



Samuel A.A. Levine
Commissioner

42 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dial 311
(212-NEW-YORK)

nyc.gov/dcwp

Remarks as Prepared: DCWP Commissioner Levine Delivers Remarks at Teamsters Rally in Support of Delivery Protection Act

August 10, 2026

Good afternoon!

Is labor in the house?!

My name is Sam Levine, and I'm Commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection.

And I am fired up to be here with you today.

For forty years, the biggest corporations in the world have been working overtime to break the power of working people. They made it harder to organize. Harder to build power. Harder to hold the boss accountable.

And easier for giant corporations to juice their profits while pushing responsibility—and risk—onto somebody else.

We know where that road leads: corporate profits soar. The stock market surges. And working people are told to settle for less.

Well, my friends. Not anymore. Not in New York City.

Today, we have a Mayor—and an entire Administration—committed to fighting FOR workers. FOR raising wages. FOR building worker power. And FOR reshaping our economy so that corporate profits don't come at the expense of working people.

That is why I am so fired up about the Delivery Protection Act. Because if we are serious about fixing a rigged economy, we cannot just tinker around the edges.

We have to go after the structures that keep it rigged.

And we cannot allow giant corporations and their lawyers to design working arrangements that let them reap the rewards while workers and the public bear the risks.



Because too often, that is exactly what subcontracting has become: a way to outsource the work—and outsource the responsibility.

And in the last-mile delivery industry, the consequences are on our streets every day. Workers are under enormous pressure to move faster and deliver more—sometimes in poorly maintained vehicles.

That puts delivery workers at risk. It puts pedestrians and cyclists at risk. It puts bus riders and drivers at risk. It puts all of us at risk.

And let's be clear: there is nothing radical about demanding accountability from the companies that profit from this work.

It is part of a long American tradition of workers standing together and saying: If you profit from our labor, you have a responsibility to the people doing it.

Just look at the history of the Teamsters.

More than a century ago, a horse-drawn freight driver wasn't just expected to haul the load. Drivers could be held responsible for damaged goods and unpaid accounts.

The industry had the power. The workers bore the risk.

So what did the Teamsters do? They organized. They fought. And they won.

Today, delivery work looks different. E-cargo bikes have replaced horse-drawn wagons. Algorithms dictate the pace of work. And corporations have armies of lawyers writing contracts designed to put distance between themselves and the workers who make their businesses possible.

But make no mistake: the fight is the same. A fight for dignity. A fight for safety. A fight for accountability. And a fight for power.

Because if the history of the Teamsters teaches us anything, it is this:

One worker can be ignored. Thousands of workers standing together demand to be heard.

So to every worker here today: We hear you. And DCWP stands with you.



Since Day One of the Mamdani Administration, we have moved aggressively to protect New York City's workers—expanding workers' rights and taking on multibillion-dollar corporations when they break the law.

And believe me: we are just getting started. So my message is simple. We will use every tool we have to fight for working people. We will fight for safe workplaces. We will fight for safe streets. And we will stand with working people who demand the dignity and accountability they deserve.

Because New York City doesn't run because billionaires say so.

New York City runs because working people like YOU show up every single day.

Thank you. And let's get the Delivery Protection Act passed!