6.4.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

GENERAL:
- Day 96 of COVID-19; Day 11 of aftermath of death of George Floyd.
- Reiterated the division caused by racial and political division brought forth by both COVID-19 and police brutality.

PROTESTS:
- Gov thanked protesters last night for remaining "mainly peaceful." Also voiced his support for their fight, noting his outrage towards Floyd’s murder.
- Gov noted violence against police officers (i.e. stabbing, shooting) and requested protesters not take such actions.
- Recommended local DAs should charge looters for their crimes and set bail.
- Announced a statewide moment of silence for George Floyd at 2:00 p.m. to coincide with the start of the Minnesota Memorial service.

COVID-19:
- Total hospitalizations down.
- Lives lost 6/3: 52 - 38 in hospitals, 14 in nursing homes. Noted this was a slight increase but did not think it was anything to worry about.
- NYS conducts an average of 50k tests per day. Testing data has found positive tests average around 1-2% in LI, NYC, WNY, and the Cap Region.

REOPENING:
- Reiterated need for caution when reopening to avoid a second wave.
- Worried protesters would compound COVID-19, stating there were approx. 30k protesters statewide, ~20k in NYC.
- Will be expanding testing criteria to all individuals who have joined recent protests.
Get a test at www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov
Recommended wearing a mask
Said to assume you've been exposed to COVID at protests and disclose attendance to relatives and surrounding individuals.
- NYC to enter Phase I on Monday, yet had the highest number of protesters.
- Outdoor dining included in Phase II opening (WESTCHESTER/ROCKLAND/OC reopen next Tuesday).
- Outdoor tables must be spaced six feet apart, staff and customers must wear face masks.
- Allowing drive-in and drive-thru student graduations.

BUSINESSES:
- Directing insurers to expedite claims for looted businesses, provide free mediation of disputes, and accept photos as reasonable proof of loss so businesses don't have to wait for police reports.
- Visit www.dfs.ny.gov if a business is having trouble with their insurance company.

Q&A:

PROTESTS:
- Gov claimed to be "stunned" by the disrespect shown to NYPD in NYC protests but noted his support for protester’s fight. Argued against violence towards police officers.
- Gov acknowledged tense political environment getting in the way of responsible conversation and reform.
- When asked how he addresses racist divide in NYS, "I just tell people what I think," answered the Gov. He claimed to make decisions and recommendations based on facts without political bias.
- Gov named police violence against peaceful protesters a criminal action.
- On a note that Burglary 2 only pertains to personal dwellings, Gov said to "charge appropriately." DeRosa clarified that statute allows for Burglary 2 to be charged and bail set on looters.

REFORM:
- No specific conversations have been held on the repeal or reform of 50-a with the Gov.
- Gov doesn't believe local DAs should review allegations of abuse by police agencies, rather the AG (independently elected) should. Believes such reform should be performed on a national level. Noted he issued an Executive Order calling for such review five years ago.

GRADUATIONS:
- Gov was reluctant to allow in-person graduations.