



## THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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# ***COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN JOINS ADVOCATES TO DEMAND FAIRNESS FOR DELIVERY WORKERS***

***Crackdown on mostly-immigrant workforce using e-bikes  
continues – despite last week’s launch of pedal-assist e-bike  
program***

**NEW YORK** – One week after the de Blasio Administration’s Citi Bike pedal-assist electric bike roll out, Council Member Margaret Chin joined advocates to demand that the City honor its commitment to end the harassment of delivery people by allowing these mostly immigrant workers to affordably convert their full throttle e-bikes to pedal-assist e- bikes in order to be in compliance with city law.

“I am outraged that delivery workers continue to face the repercussions of a biased, arbitrarily enforced crackdown on e-bikes – simply for doing their jobs,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “Now that pedal-assist electric bikes are legal for commuters and visitors to our city, it is time for the Administration to end its crackdown on immigrant delivery workers and forge a path to allow them to comply with current city and state law. With the explosion of online food delivery services and the increasing demand for restaurant deliveries throughout the city, delivery workers deserve to be able to provide a living for their families without fear of arrest. Most of these very hard working New Yorkers are immigrants of color, middle aged and make less than the minimum wage. Many of them buy and own their own bikes, only to have them confiscated by the NYPD. It is imperative that the Administration fully protect their right to work and earn a living that should be afforded to all New Yorkers.”

Since the crackdown on immigrant delivery workers using e-bikes began last year, Council Member Chin joined forces with delivery worker unions, transportation and immigrant advocacy groups to call on the Administration to be an active partner in ensuring that delivery workers are able to comply with the law while being able to provide for their families without the fear of harassment, heavy fines and confiscation.

“For the past ten months, AAF and our partners have asked City Hall to listen to and address the needs of e-bike delivery workers, who have been asking for relief from the harsh punishment that prevents them from earning a living. Our asks have not changed, and the delivery workers are still waiting for a solution so they can continue working and supporting their families. The new pedal-assist rule supports corporate interests while ignoring vulnerable workers who toil in an invisible economy. We remain resolute that these corporate interests should not outweigh the needs of immigrant workers who are still criminalized in myriad ways. Our City cannot continue to ignore these immigrant workers' needs, and the Mayor must put an end to the discriminatory practices of his enforcement rule,” said **Jo-Ann Yoo, executive director of the Asian American Federation.**

"The recent legalization of pedal-assist e-bikes, which conveniently helped bike share corporations, is only the latest step by the City in a chain of events that has willfully ignored delivery cyclists. Delivery cyclists, often middle-age or senior immigrants of color, on average work 12 hours per day for \$8-10 an hour, and are a constant target of the NYPD. Yet City Hall moved forward with new e-bike rules that left delivery cyclists out, refusing to develop a plan that would make their bikes legal. As part of the Deliver Justice coalition, Biking Public Project calls on the City to enact an e-bike policy that is more equitable for delivery cyclists," says **Rosemary Bolich of the Biking Public Project.**

According to a survey conducted by the office of Council Member Chin, delivery workers work between 8 to 12 hours per day – sometimes traveling upwards of 30 city blocks for one delivery. Recognizing that delivering food is a labor-intensive, inherently hazardous job – with many immigrant delivery workers facing difficulties in reporting assaults due to language barrier or immigration status – Council Member Chin introduced Resolution 1586 calling on the State to increase penalties on assaults made on delivery workers in order to encourage more workers to report these attacks.

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