

# TRAVIS THORNTON

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American Citizen and Patriot  
travisthornton@yahoo.com

3 May 2010

Mr. Michael Bloomberg  
Mayor, New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Bloomberg:

Yesterday, at 11:45 pm, the New York Police Department arrested Faisal Shahzad at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City, as he was attempting to board a Flight EK202, bound for Dubai, UAE. This newly-minted, Pakistani-born, American citizen is the primary suspect in the attempted Times Square bombing outside the Viacom, Inc. Office in your fair city.

Apprehension of the suspect in less than three days is a testament to your outstanding police force, under the leadership of Commissioner Ray Kelly. A law enforcement official is quoted as saying, "They just caught him at the last second," so a hat-tip to the NYPD is indeed appropriate.

But you already know this. I'm writing because hours before Mr. Shahzad was arrested, you are quoted on the CBS Evening News in an exchange with Katie Couric saying the following:

COURIC: Law enforcement officials don't know who left the Nissan Pathfinder behind, but, at this point, the mayor believes the suspect acted alone.

BLOOMBERG: If I had to guess -- 25 cents -- this would be exactly that, somebody-

COURIC: A home-grown?

BLOOMBERG: Home-grown, maybe a mentally deranged person or somebody with a political agenda that doesn't like the health care bill or something. It could be anything.

Sir, by my count, not only do you owe the American people a prudent apology, but you owe us all 25 cents, as you indeed lost that bet. This terrorist was not 'home-grown,' and if I had to guess – I would wager a full 25 cents of my own – this terrorist's 'political agenda' had nothing to do with the health care bill, as you suggest.

By a quick back-of-the-envelope costing, with roughly 300 million actual Americans, your spur of the moment 'guess' will cost you approximately \$75 million. A quick glance at your Wikipedia page reveals you are the 8<sup>th</sup> richest person in the United States, with an estimated wealth of \$18 billion, so this should be no problem for you.

Indeed, sir, Wikipedia says your net worth gained \$4.5 billion during the recent recession; how did you manage to do that? No need to answer that question; Forbes Magazine explains you made a deal with "cash-strapped Merrill Lynch" and increased your stake in Bloomberg LP to 88% percent. Hmm.

But I digress; I'm not one to disparage wealth accumulation, even through those means. I will go silent, and, along with 300 million other Americans, will humbly await a check from you in the amount of 25 cents. I will accept the quarter-dollar *mea culpa* as your admission of miscalculating a threat your Police Department was able to defuse. I agree with your statement of praise this morning: "I hope their impressive work serves as a lesson to anyone who would do us harm."

I only hope next time the New York Police Department would alert their Mayor, to keep him or her from making egregious errors such as this, *as to speciously implicate political opponents of terrorism on the Evening News.*

Prudence Indeed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis J. Thornton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis J. Thornton