(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.00.33 TIM BROWN: All right, since we’ve talked, it’s been Jet Blue, right? But I lived here. Heather. That was a poke in the nose. Exactly (LAUGHS). She was (?) she wasn’t a hurricane, she was a tornado, in and out. Turned me upside down.

JW: (?)

01.01.11 TIM BROWN: (MID-STATEMENT) Hung out with her for six weeks. Rocked me. And then gone. Not (?) a nice person in the end. But. Yeah. She came and went.

01.01.30 Then probably most importantly is my Brazilian girls, my pals. That have taken care of my heart. They’re good at (?) that, the Brazilians. And good hearts. And.

JW: How did you get to know them?

01.02.05 TIM BROWN: From restaurant. (~JW~) Deb’s was hostess-ing the first time I met her. Place called (La Giara?) down here on 34th and 3rd. And I mean, besides she’s stunning, to me. She (?) right away I could see she had a real good heart and a real good soul.

01.02.28 And she’s, her, her skin is dark. Dark Brazilian dark. And she is, she grew up in England, so she speaks with a, you know, an English accent. And she just melted me the first time she talked to me, you know? And we spent a lot of time together there. She became the bartender and I would go see her there.

01.03.00 And, and she took me to meet her friends, stuff. And her best friend, Lorana, her nickname is Loli. The three of us got very close, and then Debs left, moved back to London where she is now. And, uh, Lorana and I stayed very close.
01.03.24 And I went to Brazil with her, and her husband, Matt, and her sister and her boyfriend, we all went to Brazil together, and, and I spent 3 ½ weeks there, where, where they grew up. So. That’s, that’s my gang. Lorana and I are very close friends now. And it’s the first time, it, it’s the first family I really feel like I have here in Manhattan since 9-11.

01.04.01 She knows pretty much everything about me, and I know everything about her and we’re very close, so. It’s nice to have someone like that here. It’s, it’s tremendous. Makes it feel more like home again.

01.01.31 So those are my girls. And they have a whole gang that, that I know, so.

JW: Did it happen randomly?

01.04.40 TIM BROWN: Yeah, yeah, just randomly and we just, we get along. Her husband, Matt’s a great guy. He’s the chef down at Blue Water Grill. He’s the head chef. He just got that promotion a few months ago. He got the top spot there. And he’s very understanding and accepting of my, my friendship with his wife.

01.05.04 And, and they have a little boy, Liam, who’s 2 ½. Who I spend a lot of time with. Matt, Matt works a lot, long, long hours. So if something happens, you know, the other day Liam smashed his face, fell off a bar and smashed his face, and all bleeding and his teeth were loose and everything. So I went over there and took care of him.

01.05.32 It, it’s nice, you know, and it’s like my family a little bit. So.

JW: What were you just thinking?

01.05.34 TIM BROWN: Just like having, just having my family here again. You know, a, a family here again. I had it with, with Terry and Patrick, mostly with Terry.

01.06.00 And, and certainly with Beth, you know, you know, Beth moved out to Long Island so I don’t get to see her quite as much. And, and she has, you know, she has little Terry. I don't even know what to call her anymore, because I used to call her (?) Baby Terry, but she’s not a baby anymore. So you know, the time, we don't have, she doesn’t have the time, and with me working like this. We, we have less time to get together, so it’s nice to have someone here that lives in the neighborhood that, that I love.
And, and Debs I miss tremendously here. In New York. So, I, I don't know, I’d love for her to move back. But it’s just not happening just yet. She wants to. So hopefully we’ll figure it out.

JW: You were together with her?

TIM BROWN: No, no. I, I, I was always interested. She was in a, when I met her, she was in a relationship 7 years. And her only real relationship in her life. She’s 26 or 27 now. And Lorana and I helped her to get through her break-up. There, she was pretty devastated.

And so I, I think she’s not in a spot right now to be in a relationship. So. I keep asking her to marry me and she keeps saying no, so (LAUGHS). I love her. But you know, we, we’ll see. I don't know, there’s a big age difference. And but (?) I mean, even if that wasn’t there, I, I value her friendship a lot.

So I love for her to be back near us.

JW: Why her?

TIM BROWN: I think, you know, for the reasons I, I said you know, and I mean, mostly it, it’s just her, her spirit, her heart is, is so amazing, amazing. She’s an amazing loving person.

And she’s fun and funny and, and, and gorgeous. I, I’ve you know, years ago I met a, a Brazilian girl that I fell in love with similarly. And, and I didn't, I guess I didn't realize at the time, at the time that it was, it was, that’s the Brazilian heart.

And it’s, it’s, it’s how they are raised and it’s their culture. And they’re very passionate. And, and that goes both ways. That goes for good times and bad times, 'cos when, when, if it’s a bad times, it’s (?) it's a fight, you know, 'cos they’re so passionate about everything. So I mean, you get, you get the good with the bad, but the good is so good with them.

And just, just to watch how much they love each other and, and how much they love me and Debs is just, I, I think she’s stunning. And. So you know, I would, I would literally marry her in a second. But takes two. Right?

JW: You asked her even not being involved?
01.10.09   TIM BROWN:   Yeah. I mean, I haven’t given her, I never gave her a ring or anything, but you know, it’s always been like tongue in cheek. But she knows, you know, she knows what I mean. And you know, we’ll see.

01.10.27   But I’m, but I’m also not waiting, you know, just waiting, pining for her, either. And you know, if life brings us together, it’ll bring us together. So. I think it will. In the end. I don't think it’s gonna happen that quick. But you know, when she’s ready, she'll come. I have no idea what I’m talking about, Jim. (LAUGHS)

JW:   Five years, ten years?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.11.08   TIM BROWN:   Oh, for her? Five. Three, two. (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

TIM BROWN:   Yeah, I don't know, I don't know. (~JW~) I don't know.

JW:   How’s Beth?

01.11.38   TIM BROWN:   Beth is great. We, we were spending a good amount of time together at the beginning of the summer, and then we, we just you know, I got very busy with the job and, and she, she a couple of weekends we were trying to get together.

01.11.58   She had to go away or, or we, we just couldn’t get the time together, so I, I, I miss them a little bit right now. She, she’s. inviting folks over on Sundays, so Chris and I are gonna go over there Sunday and, and spend some time with, with her, and her family and Terry’s family and, and a few of the guys that were very close with Keith and Bobby and, and Mike Brown.
01.12.38 So I’m looking forward to that a lot. Terry went to kindergarten, first day of kindergarten, this past week. So that was very exciting day, I called and talked to, to Beth. And it was, you know, it’s a little bit of a eye-opener, you know, that it’s been six years.

01.13.01 And that Terry’s gonna be six years old. And yeah. That’s why you know, she’s not Baby Terry any more. So I don’t (LAUGHS) unbelievable. But Beth is great. She’s working hard and, and taking care of herself. She’s in a much better place now, I think, than she was.

01.13.30 She’s more at peace with her, her life the way it is. She’s not fighting it so much any more. And you can see it in, in her persona. And you know, we’re in a, we’re in a very comfortable friendship I think. But you know, we don't spend enough time together.

01.14.02 These days I think are pretty hard for her. As, as it is for all of us. I think a few weeks ago she, she had a pretty hard time, so maybe that was, maybe that was her hard time a couple of weeks ago. For me, you know, I had, I had a day at work on Thursday that’s quite possibly since 9-11 been one of my hardest days that I’ve had.

01.14.38 And it, I, I’m not sure that it has to do with the anniversary. I’m sure in the underlying, there’s that underlying emotion. But it just, it, it got, got me good.

01.14.57 By the end of the day I was very, very upset. And very unhappy with people. It, it challenged me. You know, it brought me back to the days after 9-11 when I was trying to manage, you know, manage the site down there.

01.15.31 The 150 agencies that we were trying to make (?) sense of. It, it pushed me to the edge. So during that, my, my friend, Ashley, who’s been my therapist here in New York, called me (LAUGHS) I, I haven’t talked to her in probably a year. And she called me and she caught me right in the middle of running in the airport and, and trying to juggle things back in the office on the phone and on the conference call and on email.

01.16.07 And, and she said maybe you should come in again 'cos it’s been a little while. So I’m (?) gonna go in to see her again, and, and talk about things. So (?) you know, I think she’s right. I think I need to get back in and, I, I think the next year is gonna be like this.

01.16.33 I mean, I’m defending the mayor on, on 9-11 and so I’ve done a tremendous and am doing a tremendous amount of research on, on and around 9-11 so I’m learning a lot of things that I didn't know. I’m reliving it through my research. Looking at a lot of footage, video film. Photographs. Reports, studies.
I have become the resident expert of 9-11 on the campaign. So it, you know, I think with all, with all that, and then having the, the Firefighters’ union attacking the mayor and lying about just about everything, it’s, it’s an interesting emotional dilemma for me to be in the middle of all that, because I was there.

Because I lost so many of my friends. Because I believe in the mayor so strongly. And I know the truth. And, and I love the mayor. I think he’s a good, good man. I think he’s a great leader. And I mean it, it’s not a campaign slogan, I really mean. I wouldn’t be doing this if I didn’t believe that in my heart.

And if I hadn’t seen him before 9-11, knowing him before 9-11 and then knowing him much better after 9-11. And to see my people, or people that allege to represent me, the firefighters’ union, doing this to him, makes me ashamed of them.

And makes me very angry at them. For misrepresenting my friends that died. And lying about (?) how can you say that Mayor Giuliani’s radios killed 121 firemen? You know? Ninety-three of those guys were my friends.

And you’ve got this political hack in Washington getting on a soap box and saying that my friend, the mayor, killed my friends is just, it’s, it’s appalling. It’s disgusting, it’s vile. And then to have them, his spokesman, Shapeberger, this guy, Shapeberger, have his spokesman at a funeral go up to my (?) brother, Chris, thinking Chris was me and say, whispering in his year, this isn’t personal it, it’s just politics.

Just remember that. You know, if he had said that to me, I would have broke his nose. It’s tremendously personal. And for, for them to have that attitude is, shows where they’re coming from. That it’s just political and, and it’s very selfish on their part.

And they are using 9-11 and the deaths of 343 firemen to their political advantage. So. I will work so hard to fight them. And to tell the truth. And to make sure that the country knows what the truth really is. And bury them.

It’s amazing how they can mislead opinion with lies and people follow them, and just repeat what they say. It’s amazing to watch. People that are, firefighters that are my friends that are just repeating what, what this idiot says. With, without (?) any you know, looking into the facts, without, you know, they just.

