

Testimony of Kendra Hems

On Behalf of

Trucking Association of New York

Before the

**New York City Council
Committees on Transportation
September 30, 2020**

Regarding

The City's Outdoor Dining and Open Streets Program during COVID-19

Good afternoon. My name is Kendra Hems and I am the President of the Trucking Association of New York (TANY) and an appointed member of the Advisory Council on Surface Transportation. I would like to thank Chairman Rodriguez and Chairman Cohen as well as the members of the committees for the opportunity to testify before you today. For over 85 years, TANY, a non-profit trade group, has represented the trucking industry in New York, advocating for the industry at the local, state and federal levels. We provide educational programs to our membership, which enhance their safety and maintenance efforts and offer numerous councils and committees to meet the diverse needs of our membership. TANY comprises over 600 member companies from New York, Canada, every border state, and other states across the country and is the exclusive New York affiliate of the American Trucking Associations (ATA).

I'm submitting testimony in support of T2020-6677 which extends the City's outdoor seating plan and open street program year-round. We recognize the City's effort to help a struggling restaurant industry and stand with our fellow small businesses to support in this aid, however, we have concerns about this continuing trend of taking away curb space for deliveries. We entreat that those same efforts and attention be dedicated to addressing a situation on the cusp of a crisis; sky-rocketing consumer demand for deliveries and years of policy diminishing available curb space to make deliveries. Compounding the issue is the fact that there is a lack of confidence in the city's public transit system, and as a result, we are seeing an increased reliance on the use of private vehicles. The impact on congestion is already being felt by our members.

Now more than ever, the City needs to put forth an innovative vision for the freight and trucking industry that serves this city. There is currently no alternative plan for trucking and deliveries in place. Residential delivery demand is at an all-time high, commercial deliveries are coming back online and the holiday season is right around the corner. We are seeing these trends becoming a permanent part of the City's economy and we must implement policies which enable the trucking industry to meet these unprecedented levels of demand.

We implore the city to come up with a plan to compensate for the fact that they're taking more and more curb space away from trucks and deliveries. Ticketing truck drivers for double parking is not a plan and is punitive to an industry that put their lives on the line during COVID-19 and many other natural disasters in this City. It is in every New Yorker's best interest for the City to come up with a plan to address these issues.

Thank you and I look forward to continuing this conversation.

Trucking Association of New York