

**Testimony of Deputy Commissioner Carlos Ortiz
New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection**

**Before the Committees on Consumer and Worker Protection and Immigration
Hearing on Street Vending and
Introductions 408, 431, 1164, 1251**

May 6, 2025

Introduction

Good morning, Chair Menin, and members of the Committee on Consumer & Worker Protection. I am Carlos Ortiz, Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs at the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on issues related to street vending.

General Vendors

The Department of Consumer & Worker Protection issues general vendor licenses to those who sell goods or services in a public place, such as the street or sidewalk. There are currently ~1,900 licensed general vendors. The number of licenses issued to non-veteran general vendors is capped at 853 licenses and the waiting list for non-veteran applicants is currently closed. License applications for general vendors are available to veterans or the surviving spouses or domestic partners of a veteran.

Introduction 431

Introduction 431 would increase the number of food vendor supervisory licenses and general vendor licenses available each year for five years, and thereafter would remove the cap on food vendor supervisory licenses and general vendor licenses. The Administration supports reducing regulatory barriers on businesses, such as expanding the total number of licenses, to bring more street vendors into regulation and compliance. The Administration is opposed to lifting the cap entirely on street vendor licenses due to concerns about the impact on the quality of life for every day New Yorkers. We look forward to engaging in the legislative process with the Council, and stakeholders here today, to join this conversation on examining license caps and understanding how the City can better support street vendors, our smallest small businesses, while balancing the needs of brick & mortar establishments.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee on these issues. I would now like to pass it over to my colleague from NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for their testimony.