JW: Which idiot?
TIM BROWN: Oh, Shadeberger. He’s the president of the Fireman’s Union, nationally. He, he’s been the president for a long time. He’s been, he’s been an ass for a long time. You know, this is, you know, this is not the first time that he’s been this person, you know? He’s, he’s selfish, he’s in it for himself.

He misrepresents the membership of the National Firefighter’s Union. He’s arrogant. He thinks, you know, he, he’s, I, I’ve been to funerals where he’s been there, and, and he just disses firemen. You know, he’s a political guy, and he’s all about hobnobbing. And you know, he thinks, he thinks he’s a, a made, a made guy in the mafia. That’s how he walks around.

Thinks he’s better than everybody, and you know, maybe he is. I don't know. But he doesn’t scare me.

JW: What happened on Thursday?

TIM BROWN: Thursday, I (?) had a whirlwind trip down to Florida. In two days I did meetings in Miami and Orlando, in Ormond Beach and in Largo.

So it, it’s quite a bit of traveling in, in the state. Meetings with firefighter, firefighters, chiefs, union, firefighters union guys, locals. And, and then law enforcement, sheriffs, PBA. So I had, we’re trying to, any time we spend money like to pay for me to travel, we try and make it very productive, so I pack meetings in to make it a worthwhile trip.

So I have all these things packed in, and so I’m running a lot, by myself. I, I don't have an assistant or anyone to help me. Trying to keep with the 200 or 300 emails a day that, that we (?) get on, on the blackberry. And, and then because this is, we’re rolling out, the mayor rolled out his tenth commitment this past Tuesday, which is the public safety commitment.

Which is every community will be prepared to a (?) minimum level to be able to handle emergencies in the first 24 hours on their own, 48 hours. And, around that commitment which is a big policy speech which he did down in Mississippi, we’ve been rolling out our first responders leadership team, nationally.

So last week we rolled out the, the national team, led by Howard Saffier. A friend of mine, former police commissioner in New York, fire commissioner of New York. And a friend of
the mayor. Along with congressman Rickerk, who used to be a sheriff in Seattle. He’s our law enforcement guy.

01.24.27 So in order, everything we’d, every person that we mention in the media, has, we have to have a signed endorsement for them. We have to vet them, and we have to have their bio. And it starts getting difficult when things fall through the crack. And when I’m that busy, things fall through the cracks. And things get done by people who are probably well-intentioned, but because they’re in a hurry or in a rush, things get screwed up.

01.25.06 So on Thursday, things got screwed up, and, and people in the office think things are an emergency that I don't necessarily see as an emergency. And they panic. And, and it leads to difficult conversations.

01.25.35 So that, that was all going on, on Thursday (STOPS)

JW: Try not to edit. Shit hit the fan?

01.25.46 TIM BROWN: Yeah, shit hit the fan, big time. All at once. I mean, we lost our national director of firefighters for Rudy quit.

01.25.58 Which is one of my big guys, you know that I was counting on. My New Hampshire director, Firefighters for Rudy, quit because he got a, because his wife got a threatening phone call from the other side, which means the union. So she, she was you know, she was a mess. And then some paperwork was missing.

01.26.28 We had someone quit in South Carolina, he actually claimed in the media that he was, he didn't, he didn't support the mayor. And he lied. And we had an endorsement form from him and, and an email trail that proved that he, he was (?) supportive. So all these things happened Thursday afternoon while I was running in the airport. And was trying to be on a conference call on the phone. And people are screaming on the other side of the phone, screaming at me.

01.27.01 And just screaming because that’s what they do. And, and I couldn’t hear them and they’re screaming at me and they couldn’t hear me. And, and, and I was (?) I was late and I was trying to rent a car and I left my, my computer on the, on the rental, on the rental bus. And, and finally I just, I just hung up the phone on them. And, and didn't call them back.
01.27.29 And, you know, I just, I’m, I, I was done. I was done. And so it, it took a little while to settle
down and to take a deep breath. And things got better Thursday night. I, I got to see a friend
of mine that works down there, and, and her parents. So we had a nice dinner together, and.

01.28.04 And that helped me settle down a bit and to think, but I (?) and I have not been back in the
office since then, but I am going to have a conversation with two people. Individually,
privately. And they are never gonna do that to me again. I, I don't allow anyone to treat me
the way they treated me. And so they’re, they’re gonna get a come to Jesus from me.

01.28.29 And, and I don’t do that, you know, they’re, they’re screaming at me on the phone in front of
people on a conference call. And it, it’s extremely poor, unprofessional. But I know, I, I
don’t scream back. That’s done in private. And they will (?) understand my anger with them.
Especially since in, in the end, the stuff they’re yelling at me about was them.

01.29.00 Because they stuck their nose in my business and screwed it up. So you know, it, you know,
it’s. I, I understand it’s a presidential campaign, I understand everybody’s worried about their
shadow. Everybody’s worried about the mayor getting upset and yelling at them. But you
know what? You know, sometimes that happens. And you have to be big enough and strong
enough to take it. But don't, don't scream at me.

01.29.29 I, I wouldn’t even let the mayor yell at me like that. He, and the mayor would never yell at
me like that, 'cos he respects me. So they, they’re gonna respect me or we’re gonna have
problems. (~JW~) I mean, talk, talking about it right now brings my blood back up. You
know, it angers me again. But I mean, I’m, I’m a lot, I’m so much better. I had a good day
with the mayor yesterday, and, and he was very happy with the events we did.

01.30.06 Which is just about always, always the case, I think it’s always the case whenever we,
whenever I do events with him, with cops or firemen he’s, it, it’s his element, you know?
And, and they love him. We had a thousand cops and firefighters in Orlando. He was able to
speak, get in front of and speak to yesterday, and they gave him two standing ovations and,
and he, he gets us.

01.30.36 He gets the, the military, the cops, the firemen. You know, the people that fight for our
freedom and our safety. So, so we, we had that and then we went and saw a, a sheriff Coats
out in (?) Pinellas County, and got to see some of the good work they’re doing over there, in
Florida.
01.30.59 So you know, in the end, you know, with, at, at that level, at the mayor’s level, I, I do, I’m very comfortable. But It's that, it’s the middle management if you will where you know, and, and they don't know me. Most of these people are from Washington and they don't know Tim Brown. All they know is I was a fireman once, you know? And, you know, they don't know what I’ve been through. They don't know what I’ve been through with the mayor, and in with that inner core with his real close, trusted advisors.

01.31.35 None of those, none of that group, the close-knit group would ever treat me like that. Because they know me, but these other folks don't know me. So. The, they’re gonna know me. They’re gonna know a side of me that they might not like. But you know, they brought it on, so.

JW: You said it was a worst day since the attacks?

01.32.00 TIM BROWN: Yeah, emotionally for me, just, just (?) overwhelming, you know, just like. You know, are these people crazy? Are they crazy? I mean, it’s just like, you, you’re screaming at me over this stuff? I mean, I, I think I have, I know I have a different perspective than a lot of people.

01.32.31 You know, I, I know, I know what’s important in the big picture. I know, I know that this is not an emergency. And between now and the election, the general election a year from now, we’re not gonna have very many emergencies. And if these people think this is an emergency now, this is, this is nothing. You know?

JW: What do you mean?

01.32.58 TIM BROWN: Well, you know, my real emotion, here it is Jim. Who the fuck do they think they’re talking to? You know? Who, who do they think they are? You know, (?) you don't talk to me, you don't talk to anybody like that in the first place. And you certainly don't talk to me like that. They’re trying to prove that they’re, they’re my boss or they’re bigger than me or they’re more important than me, or you know, what is it? I mean, I know what it is. It’s their insecurity.
JW: What’s underneath ( )?

01.33.34 TIM BROWN: It, it’s ( ) you know, I’m, I’m 45. And I’ve been in my 45 years, I’ve been through an awful lot, and I’ve earned an awful lot, and I’m ( ) a humble, I’m a humble person. But respect, respect this. Don't disrespect this. I, I’ve, I’ve paid more, I’ve paid as much as anyone, and I don't, I don’t want to say more. Because there are people who’ve paid a lot. But I’ve, I’ve earned this, I’ve earned where I am. I’ve worked hard for it. And, and I have respect for people. But when they cross the line like that, they’re gonna see a side of me that I don't like to show.

01.34.02 And, and if, if they, if they want to play who’s, who’s is bigger with me, they’re gonna lose. And I’m not, I’m not that kind of guy, but they’re, they’re pushing me, you know?

JW: How much is that connected to Terry and 9-11?

01.34.55 TIM BROWN: A lot. You know what, Jim, it’s ( ) like 90 degrees in here or is it me?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.35.21 END OF TAPE #TB50

TAPE # TB51
Tim Brown Anniversary interview, 09.08.07
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

02.00.01 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Ashley heard it?
02.00.25 TIM BROWN: (MID-STATEMENT) she was like Tim. You need to come in again. And you know she actually fired me, you know, a little while back. I think we talked about it. And she said, you’re fine, go out in the world. You, you’re good. But she heard, she heard it in my voice. And, and she, I mean, she caught me right at the, right in the middle of it, so. It was, you know, it’s kind of meant to be, I believe. And if, you know, God was telling me, you, you need to, you need to get some support here, you know?

02.00.59 So what’s underneath it? Well, I, I suppose underneath all this is, is a lot of anger, still. And, and, I mean, that’s the whole, that’s at the root of why, who, who I am now. It’s at the root of everything I do, every minute of the day. And I, you know, I’m living my life and stuff, but you know, this is (?) none of these people were there.

02.01.38 The mayor was there, and, and, and Tony and Matt and Jay and, and you know, the, the inner circle that’s been with the mayor for awhile. And, and they, you know, they treat me with respect they get it. But you know, 95% of the people on the campaign are not from New York.

02.02.03 And.

JW: (?)

02.02.13 TIM BROWN: I guess this is, I feel a little like this is our campaign, you’re a guest of our campaign. You are a guest here in New York.

02.02.30 And don't, don't come here and tell us. Don't come here and tell me. I’ve learned my lessons. And I’m not saying I know everything about campaigning, 'cos I don’t, and I have a lot to learn there. But, but when you walk in that office door, there’s 4 or 5 people there that you need to respect because of what we’ve been through.

02.03.02 So to have people cursing, cursing at me in front of other people is, in my friend Terry’s words, unacceptable. And that’s being very kind. So you know, and I guess it’s kind of a getting-to-know-you thing, and if they’re ignorant of, of us, and of me and what we’ve been through, then, then they need to be told.

