

7.29.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

- Day 151 of COVID
- 62,272 tests conducted yesterday, 1.1% infection rate
- 5 deaths on 7/28
- 619 hospitalizations
- 76 intubations

REOPENING:

- SLA issued 29 violations yesterday, mostly in NYC
- Looking at concert on Long Island recently and other issues on Long Island
- U.S. Open will take place without fans at Wingedfoot Golf Club in Mamaroneck
- Drivers Ed. distance learning will begin today, using web conferencing

FEDERAL:

- Sending letter today to U.S. delegation on relief bill
- Gov. called this the most important bill during his tenure
- State has \$14 billion hole this year, will see \$16 billion deficit next fiscal year
- Current bill in D.C. is a 2-year bill
- If aid isn't received, state will have to cut 20% from main funding - schools, localities, hospitals
- Bill proposed by Senate dictates state must fully fund education even if the federal government does not fully fund state's shortfall. In that event, Gov. stated hospitals and local governments would take a greater cut
- MTA also has \$12 billion deficit, if not received, MTA will have to "find the money elsewhere"
- Port Authority has \$3 billion deficit, if not received, their capital budget will be "decimated", will slow down JFK airport reconstruction
- House bill repeals SALT, which is vital for NY
- Gov. urged Sens. Schumer and Gillibrand to not support any bill that does not provide relief to state and local governments

ASSISTANCE TO FL:

- Gov. stated NY has a team on the ground in St. Petersburg, FL today
- St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman joined the call
- Gov. said NY is assisting in setting up a testing site and sending materials, test kits, PPE, hand sanitizer
- Gov. discussed need to assist other states as other states assisted NY
- Gov. applauded Mayor Kriseman on his response to the virus
- Kriseman stated NY has led the country when little guidance has been given from federal government
- Kriseman called materials sent from NY "critical", cited needs in local children's hospital, minority populations

Q&A:

- Asked whether state's shortfall could be addressed through high income earner tax
- Gov. stated we have about 100 billionaires in NY. Combined amount needed would be approximately \$50 billion, this could not be accomplished through billionaire tax
- Asked about possibility of shark attacks
- Gov. said they are looking into this
- Asked whether SLA enforcement is to collect fines, as no increase in cases has been found
- Gov. said SLA enforcement "has nothing to do with fines", SLA has been issuing suspensions
- Infection rate is down statewide, enforcement is keeping rate down
- DeRosa added that large groups of people can cause rate to spike, despite being outdoors
- Asked to elaborate on issues on Long Island aside from recent concert
- Gov. stated violations in village of South Hampton reported, DOH investigating
- Asked about lack of national strategy on virus: is there any way to form nationwide coalition of political parties independent from federal government

- Gov. stated he is doing all he can, and other states have seen NY's response to the virus and can emulate it
- Gov. said 7-state coalition was largest in the country, but should not have been needed, feds should not have left pandemic response up to the states alone

- Asked about \$3 billion shortfall for Port Authority: will any aid go to LaGuardia Airtrain Plan, asked about comment from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez opposing this
- Gov. responded that he understands community opposition, but it's difficult to meet everyone's needs and this has been in the plan for awhile
- Gov. stated a train into NY is needed and will benefit residents
- Mujica added Airtrain Plan is part of capital plan for Port Authority, but JFK is the largest part

- Follow up on federal aid:
- Gov. again stressed the lack of direction from federal government at beginning of the pandemic and the need to provide aid to NY
- Mujica added NYS has second highest tax on wealthy in the nation, top 1% pay nearly 50% of income tax in the state, additional taxes are not a plausible solution to state's shortfall
- Mujica stated we need taxpayers to return to NY who left as result of the pandemic, so care is needed to not exacerbate this further

- Gov: "nobody asked, but..." There is a recent video of NYPD arresting someone and putting them in an unmarked van - this is "disturbing", "outrageous"
- Gov. stressed need to repair relationships between police and public, need for local governments to redesign their departments in order to receive funding