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Hundreds of NYC Delivery Workers Rally with Growing Coalition Against the So-Called Delivery Protection Act

Joined by faith and civil rights leaders, Chambers of Commerce and MWBE business owners, workers call on City Council to protect their jobs

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New York, NY – In today's pouring rain, hundreds of delivery drivers, small business owners, Chambers of Commerce, community advocates and faith and civic leaders gathered on the steps of City Hall today to urge the New York City Council to reject the so-called Delivery Protection Act.

"Before I got this job, I was on the verge of homelessness. This job gave me stability and allowed me to support myself, my mother, and my family. The Delivery Protection Act is presented as a way to protect workers – but I'm a worker, and this bill could cost me my job and I could be right back in the situation I worked so hard to get out of," said **Heaven Sanchez, a delivery worker at Logistics Xpress**.

"Protecting workers should start with listening to workers," said **Shannon Lindley, a delivery worker at Puleri Logistics.** "I like working with my small business and a boss who knows and cares about me – I do not want to work directly at Amazon."

An independent assessment by economic consulting firm AKRF found that the legislation could put over 10,000 local New York City jobs at risk. This is in large part because of the bill's direct-hire mandate, which would prevent major carriers from contracting with local independent delivery businesses, effectively shutting down those small businesses.

"There's a reason no other city is advancing the direct-hire mandate – because it makes zero sense for workers, for small businesses, or consumers. Chicago removed it, and New York City should too," said **Randy Peers, President and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce**.

Those job losses would fall disproportionately on communities of color and outer-borough families. AKRF estimates that approximately 80% of NYC's last-mile delivery workforce are people of color, 83% live in the outer boroughs, and 82% do not have a college degree.

"The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection talks about a one-year grace period, but what does that actually mean for our drivers? Are we supposed to tell hardworking New Yorkers

they have a year to find another job? These are people with families, bills and responsibilities. They already have jobs. A countdown to unemployment is not worker protection. Sit down with the drivers and small business owners who will pay the price, and pass a bill that actually works for New York," said **Rudy Cazares, owner of Cazar Logistics and a Marine Corps Veteran.**

Opposition to this legislation has continued to grow among community leaders. Last month, the civil rights group National Urban League joined the opposition to the legislation. In a letter to the City Council, President and CEO Marc Morial warned that the proposal could destroy Black-owned businesses and deepen the racial wealth gap. At today's rally, the Rev. Dr. James A. Kilgore and Dr. Stacie Grant, President and CEO of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, also urged the City Council to protect workers without eliminating the businesses that employ them.

"Shamefully, as many as 10,000 New York delivery workers could see their livelihoods placed at risk under this proposed legislation. These are not simply numbers; they represent real people, families, and communities whose financial stability depends on these jobs," said **Rev. Dr. James A. Kilgore, Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Harlem**. "New York City needs policies that protect workers without destroying the small businesses and economic opportunities that sustain them."

"For generations, Black and Brown entrepreneurs have worked to overcome barriers, build businesses, create jobs, and create opportunities for the next generation. Today, many of those businesses are at risk. The result could be the loss of thousands of jobs and the closure of businesses that have become economic anchors in neighborhoods throughout the outer boroughs, **said Dr. Stacie N. C. Grant**. "Protecting workers and protecting small businesses should not be competing goals. We can and must do both."

Roughly half of NYC's delivery service providers that are at-risk of closure are MWBE and veteran-owned small businesses. Their owners have invested savings, taken out loans and spent years building companies whose delivery contracts could be jeopardized by the bill's direct-hire mandate.

"The Mayor and Council Member Cabán haven't met with us, yet they're trying to push through a bill that could cost our workers their jobs and shutter our companies. They don't get to claim they're protecting workers while refusing to hear from them. Our doors have been open. Come see what we've built, look our drivers in the eye, and explain why their livelihoods are an acceptable casualty," said **Bashar Yazgi, owner of Logistics Xpress**.

In the past week, small business owners have taken their frustration with the bill's sponsor to social media, calling out bill supporters for refusing to meet with the very people their bill would hurt. Examples include: Bashar Yazgi, Joseph Artus, Kris Basmagy, and Rudy Cazares.

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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.