JW: Do they know what you’ve been through?
TIM BROWN: I don't know.

JW: Will you tell them?

02.03.41 TIM BROWN: I don't know. What, what I would like to tell them is I would like to tell them to find out, before you ever talk to me like that again, and find out who you’re talking to. I don't want them to know from me. I mean, I’m gonna sit there and tell them, you know, it’s, it’s not my style, really.

JW: What would you like to tell them?

02.04.12 TIM BROWN: I’d like to tell them that I’ve paid. Already. I’ve paid my dues. I, I’ve, I mean, even before 9-11, you know, I was a fireman for 20 years. And, and saw a tremendous amount of suffering and death.

02.04.33 And, and good things, too, in saving people and all that. But it, it’s life experience, and, and you know, when I’m, when I’m wearing FDNY on my chest, or on my patch, they need to respect that. Just, just like a, a police officer, you respect that. And don’t, you know, don’t come in here wagging your finger at me.

02.05.05 If you know, if, if I did something wrong or if I missed something or if I dropped the ball or, or something and you want to talk to me about it, I’m, I’m game. And say you know, Tim this is, this is your responsibility and you should have had this done. Then we can have a conversation. But you know, don't, don’t scream at me.

02.05.29 And, and respect who, who I am. And I mean, that should be for anyone. I mean, that, no, no one should ever be screamed at like that. And, and I would never do that to someone that worked for me. So it, I mean, it’ll, they don't, they don't just scream at me. I mean, I’m not the only lucky one in the office this is how they are.

02.06.00 But I, I don't get involved unless it is me. So now I’m gonna get involved. And if, if they want to fight with me, they’re gonna, they’re gonna lose (LAUGHS). You know? I’m not going anywhere.

JW: What were you thinking?
02.06.30 TIM BROWN: No, I’m just thinking that we paid, you know? There’s a lot, there’s a lot of emotion behind this, you know? This is, this is Beth and this is Tanya, and, and you know, even, you know, I, I guess I’m, maybe that’s what it is, maybe I’m protecting them still. Protecting people and protecting what they’ve been through. And I carry all that, and I carry all that with me.

02.07.01 And (?) I’m protecting the mayor more, more now. I mean, and it’s interesting, I never thought of that before. The, I’ve you know, since (LAUGHS) September 12th of 2001, I have protected my friends’ wives and children and, and all as much as I, as much as I could. And now, I’m protecting the mayor from, from attacks, from the union and, and from other folks, and, and from families.

02.07.48 And I take it very personal, very personally. So I guess maybe behind that, who the fuck do they think they’re talking to, is my emotion of do you know what I’m going through to do this, to, to protect the mayor?

02.08.12 And, and to tell the truth about 9-11, the mayor and 9-11. And to dispel the, the myths that they’re trying to spin? And I’m protecting him from that, and I think, I think it takes a lot out of me to do it.

02.08.31 I know it does. And so for someone to come back and, and then scream at me is, is just, to me it’s mind-boggling. It’s, you know. I mean, I, I’m, I’m defending him on the biggest challenge he has.

02.08.56 Which is the, you know, the, the people trying to change the story about 9-11. The Clinton, you know, the Clinton people. Which is who’s controlling this whole thing. It's a dirty game. Dirty. And it’s, it hasn’t even started yet. You know? You call, you call the fire chief’s wife at home and threaten her?

02.09.31 Because he said he supported the mayor? You know, it’s just. I mean, I guess it means that what I’m doing is successful because they’re desperate. They haven’t come after me yet. I’m sure they’re going to, at some point. They, I’ve already heard in the blogs, I, I don't read them 'cos I’ll get too, too upset.

02.10.00 But in the blogs, they’re trying to spread the rumor that Chris and I are making money off the backs of our dead brothers, because of the web site. Hard to take that. But you know, I, I understand what they’re trying to do and they have no morals.
02.10.29 They will do, they will do anything to, to knock me down and to knock the mayor down. So then, you know, I, I understand it intellectually. It’s (?) hard to understand it emotionally. And, and then my protection of my brother kicks in. And I, I worry about him a little bit.

02.10.57 That and, and I try and prepare him for it, so that he understands that what they’re saying is crap and it’s political. So I, you know, I, I anticipate this getting more difficult, not less difficult. I mean, the, the (?) stuff at work I can deal with. And, and I think it will be resolved.

02.11.27 And I, and I think it’ll, it, it well, in the end it’s gonna be Ok, either they’re gonna leave the campaign or, or, or they’re gonna get in line and understand it. Because I’m not leaving. But the, they will. I mean, I don't think they’re bad people. I just think they need to be led. But the stuff from the outside, I think, is gonna get worse.

02.11.58 It’s, it’s, I mean, there are some, there are some battles planned here that are gonna be knock-down, drag-outs. And I’m gonna be in the middle of them. And, and proudly so, you know? That, there are some guys I’m, I’m itching for a fight with. And if I can, if can take out Harold Schaitbergers, I’m gonna do it. And if I can take out Steve Cassidy, I’m gonna take him out.

02.12.31 Because they’re bad people and they misrepresent the good firefighters of New York and of the country. And they’re immoral. And they will use the deaths of my friends to their advantage. And not just to their advantage, they will use the deaths of my friends.

02.13.02 They, they’ll lie about it. (?) Mayor Giuliani’s radios killed 121 firefighters. Not true. Not true. I (?) do take it personal.

JW: What’s the image in your head?

02.13.25 TIM BROWN: It’s the image of my, in my head is Tower One, you know, which is where these guys died. Terry and Patrick were in there. And I know. I mean, I know from eye witnesses and ear witnesses, I know how they died. I know where they were, you know? I know Terry was, I know Terry was trapped up on 83 with his guys. You know, they had an interior collapse and they were trapped in, in the tower before, you know, before the big collapse.
02.13.59 And they were, they were screaming for help on the radio. And Patty Brown heard it and was going up the stairs. And other guys that were evacuating that were told, ordered by the chief, to evacuate were telling him we’re evacuating, we’re evacuating, and Patty’s like I’m not evacuating. My friends are up there. So, so somewhere in there, so, I don't know if Patty every got to Terry, but, but he, I know he was on his way up.

02.14.34 Guys that got out of the building have told the story to me. So. You know, those, those weren’t Harold Schaitbergers’ friends. They were my friends. They were mayor Giuliani’s friends. You know? Who the fuck, who the fuck is this guy to talk about this stuff?

02.14.59 And I, I didn't really realize this until (?) my brother, Chris, has been very good with me on putting me in a position (?) position of more personal strength, to be able to stay stuff like this. And to be able to fight someone. I mean, if you, if you asked me if, if I’d be in a fight with Harold Schaitbergers, the president of the national firefighter’s union today I’d say no. If I, I never would have believed it.

02.15.31 If you would have asked me if I would be the guy to bring him down, six months ago I would have laughed at you. But now? I don't think it’s too far from that. And it would be the best thing I could do for the firefighters throughout this country is to bring him down. And to change the board and, and, and put a, a reasonable person in charge.

JW: You haven’t talked about the collapse on 83?

02.16.06 TIM BROWN: Well, it may not have been, you know what happened? I, I may not have known about this before.

JW: That’s what I was wondering?

02.16.16 TIM BROWN: ’Cos I don't know I thought it was over a year ago, but I, I guess that maybe it was within the last year my friend, Jimmy (STOPS)

02.16.39 Jimmy is a chief, I think he’s a battalion chief. I, I worked with him as a fireman and he’s a battalion chief now in the FDNY. And he asked me to, to review a report with him, to help him with a fire report.
02.16.58 The fire report happened to be the official fire report for September 11, 2001. So through helping him and getting him in contact with people and, and, you know, everything he put in the report had to be first person factual or it didn't go in the report. So I helped him get people that, that could give him first person. And through that, I learned, he knew Terry and I were best friends, and, and Patty.

02.17.33 And so the first thing he did was show me what he had learned. And, and what he had learned that Terry was on 83. And his company, Terry and his company, Rescue One were on 83, or in Tower One. And they knew this from an (?) ear witness, a lieutenant from 65 Engine that heard the radio transmissions.

02.17.59 From, from Terry. And, and then in talking to other guys who saw Patty in the stairwell, I knew that he was going to get Rescue One, so it’s. There, there are quite a few unknown facts that are in that report, which has never been released, that I know that I’ve shared with Terry’s family. And, and (?)

JW: When did you do that?

TIM BROWN: When?

JW: (?)

02.10.38 TIM BROWN: I know within the last year. And I went and talked to Terry’s dad and told him.

JW: How was that?

02.18.39 TIM BROWN: Yeah. I mean, hard, but good, you know? That is some kind of pride to be taken, I think, that the, the bravery that they demonstrated.

02.19.03 By being up that high, by getting there, by being right, right at, I mean, right at the heart of the carnage. I’m, I’m extremely proud of, of them. I, I wear that on my heart.
02.19.35 I couldn’t be prouder of my friends, you know? And you know, I, I don't know, I guess as much as it’s difficult to, to think about it’s actually how I woke up this morning was thinking about my first thought this morning when I woke up was holy shit, Terry’s dead.

02.20.16 Like, kind of like it was September 12th, you know? And the first time I woke up and that, that whole emotion, just for you know, five seconds was there again.

02.20.46 And as, as much as we’re, you know, we’re getting on with our lives and stuff, it’s still there. And, and still hard.

02.21.03 And you know, that's, that’s a part of that whole who the fuck do you think you’re talking to thing is, you know, can’t they see it? And you know, I guess they, they don't, maybe. So you know, I, I know, I know where Terry was and I know that, you know, someone saying that the radios (LAUGHS).

02.21.39 You know, Sally Reganhart who’s the mom of Christian Reganhart, a firefighter who was killed, gets, gets on television and does meet, press events against the mayor, saying that Mayor Giuliani’s radios killed 121 firefighters, including my son.

02.22.00 And I, you know, I, she, she paid more than anyone should have to pay, certainly. She lost her son. But what she doesn’t know is that her son wasn’t even in Tower One, you know? I know where he was. So she, she’s being spun up by the Union guys.

02.22.30 They’re (?) telling her lies, get, getting her all emotional. She’s following you know, their lead. And it’s, it’s a lie. Patty Brown didn't not hear the evacuation order. He, he said screw, I’m not leaving. This, my, my brothers are in here and, and there’s people that need help. I’m not going anywhere.

