

**Testimony of Deputy Commissioner Samuel A.A. Levine
New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection**

**Before the Committee on Technology
Hearing on Introduction 213**

March 2, 2026

Introduction

Good morning, Chair De La Rosa, and members of the Committee. My name is Samuel Levine, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Introduction 213.

Protecting New York's Workers

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) is the nation's leading municipal enforcement agency charged with delivering economic justice. DCWP leverages its authority to bring New Yorkers real economic relief and protect them from predatory, deceptive, and unfair practices that violate their rights as consumers and workers. This includes pioneering cutting-edge protections, such as the City's Consumer Protection Law, Protected Time Off Law, Fair Workweek Law, and Delivery Worker Laws, including the Minimum Pay Rate for delivery workers. Through licensing more than 45,000 businesses in over 45 industries, DCWP ensures fair competition and a level playing field for responsible small businesses that are integral to New York City's vibrant communities. DCWP also provides essential services such as free tax preparation and financial counseling to ensure New Yorkers keep more of what they earn and can plan for their futures. DCWP is committed to making sure New York City is a fairer, more affordable place to live.

Introduction 213

Turning to today's legislation, Introduction 213 would prohibit any place or provider of public accommodation from using biometric recognition technology to verify or identify a customer. It would also require customers to be notified if biometric identifier information is collected and would require written consent before any biometric recognition technology could be collected. Additionally, the bill would require any such information collected to be protected and for written policies regarding its use to be made available.

The use of biometric recognition technology is a burgeoning issue that affects New Yorkers. Local Law 3 of 2021 currently requires businesses that make use of biometric identifier information post a notice of such use at its entrances. DCWP provides on its website a template of the notice that must be used. This law is enforced through a private right of action, and while DCWP created the notice sign in 2021, the agency has no other authority related to this law. While we understand the concern surrounding biometric data, we do not have experience or expertise to speak to or regulate the use of this technology. As such, DCWP has no position on this legislation.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the committee on today's bill. DCWP welcomes continued collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders and the Council to ensure that workplace protections and resources are available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.