

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Council Member Lander and Worker Justice Advocates to Hold Virtual Press Conference on Steps City and State Must Take to Help Low Wage and Vulnerable Workers

NEW YORK--Council Member Brad Lander and a coalition of worker justice advocates will hold a virtual press conference to call for expansion of paid sick leave to gig workers and misclassified independent contractors, unemployment insurance expansion, and the establishment of a fund for undocumented workers and bona fide independent contractors.

More than 850,000 low-paid workers in the state may be improperly classified as independent contractors. Such workers include Uber and Lyft drivers, Amazon Flex delivery drivers, food delivery workers, nail salon technicians, home care workers, janitors, and others. Gig workers were not included in the paid sick leave bill passed by the New York State Legislature, which only covers traditional employees, nor were they included in legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. The ongoing public health crisis has highlighted the calamity of excluding these workers from paid sick time and other benefits, especially as many of these workers are performing critical functions helping people get food delivered and get to the doctor.

WHEN: Friday, March 20, 1:30 PM

WHERE: The press conference will be held virtually via Zoom. Register here:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KVGSF2UVRhG4EjhGBvVJYg

WHO: Speakers will include:
Council Member Brad Lander
Zubin Soleimany, New York Taxi Workers Alliance
Daisy Alioto, freelancer with the National Writers Union
Richard Blum, Legal Aid Society
Deborah Axt, Make the Road New York
Brian Chen, National Employment Law Project