02.23.00 That’s what those 121 firefighters did. Courage. Bravery. Love. That’s what they were doing, that’s the story. They were, they were trying to save their, their fellow man, their fellow human being, you know? How could, how could you cheapen it by saying that? It’s appalling.

02.23.36 My friends were heroes. Sally’s son is a hero. Lee’s son, Vig’s son, sons. Kenny Haskell’s two brothers. They’re heroes. They were, I mean, they were protecting us. People just, man.

02.24.08 How (?) dare anybody question that? And, and tell us it’s not personal, it’s politics? Fuck you, man. Fuck. I, I’d like to get my hands around Harold’s neck.
02.24.28 And I, I mean, I say (?) that’s a physical thing that, that I’ll never do. But, but it describes my emotions. Selfish bastard he is. And a bad dude, bad guy. But good will triumph over evil. It did on September 11, and, and the days following.

02.24.58 And you know, Tanya having a beautiful baby girl. And Beth watching, Beth and I watching Terry grow. That’s good, good as winning. And good will win in, in the battle with the union.

02.25.28 He, he has no idea what’s coming. I am his worst nightmare. I don't hate a lot of people, but there’s a couple on the list. And one day I’m gonna roar.

02.26.04 And if people did bad things, they’re gonna pay for them. So as you can see, there’s a little anger in there, and I do take it personally. It’s, I’m in, I’m in the trenches now.

02.26.35 Fighting. But luckily I have friends and you know, people love me and they’ll take care of me. This is, this is not something I’m gonna solve in a day or two, this is something that’s gonna get solved over years.

JW: How do you mean?

02.27.05 TIM BROWN: Just you know, I, I think my, my, my anger and my emotion is deep, deep down. And it’s real. But it’s, it’s not, I don't, I don't react emotionally, obviously, I mean, obviously. I (~JW~)

JW: Is that good?

02.27.34 TIM BROWN: I don’t know. It’s my style. I, I want it to be productive. I don't want it to be counter productive. My statement will be made on election day when Mayor Giuliani becomes President Giuliani. And then we’ll be in a position where we can start fixing things.

02.28.03 And helping to move this country in a good direction. And especially for me and my world, in, in the public safety world. That’s, that’s the part of it, well, two parts, public safety and intelligence. But the, those are the areas that I want to have an impact on. To (?) lift up the cops and the firemen and put them on the, give them the stature that they should have in this country.
02.28.35 And, and give them the resources they should have. And then beat some sense into some people that have this turf war issue, so that people are talking to each other, and, and getting over themselves and their egos. And, and building a much smoother machine.

02.29.03 So that we can defend ourselves and protect ourselves and recover. From things. So I mean, it all, it all melt, melds together.

JW: Hard?

02.29.19 TIM BROWN: Hard to, to be in this, be in the trenches right now? Yeah. Every day is, is hard.

02.29.29 And there’s some days you know, Thursday was my worst day, and, and yesterday was a pretty good day. You know, so. It, one, one of my, one of my friends, John (Huvane?), who’s the, he’s a retired detective, NYPD, and he’s the mayor’s body guard, he’s been with the mayor for a long time, and he, he just, you know, he had, he had already heard that I had a bad day.

02.29.59 And he’s a, he’s a big Irish guy and he just grabbed me and, and he said this is how it’s gonna be, Tim. You know? He said don’t worry about it. You know? Gave (?) me a squeeze and, and said it’ll be all right. We understand. So, you know, my, those are my guys. My guys understand. They get it. And, and I think, I think they are protective of me also.

02.30.31 I think the mayor is, too. ’Cos it’s our, it’s our group. So (?) you know, even if, even if I have a bad day or, you know, if I screw things up, I think, you know, I think I get a, a pat on the shoulder from them, and they’d say it’s ok. We’re with you. Which means a lot to me.

02.31.02 'Cos it’s us, you know? The (?) other people, (?) you know, maybe that’s how it’s gonna be for the next nine years, you know? Maybe I am gonna have that attitude that it, it’s us. And everybody else that comes in and goes is not a part of us. And I need, I need that, I need that from them. I need them to, to say it, it’s ok, we understand.

02.31.33 When, when other people don't, especially. It’s big, it’s big picture, you know? Big picture stuff. That people don't see. I think people get caught up in the minutia of day-to-day, and, and they don't see what I see.

02.31.58 And I think what we see. You know, this is, (?) I don’t know, I think this is, this is destined, destiny, this is meant to be. I’ve thought that for five years, six years. That this was gonna
happen, and the mayor was gonna be the president. And that we were gonna go with him to Washington, and be able to (?) have positive impacts on this country.

02.32.41 And fix sensibly fix things that went wrong leading up to September 11th, on September 11th and in the, you know, eight months following.

02.33.00 Nobody’s learned the lessons as powerfully as we have, as powerfully as the mayor has. No, nobody’s been as personally impacted in this country more than we have. This is something that’s inside of us. It’s, it’s, it’s pain.

02.33.29 And it’s. (PAUSE) If, if we don't, if we don't put the lessons we’ve learned to use, then we haven’t lived up to the standards of our friends who paid. We haven’t made good on our promise to honor them and to make sure that we don't forget.

02.34.11 There’s no other candidate out there that’s, that has that in their belly. The way the mayor does and the way that I do. This is a calling. It, it’s not, this, this whole thing that happened is, is, is part of a plan that I don’t have the keys for but I understand it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.34.49 TIM BROWN: God’s plan. My, my god. I mean, I (?) hesitate to even say that because I believe in what I believe in, you know, people believe different things. But I think yeah, and personally, I think it’s God’s plan.

02.35.03 And it’s god’s plan for me. And it’s god’s plan for I think for the mayor. And because of, I mean, I (?) believe anyhow in this, but I think I believe in it more strongly because you know, that, that experience I had on the Friday before September 11th that I, that I told you about.

JW: Remind me?

02.35.36 TIM BROWN: Where the, where I had, the Friday night before September 11th, September 11th was a Tuesday. I, I was in a very difficult spot emotionally in my life. And feeling extremely lonely. And after work, it was a nice, nice cool night out.
02.36.00 September, and, and I went to sit on the water. It was beautiful out. And I went to sit on the water and have a beer. And I just started, just started sweating like crazy and I kind, kind of had tremendous fear of evil.

02.36.32 And I just, I completely de-compensated, I was soaked from, you know, from my underwear to my socks. I was just soaked. And it lasted for about 15 minutes and, and I was, I was scared. And I didn't know why. And I, I really felt that I was, that night, confronted with evil, pure evil.

02.37.00 Scared. And, and it stopped and I went home and I had, I had no idea what it was. And, and then September 11th happened, and, and then I, I forgot about it until a couple of years ago. Well, not, yeah. I, maybe it's a couple of years ago now. And as soon as I remembered that Friday night, and then September 11th happening Tuesday, I said holy shit, that's what it was.

02.37.33 It was a premonition? And, and so I made, I, I made that association immediately and I was, I was astounded at it. And, and then I was working for Jet Blue a, a year ago, or more than a year ago, I guess.

02.38.00 And I was on a long flight, coast-to-coast flight. And I was sitting in the back of the plane, and a pilot, a Jet Blue pilot who was just catching a ride, he wasn’t flying the plane, came back to talk to me, nice guy. And he had a little, little bag with him. And he just came and sat down. He didn’t know me, I didn't know him. We just chatted. It was very nice. And not gay, which was nice (LAUGHS).

02.38.28 And just a regular guy. And, and we just started chatting and I told him I was a fireman. I think I was wearing a fire department pin. And so we’re talking about being a fireman, and of course, that conversation leads to were you there on September 11th? And so I started telling him the story and, and, and we got into the story about the Friday night before. And this guy, and I don't (?) I’m sorry I don't remember his name right now.

02.39.01 I described this event to him. And he just got a little smile on his face. And I’m like what? He goes, I’m gonna teach you right now. I’m gonna teach you about what happened to you. 'Cos I know what happened to you. And he reaches in his bag, pulls out a leather case that has a bible in it. And it’s all marked up and, and it turns out he’s a, he’s a, a student of the bible.

02.39.30 And, and he goes right through the bible and he opens up the page and he goes, read this. And it described exactly what happened to me. And what he explained to me, and I don't remember the name of it, but people in their lives, and some, it never happens to and some
people it happens more often. And, and this had happened to him once before. Prior to the
death of his friend.

02.40.00 And, and basically it’s just some people are at some point in their lives are so in touch with,
with God and with, with that other world that it comes through. And, and, and you know, he
taught me that that’s, that’s what happened to me that night. And, and I mean, him being on
the plane with me on a cross country where we had time to talk, he was put there to, to talk to
me and to teach me.

02.40.36 And so I, I believe in God’s plan a whole lot more now. And the things that I have thought
and been in touch with in my heart and in my mind have all come true. And, and kind of you
know, through weird ways, through weird, you know, (?) through places I didn't expect,
through people I didn't expect. So the (?) longer I go in, in my life the more and more I
believe in, in God’s plan for me. So.

JW: Were you in touch with God on that night?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.41.50 TIM BROWN: I don't, I don't know. I think he was trying t protect me, but it wasn’t god.
That was the other side, man.

JW: And you had the loneliness?

TIM BROWN: Just.

JW: Do you remember?

02.42.12 TIM BROWN: Yeah, I mean, it, it was probably mostly about being personally lonely. It
was the end of my relationship with Dana. And I was having a very, I, I was emotionally
immature still, you know, and, and insecure also.

02.42.36 And, and the fact that I kept trying to get her to come to me and she, she wouldn’t come to
me. And, and what was hard for me, and I think it was just the, the final realization, really,
that she was never gonna come to me. As much as we loved each other, she, she just couldn’t do it, you know? And.

JW: Were you having dark personal thoughts?

TIM BROWN: No. I mean, I don't, I don’t know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.43.09 TIM BROWN: No, I’m not, I’m not like that. Just, just lonely. In my heart, you know? Lonely for love from a female. I mean, I had plenty of love from (?) my guys, but you know, I wanted that other love, too.

02.43.34 And, and I wanted it from her. And she didn't have the ability to give it, so. I mean, now it’s, I’m in such a different place now, and, and I’ve learned. I, I always thought, you know, we have this, we have this little person in our minds that, that we blame ourselves for everything.

