

**Date :** 4/21/2020 11:39:15 AM  
**From :** Jamie.Malanowski@exec.ny.gov  
**To :** "Thomas Topousis"  
**Subject :** Fwd: real time notes - pls share w tom

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Melissa DeRosa <mderosa@exec.ny.gov>  
**Date:** April 21, 2020 at 10:46:40 AM EDT  
**To:** Jamie Malanowski <Jamie.Malanowski@exec.ny.gov>  
**Subject:** real time notes - pls share w tom

4/21/20

Gov headed to Buffalo to do his daily press briefing from Western NY and to address the growing unrest around the upstate/downstate divide around the impact of COVID and the NY Pause  
While the governor was in the air, at 10:09am, my phone rang – it was Jared Kushner

“Melissa – I’m sitting here with the team – we’re trying to figure out how to have the most productive meeting possible – tell me how we can make that happen”

I responded “We have identified our full lab capacity given the current constraints (staffing, machines, etc) – what we need from you is additional machines/staffing to max out lab space, as well as reagents to run the tests, and if you could tell us what you can guarantee us from the national commercial labs dedicated to NY, that would be the most productive conversation”

Jared said that sounded good and he’d be prepared for the conversation. Before we hung up, though, I interjected “What is the story with the President today? We hadn’t discussed them meeting and then the President announced it on national television – I want to understand what we’re walking into here.” Jared responded that “well I wanted to make sure the President knew Andrew would be in the building, and given that he was going to be there, we couldn’t *not* have the two of them meeting – the press would read something into that. SO we thought it best just to put it out there. “

“Fine”, I said, “but what are we talking about? A quick huddle in the oval office and then the gov heads out?”

“Well,” Jared said, “you know, Melissa, the president is his own campaign manager, he’s his own scheduler, he’s his own press secretary – who knows what he could have up his sleeve, but I wouldn’t be surprised if he pulled the governor into the briefing room with him to talk to the press together.”

There it was. My fear realized. This was a set up the entire time. I paused “Um, ok Jared, I’ll get back to you.”

“Sounds good,” he said, “let’s stay close throughout the day”.