



March 23, 2026

Hon. Julie Menin
Speaker of the New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Support for Int. 0655-2026

Dear Speaker Menin:

On behalf of DoorDash, I write to express our strong support for Int. 0655-2026, which would make it easier for restaurants, cafés, and other food-service establishments to participate in the City's outdoor dining program and allow outdoor dining structures to operate year-round. This thoughtful legislation builds on the past success of this program, which has struggled recently due to red tape. Allowing outdoor dining year-round and making it easier for restaurants to participate will help small businesses thrive while keeping our streets vibrant and welcoming.

DoorDash empowers thousands of restaurants throughout New York City — as of December 2025, nearly 20,000, many of them small- or medium-sized businesses. We've seen firsthand how outdoor dining transformed neighborhoods during and after the pandemic. In 2020, we established grant programs in cities across the country, [including in New York](#), to support restaurants seeking to winterize their outdoor dining facilities. For thousands of restaurants, these spaces became lifelines, allowing them to continue serving their communities and keep staff employed.

Int. 0655 would build on that success by opening outdoor dining opportunities to a wider range of food establishments, including retail food stores, while eliminating unnecessary seasonal limitations that force businesses to dismantle and rebuild costly roadway setups each year. By simplifying review processes and giving more neighborhood businesses the opportunity to participate, this bill reflects the kind of practical reform that makes it easier to start and sustain a small business in New York City.

For these reasons, we are proud to support Int. 0655, and respectfully urge the Council's support for this important legislation to help more New York City restaurants and food-service businesses launch, expand, and succeed.

Sincerely,

Ivan Garcia
Head of NYC Public Policy
DoorDash