02.43.59 I think it’s all my fault and I think I’m doing something wrong, and in the end, it’s not. It’s you know, if, if, if someone like Dana doesn’t want to come to me, it’s, it’s because she has a, a reason. I don't want to say it’s an issue, but she has a reason. And it’s her reason. And, and it’s her stuff. And you know, I read a friend of mine, another person that came into my life and, and left, but taught me, taught me or told me to read a book called The Four Agreements.

02.44.39 And I, I did read it. And it changed my life, it changed the way I looked at things. It changed the way I relate to other people. And, and that when people scream (?) at me like they did the other day, it’s their issues.

02.44.59 You know, in a couple of years ago I would have been devastated by that. But now, now I’m kind of like hey, pal, you need help. You know? And it’s not me, I didn't do anything. You know, I didn't do anything wrong. I’m not a bad person. I’m actually a pretty good person, you know? And if you’re screaming at me, then (LAUGHS) maybe you need to read this book. You know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)
JW: I get the sense that you’ve let go?

TIM BROWN: Yeah. That’s, that’s interesting. I always learn when I sit with you, Jim. And (?) as soon as you say that, you know, Tanya has in, in her apartment in Queens in, in their bathroom, she has a, a beautiful print, I guess it is, of, of an angel.

And, and it says underneath it, letting go. And, and I always thought that was helpful for her, you know, and maybe, maybe I’m actually starting to live that a little bit more now than, than I have.

You know, I’ve always had a, a strong personal belief in God. And I, I think the way that we could all talk about God is, is that God is love. And if we talk about love, then we’re talking about God. And I’ve, I’ve never been one much for the formal religious, to go church, go to synagogue or to the mosque, or you know, everybody does their different thing.

But I’ve always had a strong personal belief, and I, I think that, well, I know that I’ve believed that all this that has happened has been a part of God’s plan. For me and for us.

And that I’m kind of right in the middle of it, of a, of a big plan. And that the reason I’m alive is because that’s what God wanted, and the reason that my friends died was to teach us and to teach Tim. I have big shoulders, and, and I think that God knows that I can handle it.

He’s tested me a lot. But this is, this is about him and not about me. And I was lucky enough to become friends with a, a chaplain named Steve Harding, who’s a new Fire Department chaplain.
03.003.04  Who I met in, in the hospital when my friends from Rescue 3 from where I used to work jumped, had to jump out the window, 5th floor window. And I was spending a lot of time with, with Joey, Joey Dee’s family when he was in some big trouble.

03.03.29  And through that, I met Steve Harding, who is an Episcopalian priest up at Saint John the Divine. And, and became friends with him. And we, we have become pretty good friends. So much so that he asked me to be the godfather to his son, Theo.

03.03.57  And so through, through this I’ve been, you know, spent more time up there at Saint John the Divine with, with his group of friends who are all Episcopalian priests. And so I’ve been exposed to that a little bit more. The, the godmothers of Theo are, are now my very good friends.

03.04.32  And you know, and I don't spend time with them like I spend with, with Lorana, but we do spend some good quality time together. MJ and Helen, and Steven and, and his family and. One of the, one of, they baptized Theo last year on the eve of Easter.

03.05.01  And at the, at their Easter service. And it was one of the most beautiful, emotional events I’ve had with God and people that have tremendous love. And not, not just the baptism which was beautiful, but also the Easter Eve service, of going from the dark into the light.

03.05.36  And, and you know, I think, I had gotten away from that a little bit, I think. But just the beauty of going to the light, and, and being a part of that is, is very powerful, to me. So now, hopefully, I’ll be able to do that service with them every year.

03.06.06  And also to spend time with them. They’re, they’re good people. I especially love MJ, who’s a professor of religion in Connecticut. Who’s a beautiful person. And, I, I have a lot of love and respect for her, and I learn from her.

03.06.34  And you know, (?) I think Steven gets a dose of reality from me, so you know, he’s, he’s a very kind person. He reminds me of Father (Jojobit?), (?) different person but I, I think the love is, is similar that they display.

JW:  There’s something deep here?

03.07.00  TIM BROWN:  Yeah, I mean, it’s (?) God and it’s, it’s, the, these are, these are my people now. This is good. This is goodness. This is, this is the good on Earth, you know? That, that
I’m fighting for. I mean, what we are, we are in a struggle of good against evil. In our, you know, here in our personal lives and out there in, in our, in our war. (?

03.07.36 Like my mayor says, their war on us. You know, they, they’re trying to impose their beliefs on us. How dare you do that? You know, this is, this is why our forefathers sailed across the ocean, to protect freedom, you know?

03.07.59 These (?) terrorists are trying to take that away from us. They, they want us to live by their perverted interpretation of, of the Koran. That’s not what God wants. You know, they’re evil, man.

JW: You used the word mosque, though?

03.08.25 TIM BROWN: Yeah, well, not it’s different. Islamic terrorists are different from people that, that believe in Islam. (~JW~) Yeah, it’s different. Real, I mean, true Islamists believe in love. And believe in, in, in humanity and, and sharing. And, and supporting each other. The, the radical fundamentalists Islamists want to impose their beliefs on the world.

03.09.05 And it’s perverted. I haven’t, I have no problem with good people of any religion. I have no problem with, and, and I will protect them and I will fight for them. And I will fight for their right to have their beliefs. But that’s freedom.

03.09.33 You know, al-Qaeda and, and other groups like them want to impose on us, especially on women they want to impose. And I will never have my niece or my little friend, Terry, or my little friend Lee Ann or any of them, I will never allow them to be told what to, what, what they (?) should believe. And I, I will, I will fight until my death to protect that for them. Just as our guys and, and girls are over in Iraq and Afghanistan now.

03.10.30 That’s what they’re fighting for. When they are killed or they come back without a leg or an arm or they come back with this (?) tremendous emotional burden, from seeing what they see over there. And, and here, too, you know, our cops and firefighters and EMT’s and paramedics, you know, that, this is, this is what, what we’re doing now.

03.11.07 We are going to win this. And this is a long war. This, this, you know, I, I don't know that we’ll solve this in my lifetime. But I’m going, this is my life now. They, they are not gonna win. And my mayor understands that like, like nobody.
03.11.38 You know. I’m not gonna see my niece in a, in a, you know, with her, with her face veiled. She’s too beautiful. Her, her spirit is too beautiful. How dare they try to impose it on us?

03.12.00 They’re (?) they want to kill us, either you follow or we kill you. That is, that is their mission. And they did come here and kill us. They killed a lot of my friends. Because my friends don’t subscribe to their strict religion. No, my friends believe in freedom.

03.12.31 And you know why, maybe we’ve, maybe we’ve already forgotten some of these, some of this lesson, you know? I, I have not. And, and Mayor Giuliani has not. And, and my group, you know, my, these, these are my people. We get it. We don’t forget. We (?) were taught this lesson, hard lesson.

03.13.09 They (?) don’t know who they’re messing with, man. And, and you know, the evidence of that was seen after September 11th when we all banded together. I mean, we’ve, we’ve already split apart again, you know, but (~JW~) I know it’s there.

JW: What do you make of it?

03.13.27 TIM BROWN: What do I make of it? I’m, I’m offended by it. I, I’m (?) personally offended and disgusted that, that people you know, I’m right in the middle of it, too, you know, so. I don’t. to, it, it’s hard for me to stand by and listen to the lies.

03.14.05 And to, to see the, to see and hear that we have forgotten a little bit. You know? And, and I understand, you know? I, I’ve confronted this issue awhile back when people you know, were starting to move on with their lives and the baseball games were starting again and, and the hockey and the, you know, you know, other parts of the country were, were.

03.14.39 I don't want to say forgetting ‘cos I don't think people forget. But just kind of going back to their lives like that was New York. Oh, that was New York. But intellectually what I realized is that we need those people to help us out of that hole. You know?

JW: What do you mean?

03.15.01 TIM BROWN: Well, you know, when the, the mayor got this, too, I, I think we, meaning the New York people that were so affected, were, were offended by, you know, the, the
commercials that came, started to come back on television. And we, we were mourning. You know, we were burying our friends and, and, and you know.

03.15.33 I think my emotion was, wait, wait, wait, wait. Don't you remember, you know? Don't you remember what just happened? I mean, that’s your first emotional reaction, but then you realize that the, that the New York Yankees didn’t forget. They, they wanted us to try and get, live, have something else to hold on to.

03.16.00 We needed, we need this country to, to get back, start getting back to where we were, or, or we’ll just be buried in this, this horrible emotional turbulence that we, that we were in. So I learned to respect people that were trying to help us.

03.16.32 And, and kind of going with their lives. Even though we couldn’t.

JW: Did you resist it?

03.16.41 TIM BROWN: Oh yeah, yeah, for, for awhile. But, but I also intellectually understood. I just thought of something. I, I just understood, I understood it intellectually. So I was able to, if I were to get angry, then I would say ok, Tim.

03.17.00 Remember that, that they’re not disrespecting you or the families or anyone. They’re just, you know, they’re just trying to survive. And it’s actually good for us as, as a country to have, have people that weren’t as affected by us get back to their life. Some of us haven’t realized that.

03.17.26 And, and my thought was that Sally Reganhart hasn’t realized that. She, she’s still stuck in that, that dark, dark place.

JW: What about you?

03.17.43 TIM BROWN: Yeah, certainly not as much. I, I think I have that dark place in me still. But I, I hope that I’ve realized that if, that if I’m going to survive and, and if I’m going to help this country forward, that I, I need to be, I, I can’t be in that dark place all the time.

03.18.13 And then, nor do I want to be. I mean, the, this is my life. I want to have happiness in it, you know?
JW: Light?

03.18.22 TIM BROWN: Yeah, I have to have light. My (?) spirit is light. You know, and I, I think that’s why I love Debs so much is, is that her, her spirit is so bright and I need it. I, I need that happiness and that bright spirit in my life. It, it’s, to me, to me, she is something that’s magical. And, you know, there are, there are a you know, there are some people that come into your life that are magical, and, and I think she is one, that one of those people in my life. You know, and I, and I don't know that she understands it or gets that.

03.18.05 She’s, she’s just Debs, you know? It’s just how she is, so.

JW: What has changed? I can tell that what you’re saying is core, whereas before?

03.19.37 TIM BROWN: I was in a washing machine still.

JW: Something in the last year has changed. Has the campaign beat you up? Have you had to reevaluate your core beliefs on a stronger level? You’re in a different place? Even your choice of words is different.

