

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO HOLDS VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND
SIGNS INTROS 2043-A AND 2054-A**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Well, good afternoon, everybody. Today, we're going to hold a hearing and signing of two bills that bring extra relief for our restaurants here in the city, as New York City recovers from the coronavirus crisis. And these bills today are Intro. 2043-A and Intro. 2053-A. So, we know the restaurant industry in this city is crucial to all of us in so many ways. We understand how important it is to the future of our city. We understand the restaurant industry means livelihood for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. We also know that our restaurants are part of the heart and soul of the city, part of what makes this city so great, our culture, our flavor, our atmosphere, things people love about New York City. Part of what makes us the envy of the world, all the restaurants we have, but also right down to our neighborhoods, everyday New Yorkers have their favorite restaurants and their places they go regularly that really make them feel like home. So, we need to make sure that our restaurants are protected as we fight our way through this crisis.

And so, let's talk about the things that we've been doing to support restaurants throughout. Obviously, the Restaurant Revitalization Program, helping restaurants directly to keep going forward. Outside dining has been a great success, 10,000 restaurants that participated, 90,000 plus employees got their jobs back. Indoor dining now will be at 25 percent capacity starting on September 30th. So, that's another important step forward for the restaurant industry. And delivery remains a huge part of the situation here, a huge part of what makes restaurants work here in New York City, and is helping to keep people employed and build that bridge to the future so restaurants can survive this difficult moment and prosper in the future.

So, today through the actions of these laws extend the laws that put a cap on fees for delivery service apps and prevent unfair charges on phone orders. Today, we bring more relief to New York City's hardworking restaurants and small business owners. Now, let me go over the two bills. Intro. 2043-A extends a ban on charging for unconfirmed phone orders until 90 days after restaurants are allowed to operate at a hundred percent capacity. And Intro. 2053-A extends the cap on fees that delivery apps can charge restaurants until 90 days after restaurants are allowed to operate at a hundred percent capacity. I want to thank folks who had a lot to do with this legislation. Our Corporation Counsel Jim Johnson, the Director of the Office of Special Enforcement Christian Klossner, Speaker Corey Johnson of the City Council, Council Member Mark Gjonaj, who's the sponsor of Intro. 2043-A and chair of the small business committee; and, of course, Council Member Francisco Moya, sponsor of Intro. 2053-A, and he has joined with us, so we would welcome your remarks, Council Member Moya.

[...]

Thank you so much, Council member. And I love that you'll always bring your family. That's wonderful. And I know how close you are to your family, and I know you love the restaurants in your community deeply. So, hey to all your family and congratulations to all of you.

[Laughter]

So, we have one person signed up for public comment, Andrew Rigie, the Executive Director of the Hospitality Alliance. Go ahead, Andrew.

[...]

Amen. Absolutely. And let me just say a few words in Spanish before I sign these two bills –

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

With that, let me sign these two bills. How many would you like?

Unknown: [Inaudible]

Mayor: What's that?

Unknown: [Inaudible]

Mayor: Three each?

Unknown: [Inaudible]

Mayor: Three total. I can do it.

[Mayor de Blasio signs Intro. 2043-A and Intro. 2054-A into law]

All right – and these bills are now law. Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you, everybody. And this hearing is now adjourned.

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