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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SHEKAR KRISHNAN

COUNCIL MEMBER, 25th DISTRICT, QUEENS

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SMALL BUSINESS

December 16, 2022

Dear Commissioner Mayuga,

My name is Shekar Krishnan and I represent Council District 25 which include the neighborhoods of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst. My constituents include many of the 60,000 delivery drivers in our city who are fighting for a fair minimum wage. I was proud to be in support of Local Law 115 of 2021 which was passed by the City Council last year. This law mandated a study of a minimum pay rate for delivery workers which recognizes the dignity of their work. A fair minimum wage that covers the local costs of living is something all workers deserve and Deliveristas have waited far too long for their call to be met. Thus, I wanted to submit public comment urging three recommendations for the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to consider based off it's recently published Minimum Pay rate study and proposal:

1. DCWP should raise the expense rate by \$5 from \$2.26 to \$7.26. This would include the expenses of Deliveristas that use registered mopeds as work tools, essential safety expenses such as GPS Trackers, and hazard pay. Given the fact that Deliveristas sometimes work during extreme weather conditions such as rain or snow storms, this increase in the expense rate will ensure .
2. The minimum pay rate should be raised to \$28.82 per hour with a phase-in approach of a minimum pay rate of \$20.87 in 2023 and \$24.25 in 2024 before reaching the full rate of \$28.82 in 2025. Currently Deliveristas live paycheck to paycheck, making approximately \$7.09 per hour with tips. This minimum pay rate ensures Deliveristas a wage their work deserves.
3. DCWP should closely monitor and evaluate the implementation of the aggregate pay component of the proposed minimum pay rate. The proposed structure leaves the calculation of the on-call time to the discretion of the applications, which is expected to lead to a more efficient use of the waiting time. Careful monitoring of this part of the new policy is key to prevent negative impacts on workers' pay and work hours.

I want to thank the department for their hard work that went into the preparation of the study and proposal. We hope our comments will ensure that the Council's intent of a fair minimum pay rate for Deliveristas is met.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shekar Krishnan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shekar Krishnan

Council Member, District 25 - Elmhurst and Jackson Heights