03.20.19 TIM BROWN: It’s just different. (~JW~) I, I don't know. I think I would have to guess, and I think that’s a good question (~JW~)

JW: The campaign thing isn’t as interesting as what you are going through. We haven't talked about God before.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

TIM BROWN: It’s, it’s a bigger part of my life now.

JW: I can feel it.
03.20.53 TIM BROWN: You know, and, and I’m not one that runs, it, it’s my personal stuff, you know? And I, I think that’s actually a good question to ask Chris. The question you just asked me, ‘cos it’s hard, it’s harder for me (~JW~)

JW: Who?

TIM BROWN: My brother, Chris.

JW: Why?

03.21.08 TIM BROWN: Because he, he, he, he’s the one closest to me that can see that and it could give you the best answer.

JW: But I want you to give me the answer.

TIM BROWN: I know you do (LAUGHS).

(SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATION)

TIM BROWN: I, I think (STOPS)

JW: Could you dig for a second?

03.21.38 TIM BROWN: I think it’s, I, I think I am.

JW: (COACHES RESPONSE)

03.21.47 TIM BROWN: I, I, I have, I’m, I’ve grown up. I’m a lot more, I think I’m a lot more of a man. I think I’m a lot more confident in myself, and I’ve (~JW~)

JW: What about that?
TIM BROWN: I think I’ve been, through the campaign I’ve been given more of a voice. And, and I’ve, I’ve learned a lot. I’ve studied a lot. I think professionally, I have been put in a different place. I’ve been, I’ve been empowered.

For the first time. And it gives me personal confidence. And my brother, Chris, has helped this along. He sees it, you know, he sees the development of, of Tim. And, and has given me. No, he hasn’t given me, he’s helped me see the strength that I have.

And that people, people that are out there flapping their lips have not been through what I’ve been through. And, and maybe don't have as much of a right to speak as I do. And I, and I think through, I think that was the beginning of it. That, that’s a part of it, finally making some money in my life is a part of it.

It gives me personal strength and confidence. You know, I’m, I’m coming into my own a little bit here. And, and I’m not there yet, I’m not where I, I think I’m gonna settle. I’m still growing into this.

But through, through that stuff I, I think and, and through age, too. I think age does it. I think the, that, that a lot of men don't come into their own until their 40s. It, my brother, Chris, you know, started early, I think. But you know, I think it took me this long, to, to, to get my feet under me.

One of (?) the things brother Chris taught me, or one of the sayings he (?) he teaches me with, is give me a place to stand and I’ll, I’ll move the Earth. And I’m starting to find my place to stand, I think.

JW: Finding your center?

TIM BROWN: Yeah. Yeah.

JW: What is that? We’ve talked a lot about standing up.

TIM BROWN: What is my center? I mean, my, my center is love, certainly. You know, I mean, that’s what it all comes back to. But then there’s, there’s the reality, too, is that you
know, you need to make money and you need to work and you need to have friends. And, and you know, I, I’d love to have, I’d love to have a woman in my life.

03.25.29  And I think I’m getting there, for the first time in my life. So, I mean, those, those are things I’d like to have. The, the campaign has, as hard as it is sometimes, it, it’s given me a place, professionally, I hope, to stand finally, you know, after these ups and downs that I’ve experienced.

03.26.06  You know, and that could all not be true in two weeks, I don't know. But I’m, I’m feeling a place of comfort professionally. Again. And, and I’m skeptical of it, because it’s, you know, that mat’s been pulled out from under me before. So.

03.26.36  I don't know, I mean, it’s also challenged me. I’m tired, you know? But I, but I’m doing it, I’m (?) in it, I’m in it for the long haul. And if, if being tired is a part of it, then, then I can, I can handle it, you know?

03.27.03  I am, it, this comes from somewhere very deep inside me. And I, I believe in, I believe that this is God’s plan for me.

03.27.35  Not (?) maybe an easy path. But the right path. And the light path. And, you know, I want, I want to take people with me, you know, I want to take my, my people with me.

03.28.04  So and, and I don't know, Jim. I’m, I’m, I’m on a path. You know, I don't know where it’s leading. I think, I think I have some idea, but you know, that’s, that’s the thing about letting go is that you let go. And, and you know that you’re gonna be Ok.

03.28.37  You know, I don't know. I, I don't, I don't know if I feel like I’m in control. I, I think that as long as I accept that this is my plan, this is the plan for me, then my confidence will grow.

03.29.08  You know, I, I catch myself, you know, losing that once in awhile, and then I laugh at myself.

JW:  What do you mean?

03.29.14  TIM BROWN:  You know, just, just losing being (?) you know, going back to that insecurity and, and, you know, letting, you know, letting my heart get broken and stuff like that. And you know, but (?) it’s really just a moment or, or a, a day or a night.

03.29.31  And, and then I just like laugh at myself, you know? And.
JW: Do you have a mantra?

03.29.47 TIM BROWN: I suppose I do, I don't know. You know, my guess, I guess it’s that life is good and, and this is, this is my life.

03.30.04 Get busy living and get busy dying, right, from Glory? I think it was Morgan Freeman who said that, in Glory. And, and I believe that. I mean, you know, I, I think that you know, some people are still dying over 9-11. I don't mean physically, "cos certainly that’s happening too, but I mean, some of the, some of the families are just, they’re just dying.

03.30.34 I’m not gonna do that. I’m gonna get busy living, you know? Tanya’s getting busy living. Beth, Beth is getting there, you know, getting busy living. Laugh, love. That’s what we’re supposed to be doing. I mean, that’s, that’s why God put us here.

03.31.01 To love each other and laugh with each other. You know, really love each other. And get busy living. That’s, that’s why with this negative stuff, I can’t deal with it, you know? It’s like stop it. It’s, it’s unnecessary. Let’s, let’s love each other.

03.31.28 If there are, you know, if there are problems and stuff let’s talk about it, but shit man. Let’s love. Let’s be happy, let’s laugh. What’s the point if we don't do that, you know?

03.31.52 And there’s the other side, too, I mean, we have to fight, but the, you know, no, no Osama bin Laden needs to tell me about love. And how and who and when and why, and you know, none of that. You know, if you want to come after me, you’re gonna lose. If you want to come after this country, you’re gonna lose.

JW: Is there a duality of the love-fight thing?

03.32.24 TIM BROWN: Yeah, well, you have to, I mean, you have to fight, right? How are we gonna be free to love if we don't fight for it, you know? Carry a big stick. You know, the, the mayor said in the debate the other night the reason we won the Cold War was because we had a thousand missiles pointed at Russia. The Soviet Union. And we were (?) lucky or smart enough, I guess and, and lucky enough to, to, to not, not have to go to war.

03.33.02 Thank God we didn't with, with them. But you know, we, you need to come from a position of strength. To, to protect our freedom and, and to protect the freedom of, of people all over
the world. I mean, we (?) saw what happened on September 11th, we saw what happened if, if people don't respect us.

03.33.34 So. Carry a big stick. Sometimes you have to use it, you know? Nobody respects the United Nations because they never, they don't have a stick. We’re the stick. But they never use it, so nobody respects them, and they get run over roughshod. So.

JW: You were thinking about Terry this morning?

03.34.01 TIM BROWN: Yeah, you know, and I don't, I don't, I, I guess you know, it’s, you know, in my mind. But it was just that and, and it doesn’t happen very often. I mean, I, I can’t remember maybe if (?) it ever happened before. But I, I don't, I don't remember having that emotion for a long time now.

03.34.29 Just having that, that reality, you know? Holy shit, Terry’s dead. (~JW~) And that sadness, you know?

JW: How much of September 11th on your mind on a daily basis?

03.34.50 TIM BROWN: Well, I, I think now more the anniversary. And (?) I think since you know, I kind of became the mayor’s defender by default. It wasn’t, it wasn’t the reason that they hired me. And it wasn’t the reason I took the job. But I, I saw that he needed to be defended, and that it wasn’t being done, and I think I kind of took it on my own to do it.

03.35.41 It’s a tremendously, it’s a tremendous job. The volume of, of stuff that has to be, that has to be read, and studied. And, and I was doing it all, all by myself. In, in the beginning.

03.36.01 When the reality hit me that nobody, nobody on his team had read these reports. Volumes and volumes and volumes of stuff. I, I think I was a little incredulous that nobody had read this on his behalf. And so I took, I took it on.

03.36.30 And, and just started pushing information you know, up into the campaign that proved that, that, that we ordered respirators and the radios worked. The repeater didn't work, the radios (?) and the radios worked. And all these other silly things that people were attacking him on.

03.36.57 That, that angered me. And I, I, I, very difficult. So September 11th, I mean, once I started doing this stuff was every day for me. And, and I was all, I was all alone in that for awhile. I
was doing all that by myself. And, then luckily I started getting some of the, the family members that believed in him started coming on board and giving me strength.

03.37.35 And so that, that part of me working in the campaign has, has been personally very difficult. But the, the good thing of it is the more I read (~JW~)

JW: What are you thinking?

03.38.02 TIM BROWN: No, because I’m, I’m reading about the, the murder of my friends, you know? I’m, I’m reading about how they died, I’m reading about the details of that day. You know, and then, you know, of course, when you read about this, you know, all my own memories are jogged, and so I relive my personal experiences of that day and, and so it’s hard.

03.38.40 I mean, I remember, this, I, I think I’ve hit my stride with it a little bit now, but I remember sitting in the office, listening to audio tapes. The, the first time I did it, I just sat at my desk, I was crying. And I you know, and, and I’m among people that, that weren’t, you know, don’t get it. In (?) my area at work.

03.39.03 And so after that happened, I would not go into the office and do this. I would do it at home. At home. I’d just tell them I’m gonna stay home today. So I can be in my own world and, and if (?) I have to cry, I cry. If I have to you know, get angry, I get angry.

03.39.27 But it’s a process that I wanted and needed to go through, so that when someone says something to me or about him, I can come from a position of knowledge in debunking what they’re saying. ‘Cos people just repeat what they hear. And if someone says something, that someone that has a voice says something, people just go, oh, really?

03.40.05 The radios didn't work and it was the mayor’s fault? Wow. And then they go out in the media and say the mayor did this and this and this, you know? So we have to have a voice, I have to personally have a voice that comes from a position of knowledge. And I don't want to misspeak.

JW: Do you think it comes from the strength in you?

TIM BROWN: Tremendously.
JW: What about it?

TIM BROWN: My brother is my biggest champion. And he told me and convinced me that there is nobody on this Earth that deserves to have a voice in this more than me.

