

Remarks by SNF Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos**June 4, 2026**

Good evening. On behalf of all of us at SNF (that's "Stavros Niarchos Foundation," not "Sunday Night Football") we are honored to be here tonight to celebrate with you—but more importantly, to celebrate you, the men and women of the NYPD who work to keep our city safe, day in, day out. We would also like to express our appreciation to Commissioner Tisch for her great ongoing service to the city, and also to Philip Ozuah and Susan Birnbaum for all their great work to make sure the New York City Police Foundation is always there for the NYPD.

The health of our democracy has always relied on the health of our institutions and on trust in them. This is the basic premise on which the US was born 250 years ago (happy birthday to us!) and it remains the premise of any real democracy and healthy society.

The sense of security and comfort each of us feels in New York City, the greatest city in the world, for instance, is founded ultimately not on unbreakable locks or infallible alarms—things that don't exist—but on our broader trust in an orderly society where crime is prevented and there's someone we can rely on in emergencies. The NYPD is the institution we count on to safeguard this sense of security.

SNF has supported the New York City Police Foundation's work for well over a decade with grants going primarily to two key pillars of what the NYCPF and NYPD do.

First, there's the core security mission: keeping New York and the US at large safe. The International/Domestic Liaison Program stations NYPD officers in countries around the world to collaborate with local counterparts and help gather information on international counterterrorism operations that keeps everyone safer. It's all about collaboration, which should be at the core of any important undertaking, and everyone benefits.

Second, there's a mission that hits closer to home: earning the trust of the communities the NYPD works in. Here I'd like to give a special shout-out to Gregg Roberts—Gregg, would you please stand?—who is a true believer in and tireless champion of this community-centered approach. SNF's support in this direction crystalized in the launch of the Options program, which uses virtual reality to help young people prepare to make good choices in difficult situations while developing useful professional and life skills. Options is a microcosm of the NYCPF's approach to neighborhood policing in that it brings members of the community and police officers closer together so that both sides can build trust and better appreciate each other's goals, needs, and aspirations.

Reaching out and building trust in the communities it serves is at the heart of the NYPD's success. Just as we at SNF have to earn trust and respect to be effective as grantmakers, we know that it's the trust and respect you earn day in and day out on the streets of New York that makes you effective in your duties as police officers. We are glad that you have the New York City Police Foundation standing alongside you in this difficult task.

Thank you to everyone who serves to make this beautiful city a safer, healthier, more welcoming place. We are all in the same boat—though not usually as literally as we are tonight—and we succeed or fail as one. Thank you.

Stay human!