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Remarks as Prepared: DCWP Commissioner Levine Delivers Remarks at Mayoral Press Conference on Delivery Worker Protection Announcement

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Good afternoon! It's wonderful to be here alongside Mayor Mamdani, Deputy Mayor Su, and Leader Abreu—alongside just a few of the more than 70,000 delivery workers who keep this city running.

These are the New Yorkers who brave heat waves, traffic, wildfire smoke, and late nights so millions of us can have medicine, groceries, or a meal delivered to our door.

But today, they're not here to work.

They're here to celebrate.

We're celebrating a historic victory: \$104 million in additional earnings since January, when New York City banned delivery apps from concealing tip options from consumers.

That's \$17 million every month under this Administration. And by the end of this year, we expect delivery workers' earnings to increase by more than \$180 million—an average of \$2,287 for every worker hustling across the five boroughs.

But we're celebrating something even bigger than higher pay.

We're celebrating the strength of a movement that made this victory possible—a movement powered not by corporate lobbyists or Super PACs, but by ordinary people: the delivery workers here and across New York City who stood together and stopped billion-dollar tech platforms from using design tricks to drive down tips.

And this isn't just a big win for delivery workers.

It's proof that ordinary people can prevail over corporate power.

It's proof that good laws matter—but only if government is willing to enforce them.



And it's proof that the apps got something fundamentally wrong about New Yorkers.

They wanted us to believe that paying workers fairly would drive customers away. That suppressing tips would scare workers into submission. That raising standards for workers would come at the expense of our beloved restaurants.

But it turns out these tech companies misunderstood New Yorkers.

Within one month of New York banning these deceptive design tricks, tips nearly doubled. And far from being hurt, restaurants have seen orders surge by more than 700,000 each week compared to before the minimum pay rate took effect.

This shouldn't be a surprise. New Yorkers are consumers, but we are workers too. We want to support our neighbors who bring meals, groceries, and medicine to our doors.

We want New York's restaurants to thrive.

We understand that when workers, consumers, and small businesses are fighting over scraps, multibillion-dollar app companies can quietly squeeze us all.

Today's victory shows that ordinary people don't have to lose so billion-dollar platforms can win. Together, we can deliver a fairer economy for us all.

So thank you again to the brave delivery workers who spoke out, often at great personal risk.

Thank you to the Workers' Justice Project for its relentless advocacy; to Leader Abreu for championing this legislation; and to the extraordinary public servants at DCWP, who ensured this law would live up to its promise.

And lastly let me thank Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Deputy Mayor Julie Su. Six months ago tomorrow, we stood at the Long Island City Food Hall and vowed we'd go to the mat to ensure our worker protections translated into real dollars and real dignity for our workers.

I think the record of this Administration over the last six months shows we have done just that.

And I will repeat what I said back then: there's a lot more to come.

Thank you.