Possibly the families have a bigger voice than I do, and they should. But other than, out, outside of the families, there is no one that went through more than I did and that lost more than I did. And for these assholes.

And that’s the nicest word I can think of, to use their position, their public position to lie about what happened that day, at the very least makes me angry. So.

JW: And at the most?

TIM BROWN: Wow. I want to kill the mother fuckers. I don't even know if there are words that can describe how angry I am at them.

For misrepresenting my friends. And their deaths. For their own personal selfish, perverted, political gain. You know?

I am, I (?) am the voice of my friends because they don't have a voice. My friends were good people. My friends were brave and courageous. And loving. And to have these immoral people speak on their behalf, who the fuck made them the spokesman?

You know? For my friends. You know, they’re (?) spreading the rumor on the blogs that Chris and I, through The Bravest, our company, are making money off the backs of our dead brothers.

Someone sent us an email two weeks ago like that. From a guy from Norway. Your company is making money off the backs of dead firemen. What? Oh, you mean, my, my friends? My friends, asshole? You think I’m (?) making money off of my friends?

They (?) don't even, and (?) then they laugh and you know, patch, pat my brother on the shoulder and say it’s not personal, it’s just politics. (LAUGHS) You have no idea how personal it is. And you know, I (?) could react emotionally and I could you know, get on a train to Washington and go put my hands around this guy’s neck.
Or go down to 23rd Street to the, the firefighters’ union and put my hands around his neck. He, that guy should know better. They should both know better. But you know, the New York guy, Cassidy. But we have to be smarter about it. And we are being smarter about it. If you live in a glass house, you shouldn’t throw stones.

So. You know, they don't represent me and they don't represent my friends. And I have the right to speak. I never, I never spoke before, you know? I always thought that it was the family’s place to speak.

And it is. But I also have a voice in this. And my voice is going to be heard. And it’s gonna be, it’s gonna speak of truth, it's gonna speak of love, it’s gonna speak of heroism. It’s gonna speak of the pain.

And it’s gonna speak of the fight that we need to fight. And we’re gonna win the White House. It’s meant to be. I believe that for (?) five and a half years. And good will triumph over evil.

And I will die fighting for that. For all my little friends. I think I'm feeling old. Emotionally old.

You know, and I, and I know I have a young spirit and all that. And, but boy do I feel beat up, man. But it’s, you know, it’s an old, it’s an old soul that’s coming out. Hopefully a wise old soul. And I appreciate the little ones more and more, you know?

And I’m, I’m feeling more and more like it’s my, and our, responsibility to protect them and protect their right to grow up like we did. So in some ways I’m getting harder and in some ways I’m getting softer, too you know?

It’s, it’s time for me to settle in, stop running around. In a lot of ways. And time to grow up and, and lead.

And fight the bad guys in, in many ways, fight the bad guys. And fight for love and freedom and, and then live it too, you know? Live love and live free and laugh. Yeah. (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

END OF TAPE #TB52
04.00.00  PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW:  Family, loneliness, running away and stopping – how does that affect you?

04.02.10  TIM BROWN:  I’m starting to settle, I guess. Trying, trying to. I want to. You know? That, but it’s not always my choice, but I’m trying, trying to settle. And it, it’s funny, it’s hard to settle when you’re on a presidential campaign, you know?

04.02.30  But I think (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW:  I’ve heard the stories of the advance people for a president. What is a sense of the life, because it’s sort of what you’re doing now?

04.03.27  TIM BROWN:  That’s one of the things, yeah. (~JW~)  (CLEARS THROAT) My, because they’re running the campaign on a shoestring, everybody’s doing like five jobs. So, including me. I was originally hired to build the first responders coalition. Actually I was, I was first hired to build the firefighters for Rudy coalition.

04.04.00  Nationally. And the thought was that we would hire a firefighter – me – and a law enforcement person to do the cops. And then they decided that they weren’t gonna spend the money on two and they said, so Tim, you’re gonna do the firefighters and the cops and the paramedics, and you’re gonna do the whole First Responder coalition. So it’s like ok. (LAUGHS)
04.04.28 You know, I, I personally think that the cops should have a cop running the coalition, but they want me to do the whole thing, so. So I started doing that, and then the through all this I do the advance work, also. Any time he does a, an event with cops or firefighters, I, I either I fly with him or I get out ahead of him, but I’m always at the event.

04.05.02 So I’m, I’m doing that travel and I’m doing the coalition work. And then the 9-11 stuff started coming up, which kind of came to me by default in the campaign. And so then I started doing the 9-11 research. The advance, and the coalition. And then as the 9-11 stuff heated up more and more, and the firefighter’s union orchestrated attacks on, on him, it overwhelmed everything else and it was all I was doing.

JW: What did that look like, because I read some of the articles?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.05.51 TIM BROWN: I was, I was buried. (~JW~) I was buried underneath it, and, and just they, the other side, can say anything they want. They don't have to prove anything. It doesn’t have to be factual. They can just accuse and, and, and the media will carry it, 'cos the media loves it. We have to document and vet every word that goes out of the campaign. So we have to be able to prove everything we say has to be referenced.

04.06.28 But, to a report, to an interview, to a, a newspaper article. So it, it’s not, it’s not like Tim Brown can just say oh, that’s not true, this is what happened. I was there. He can’t say that. You have to say in this report on this date, this is, this is the fact. So I had to read all these reports.

04.06.59 And then remember where all this stuff was, so when we get hit, I can go reference it quick and then we can respond back with facts. And, and (CLEAR THROAT) in the media world, that means everything has to happen now. You know, you don't have 24 hours to research this. You have to hit a deadline to get your side of the story into the article. So.

04.07.30 In the office, I was telling people you got to help me, I need help, somebody has to help me, I can’t do all this by myself. And, and they ignored me and ignored me and ignored me and ignored me. And, and finally when they needed some results from the coalition work and I
didn't come up with the results, you know, this is, it’s the first time I threw my hands up in the air and, and said I, I, I cannot do all this by myself.

04.08.02 I can’t do it. I need help. And it’s the first time they listened.

JW:  Was that Thursday?

04.08.10 TIM BROWN:  No, this is, this is two, two, eight weeks ago now. And so they gave me a lawyer from policy. Who also brought along with him several interns.

04.08.29 And so I started educating him, Chris, on, on all the 9-11 reports and, and where to find stuff, and he started reading, which is really good because you do want a lawyer reading this stuff. You want, he has a different mindset than I do. And, and so I started getting help with the 9-11 project from him, and then they brought in a whole media company.

04.09.00 To start working with me on, on the New York, the whole New York piece of (?) Rudy Giuliani. (CLEARS THROAT) And.

JW:  Was that from information getting out or a non-response?

04.09.19 TIM BROWN:  Well, yeah (CLEARS THROAT) what our communications director wanted was, on a moment’s notice, she wanted me to get a dozen uniformed New York City firemen for a press conference in midtown.

04.09.32 And yeah, he just, I mean, it just doesn’t happen like that. First of all, they live an hour and a half away, and I, I had two hours to get them there. And they’re not gonna risk their, going against their union, you know? And I, I just didn't, I, I couldn’t produce. And, and it was a moment where I thought, you know, what they might just fire me.

04.10.02 Because I’m just saying you know what? Can’t do it. You know, some great idea that you have in your mind, you know, you can’t just snap your fingers and poof, 12 guys are there, you can’t do it, you know? And we, we haven’t fought back against these lies for five years. And so the lies have kind of become everybody assumes it’s the truth, and it’s not.

04.10.32 And, and so we’re, we’re a bit of, we’re a bit of poisonous for guys. So you know, it’s not just that simple to snap your fingers and get 12 guys to come to your defense.
JW: The job’s hard?

04.10.52 TIM BROWN: Killing me. I, I, I’m, it’s (?) putting out fires now ‘cos I can’t keep up. It, it’s actually gotten better, it’s actually gotten a lot better because of the, the help I’m getting, but I’m not on top of it yet, not yet. As evidenced by what happened on Thursday. And I, I wish I was on top of it. I, I wish I felt more comfortable. And, and I’m, I’m a much better big picture person than, than getting caught up in (?) minutia.

04.11.33 And unfortunately it’s hard for me to think big policy stuff because I’m caught up all the time in making sure we have a, a signed endorsement form for everybody, you know? So we, we’ve brought in one, one of the interns that I brought into the campaign is my friend, Pete Romeo’s niece.

04.12.00 I worked with Pete in Rescue 3 for 7 years. I love Pete. One of the greatest firemen I ever worked with. And his niece, Jamie, started working for us. So now I’m making her mine. She’s in 3 days a week, and she’s starting to take on more and more responsibility, and eventually I want to hire her when I have the budget. So you know, I’m, I’m trying to get help. I’m trying to make it work.

04.12.32 But you know, I, I have this pressure all the time. (~JW~) Well, that I’m not getting the job done. You know, and but. It’s, I’m just one person, so.

JW: It feels like there’s a strong attack going on?

04.13.14 TIM BROWN: Yes, there is, and it is probably the, the biggest attack that we will face, I think. You know, we thought in the beginning it was gonna be the (?) issues, social issues, but it appears that those, I mean, they, they’re gonna come at us there, too.

04.13.28 But the, the it appears that the vote, the voting public does not give as much weight to that as some people would like them to. But where you know, where they are gonna come at us very hard is with the, the firefighters. And this, this all comes from, they’re gonna spin their lie with this. And it all comes from Hillary Clinton. I know it does. And she’s trying to steal that from him.

04.14.01 Trying to say that they’re her firefighters. She, she’s in the last couple of weeks put a New York firefighter up on stage with her. Or they, or they tell the story, they don't put him up on
stage, they tell the story about him. So she’s trying to take that and trying to hammer us, and she controls the union. The union boss. Both nationally and, and here in New York. And so that’s who we’re fighting.

04.14.28 And, and you know, the, the Clinton machine is very smart. Very powerful. And they have a lot of money. So. You know, the, they’re coming at us there and I, I, I’m trying to deflect it as much as I can. But it, it’s just me, I mean, it’s just Tim Brown. In (?) the background here.

JW: In deflecting it, what does it look like?

04.15.16 TIM BROWN: Well, I mean, the, (?) deflection is telling the truth. And, and the, our, our strength is that the mayor is, is a humble guy. And he’s the first one to say, he’s honest. He’s the first one to say you, you know what? It wasn’t perfect. We, we made mistakes, certainly we made mistakes.

