



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 Queens Borough President Donovan Richards' Lunar New Year Celebration

February 23, 2026

Good evening! I am Sam Levine, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. Thank you for the warm welcome.

From Long Island City to Kew Gardens, across Elmhurst and down main street in Flushing, the Chinese New Yorkers that call Queens home represent the very best of our city.

You've opened small businesses here. You've raised your families here. You've worked long hours – and multiple jobs – to keep our city running.

None of it has gone unnoticed or unappreciated. I thank you. My department, DCWP, thanks you. And our city thanks you.

Tonight, as we celebrate the Year of the Horse, we celebrate qualities this community knows well – resilience, endurance, and steady progress. The Lunar New Year is about renewal, but it's also about honoring those who came before us and protecting the future we're building together. That spirit connects directly to the work we do at DCWP.

Every day, our team saddles up and gallops forward to protect workers, stand up for consumers, support small businesses, and strengthen the economic foundation of neighborhoods across Queens and New York City. And the momentum we've built in the last month alone is real.

Under this administration, we're leveling the playing field for small businesses by holding the big corporate bad actors accountable.

And we're standing up for all workers against corporate greed, deceptive practices, and retaliation.

Just last month, we announced more than \$5 million in worker restitution and penalties secured from three major restaurant delivery app companies, including Uber Eats, Fantuan, and HungryPanda, as well as the reinstatement of as many as 10,000 wrongfully deactivated food delivery workers.



As New Yorkers, you have rights – on the job, in your workplace, at the cash register. DCWP is the agency that enforces those rights. Our goal is simple and serious: to make sure you keep more of what you're owed.

So if you're getting ripped off, please give us a call at 311 or visit us at our website at nyc.gov/dcwp.

Thank you for welcoming me, and thank you for everything you do to move this city forward. Happy Lunar New Year!