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Hundreds Rally at City Hall to Save Last-Mile Delivery Jobs and Local Businesses

Analysis shows City Council bill would eliminate hundreds of small businesses, put 10,000 NYC jobs at risk, and raise costs for New Yorkers

Drivers, small business owners, tenant leaders and economic leaders stood together to oppose the so-called 'Delivery Protection Act'

B-ROLL [HERE](#); RALLY RECORDING [HERE](#)

New York, NY – Roughly 400 delivery drivers, small business owners, and community leaders gathered at City Hall this morning to call on the City Council to reject Intro 0518-2026.

The legislation would impose new mandates on the last-mile delivery network, which delivers 2.5 million packages – from groceries and medicine to diapers and pet food – to New Yorkers every day. Independent analysis shows that the bill, by dismantling the current last-mile system, could put 10,000 jobs in New York City at-risk.

“How can you call a bill the ‘Delivery Protection Act’ when it would put 10,000 New York City package delivery workers out of a job?” said **Rudy Cazares, a military veteran and small business owner** who employs over 100 workers and whose company delivers packages in the Bronx. “The City Council thinks this bill targets Amazon, but the real pain will be felt by small businesses and workers.”

Following the [New York Delivers](#) rally, coalition members testified at the City Council hearing, sharing firsthand accounts of how the legislation would destroy their businesses, threaten their jobs, and ripple through the communities they serve.

“I’m a Mom trying to both hold onto a stable paycheck and be there for my kids. What I’ve found in this job is exactly what people in neighborhoods like ours spend years looking for: a steady schedule. Real pay. A path forward,” said **Dhaniel Gaudineer, a local delivery driver based in Harlem**. “New York talks a lot about creating opportunities for communities that have been left behind. For me, this job is that opportunity. I’m here to protect that.”



The bill analysis from AKRF, an independent economic and transportation consulting firm that evaluated potential impacts under realistic industry response scenarios, showed that many of the small businesses that make up the last-mile system would be unable to comply with the new regulations. Under a likely industry response:

- [Hundreds](#) of **small businesses could close**
- [10,000 New York City jobs](#) **would be at risk**, and half of those workers live in disadvantaged communities.
- The **average New Yorker could pay \$664 more each year** on deliveries, assuming New Yorkers get the same level of delivery reliability they get today
- [38 million additional delivery van miles](#) would be added to New York City's roads annually just to maintain current service. That translates to **significantly higher emissions – and more traffic across New York City**.

"I have lived in Brooklyn my whole life. In my home at NYCHA Red Hook Houses, the rate of senior and disabled New Yorkers is three times the average. For these seniors aging in place, delivery is not a luxury, it's a life line. This is going to hurt people who rely on delivery – this is too much for the average New Yorker," **said Karen Blondel, Resident at NYCHA Red Hook Houses**

"This is the only piece of legislation this Council could pass that is going to put a whole industry out of business. People are going to lose their jobs – that's a fact." **said Randy Peers, President and CEO of Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.**

Speakers also noted that City Hall only allowed a portion of drivers to join the rally and many were left outside and upset that they wouldn't get their voices heard: "The press should ask City Hall why they only allowed a hundred people to come in for this rally while hundreds more are standing outside – they've never done that before," **continued Peers.**

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About NY Delivers

[New York Delivers](#) is a coalition of delivery service partners, businesses, and workers committed to protecting last-mile delivery—the system that keeps essential goods moving, neighborhoods connected, and everyday life affordable across all five boroughs.