04.15.38 We, we did our best, and I, I think our best was pretty good. You know? We were (?) attacked in a way we never expected. We, we drilled and trained and did our, and, and the results were that we saved 12,000 lives below the impact.

04.16.00 You know? He did a tremendous job. As a leader. I mean, he led the country, everybody saw it, he led the country through this. So, you know, each attack they come at us with, we try to respond with the facts. We try to have, you know, our surrogates lined up, people that can speak on behalf of the mayor, family members, fire chiefs.

04.16.36 And, you know, it’s, it’s, we, we try and debunk their myths the best way we can. We try and have our side of the story in every article and every interview. You know, it, it’s, it’s (?)

04.17.01 I’m just amazed at the lies that people will spin. People that I know, you know? Very disappointed in people. People who I thought were good, you know?

JW: What about the anniversary coming up?

04.17.24 TIM BROWN: Yeah, it, it’s, it’ll be my first year with the mayor. On, on the day they’ve asked me to, to shadow him, so I’ll be shadowing him on Tuesday. On Sunday I’m gonna do the walk again which I, I look forward to. The, the remembrance walk, the Father Judge, remembrance walk that we did last year. So Chris and I are gonna do that tomorrow morning.
And, and then Tuesday be with the mayor, and well with, Chris, Chris is doing everything with me. And we’ll be with the mayor just talking to people.

04.18.05 And watching the whole thing, watching what happens. And, and, and you know, identifying the people that love him. And that want to help him in the campaign and stuff. And, and then, and then the only other thing I have planned is, is Tuesday night, I’m going to go to the dinner for the first time, the mayor has dinner with his staff.

04.18.32 It started out as just the staff that was with him that day. Beth and, and her group. And this year’ll be the first year I’m going to that. So I, I wasn’t going to go unless I was invited by Beth. But one of the guys in the office made it pretty clear that they want me there, so. So we’ll go to that. And I’m, I’m, I’m honored to, to go.

04.18.59 And I’m also makes me feel like I’m a part of their group. Which, which I need, you know? This is, this is the group that I, connects me to September 11th, this is my family. And you know, these are the people that went through it the same way I did, so. I, I feel like I need to belong to that group. So it makes, it makes me feel good to be invited to go.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: How are you feeling?

04.20.29 TIM BROWN: I guess (CLEARS THROAT). I guess I’m feeling a little bit like I can start taking care of myself now. I guess the, the seeing Tanya with Emilia and Ray, and seeing her happy, I’ve kind of given myself permission to let go a little bit. And, and it gives me room to start taking care of Tim.

04.21.35 And I, I guess I feel like I have some strength for myself now. Through my new friendships and, and the, you know, the career. The, the unquestionable love that I get from Lorana.

04.22.18 It gives me strength and confidence to take care of myself.

04.22.33 I have, I have tremendous admiration for her and her family. And that they have allowed me to be a part of it. And (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)
JW: You’re choosing your words carefully?

04.23.00 TIM BROWN: I, I don't, 'cos I don't know, you know? I don't know (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: You have this huge family of 93 friends, lost; you became close to your brother; you came back to New York and a period of difficulty; the Rudy family has been helpful.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.24.49 TIM BROWN: I’m in a different place. Much different. I’m, I’m a little, I know, I know I have Lorana and, and the Brazil, my Brazilian friends, the whole gang.

04.25.04 I’m a little less, I know I’m never gonna lose that. I’m a little less confident with the Rudy family. I’m, I’m getting there, but I’m still not comfortable that I’m not gonna lose that. So I’m a little, I’m a little scared of, of, of that. Just a little, not, not too much. But.

JW: Scared how?

04.25.30 TIM BROWN: Scared that I’ll lose it. That, that it, it’s gonna go away. You know?

JW: You’ll lose your job?

04.25.37 TIM BROWN: One, that would be one way (~JW~) to lose it, lose the job. Lose the election.

JW: What about that?

04.25.46 TIM BROWN: Well, I mean, I’m, I really don’t think that’s gonna happen, because I really believe this is destiny. I’m (?) you know, you can’t be 100 percent sure of that, and you have to prepare yourself in many ways if that is, if that doesn’t come true. So. I, I want, you
know. And I don't know what it is. I mean, really, the person I’m probably closest with there is Matt Mahoney.

04.26.35 Who has been a tremendous friend in the office. And has been a supporter and champion of Tim. And he has a voice, so people listen to him. And he, he understands my past, professionally.

04.27.03 And that, that I’ve been abandoned by my bosses several times in the past. So he’s, he’s very in touch with that, and he understands my insecurity there.

JW: What would happen if you weren’t working with the campaign?

04.27.24 TIM BROWN: I don’t know, I don't know. I don't have a plan for that. Which is a little scary. You know, I always had the security of the fire department job. And now, everything I’ve been doing is all at the whim of someone. So that, that’s a little unsettling. Although the more of these difficult days I go through, and I’m still around afterwards, I get more comfortable in my, in my position.

04.28.12 It’s a, it’s a, politics is a dangerous game, you know? And I think I, you know, I, I bring a lot of, that’s that little voice in your head, you know, that I, I bring a lot of it on myself, you know.

04.28.30 'Cos I worry a lot more than anybody else does in the campaign, you know? And they just, they just laugh at me, you know? They just say you’re (?) like one of the most secure people in this whole campaign, you know, you’re not going anywhere. You know, mayor loves you. So I (?) think I bring a lot of it on myself. And I’m, I’m trying to push that out of my mind.

04.28.29 That, that stuff. I’ve (?) wanted to be a part of this family for a while. This Rudy family. And I mean, I, I wanted to be a part of the Rudy family before 9-11. You know, that’s why I went over to OEM, in the Mayor’s office of emergency management. And I, I wanted to do it with Terry.

04.29.33 So I mean, I’ve, I’ve had that, that bug in me for awhile, that I wanted to do this. And so it, it means a hell of a lot to me personally to be a part of it. And, and to be loved by them. And to be able to love them. And to learn, you know, I’m learning a lot.

04.30.11 So I, well, I, I’m just thinking about what you were saying, you know, between the two, between the two families, I’m a more stable person.
JW: Do you think there are bigger things that we learn about in terms of grief and healing?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.32.57 TIM BROWN: Well, I, I think the, the thing with the (?) the loneliness is getting better, certainly. I mean, it’s (~JW~) tremendous change. Probably for a few reasons. But I, I’ve you know, I think for those, those two things. I think well, you know, my brother, Chris, obviously, our, our relationship has grown tremendously.

04.33.27 But you know, that, that he’s my brother, and, and I love him, but there’s you know, I need more different love than, than that to fill me, to, to complete me. And, and a lot of that is, is Lorana. I think, and Debs, unfortunately she’s not here. But you know, I still talk to her every week. So we still have that connection.

04.33.54 But I, I have that, and, and then the, the friendships in the campaign with people that went through this also. And, and the love that I get from them that I need. So I, I guess the, you know, the one thing that I would like to have that I don't have is, is a relationship with a, with a woman. A long-term, meaningful love.

04.34.33 I, I would like to find that. And, and I am, you know, I’m, I’m open to it. And, and, and, I’m, I’m meeting people and dating and stuff. So I mean, I would love for it to be Debs, but you know, I don't know if that’ll happen.

04.34.59 I’m if, if I could settle in with someone soon, I’d be pretty happy about that. And it would give me strength to take on this battle over the next year and a half. Right, I guess it’s only a year now.

JW: It’s war?

04.35.21 TIM BROWN: Yeah. It is war. And, and the, the thing, too, is and I, I realize this. I’m a little bit of a bigger thinker than some of the people in the office are, I think. This you know, when we win, this doesn’t slow down, you know, this means we go to the White House and this is the next nine years. And I, I’d really prefer not to do it by myself, you know? I’d really
love to have someone there with me. That I can come home to and, and, and talk about how I feel and how bad my Thursday was, you know?

04.36.07 So I, I mean, I think for me right now, that’s the biggest thing that I’m missing, I would like to have that.

JW: If this was the last interview we ever did, what would you say you’ve learned over the last 6 years?

04.36.40 TIM BROWN: I learned, I learned about myself, you know? I learned about myself in relationship to others. I’ve learned that we, we, we human beings are tremendously resilient.

04.37.08 I, I, I am dumbfounded in watching Tanya’s transformation. And that we can get through it. And live happy, productive lives.

04.37.36 I’ve learned that God is with me. Even in the most difficult times. That he’s there to hold my hand and carry me, if I need to be carried. And, and he does it through, through many ways. I mean, God holds my hand through Lorana.

04.38.10 And through Debs. And I didn't, you know, I didn’t know it but he was probably carrying me through my brother. And I’ve, I’ve also learned that Tim’s ok.

04.38.37 Even though people you know, want to point their finger at me or whatever, for, for whatever their reasons are, the, you know what? Tim’s a pretty good guy. And, you know? With, with all my warts and everything, I always still try to do the right thing.

04.38.58 Try, I don't always, but I try. And that if, if this all ends for me tomorrow, then I can stand at those gates and said, say I did my best. In difficult circumstances. Tried to love.

04.39.31 And I did love, you know? Tried to help. Tried to be a good man, tried not to hurt people. Tried to lead by example. And you can put a lot of shit on my plate.

04.40.01 And, and I can get through it, you know? And, and that gives me strength to face things, and you know, to take, take the abuse from people. And, and you know, it’s kind of slough it off. And, and keep, keep moving forward, keep charging ahead. And you know, that’s, that’s a sign of a good leader, I, I think that, you know.

04.40.29 That’s, that’s why I admire the mayor so much. And he’s getting a lot of, a lot of shit put on his plate. A, a lot of stuff that’s very wrong. And he, he sees a, he sees a bigger picture. And
I’m trying to learn from him, you know? Tim, Tim can do this. And I’m, I’m transforming. It’ll be interesting to see where things go.

But I’m getting my feet under me, I’m getting my place to stand, and, and I plan on using that to tell the truth. And to be a leader and, and to love. That’s it.

And this love is just gonna grow stronger and stronger. As, as I, as I gain my confidence, and it’s, it’s gonna be unstoppable. And I’m gonna give and receive. And evil’s gonna be hiding from me, and I’m just gonna overwhelm it with love.

The strength is growing inside me. That’s it.

JW: Thank you.

TIM BROWN: It’s always, I always learn when I walk in this room (LAUGHS). I always learn from you (LAUGHS).

(END OF TAPE # TB53)