice reform.
- Gov spoke extensively on the difference between looters and protesters, clearly outraged at the police's response to protesters, as well as outraged at the thought of people destroying small businesses and communities.
- "Especially in NYC," he added.
- Governor has offered all city mayors support of state police, National Guard, or both. 13k members of National Guard are on standby.
- NYC has turned down the offer of National Guard support.
- Cities with curfews (time and durations vary): Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, NYC.
- Recommended protesters tonight be calm and peaceful so police can handle looting and criminal activity.
- Reminded protesters to continue following social distancing protocols and wearing masks to decrease the spread of COVID-19.

Q&A:

NATIONAL GUARD:
- In response to a question asking the difference between the use of military versus National Guard to respond to protests, the Gov explained he found Mayor de Blasio and NYPD's response to NYC protests to be "a disgrace." Additionally, he noted his belief that Mayor de Blasio is underestimating the duration and intensity of the problem.
- Gov commented that he believed in NYPD's capacity to deal with looting but did not see a proper response last night.
- When asked on why emergency powers can't be utilized to mandate National Guard presence at NYC protests, the Gov explained doing so would require a displacement of the Mayor. He considered this an unnecessary response and reiterated his belief that NYPD can handle the events.
- Gov told NYPD "do what you've done in the past" and warned against using new actions to respond to protests. Recommended giving people the support they request.
- NYS not in a position to offer National Guard assistance outside of NY. Gov said he would not grant any requests to do so.
- Promised to sign any reform to 50-a submitted by the Legislature, including a repeal.

NURSING HOMES:
- On accusations of NYS not following Federal guidelines regarding nursing homes, DeRosa said these were "just wrong," arguing that the March 13th order from CMS allowed all actions taken and outlined response.
- Gov claimed there is an attempt to politicize the response to COVID-19, especially concerning nursing homes. Argued Federal and State guidance are the same.