

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Supervisor Mandelman introduces hearing on status of worker rights in California's gig economy**

SAN FRANCISCO — District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman today introduced a hearing with District 4 Supervisor Gordon Mar, to shine a light on the status of workers in California's gig economy. Following a California Supreme Court decision that outlines a clear standard for worker classification, and with pending state legislation to codify that ruling in state law, the hearing comes as gig economy workers are sounding the alarm on business models that are unsustainable for workers and communities alike.

“The rise of third party digital platforms has had a profound impact on the way we view, perform, and regulate work. In addition to courts, state houses and city halls are recognizing the strong public policy rationale for setting minimum standards for workers; when these standards are evaded, the entire community suffers.” said Mandelman. “The struggle of gig workers to simply survive is an issue that deserves San Francisco’s attention, particularly while the state legislature is contemplating changes to labor laws that may have a historic impact on residents and visitors participating in our local gig economy.”

By classifying gig workers as independent contractors, companies are not required to provide gig workers with basic protections and benefits like healthcare, unemployment insurance, paid parental leave, overtime pay, and minimum wage. Gig workers are also not protected under federal labor laws governing employees, excluding them from the right to form a union, and depriving them essential protections like collective bargaining.

“Technology and innovation should act in service to society, not the other way around. Organized labor fought for hard-won rights for working people - rights now under threat by gig worker classifications denying tens of thousands of people the basic rights and protections of employment that built our middle class.” said Mar. “As new companies and industries enjoy new levels of wealth and success, we must ensure the workers responsible for that success are treated fairly, transparently, and equitably.”

Mandelman introduced the hearing in partnership with several labor unions and workers’ rights organizations, including SEIU USWW, SEIU 1021, UFCW, Teamsters, the San Francisco Labor Council, Progressive Workers Alliance, National Domestic Workers Alliance, and Gig Workers Rising.

“San Francisco has led the way in recognizing that healthcare is a human right,” said Joseph Bryant, President of SEIU 1021, which represents approximately 20,000 workers within the city, including nurses and other medical professionals in San Francisco’s public hospitals and clinics.

“We recognize that the health of one person affects the entire community, and that’s why we have Healthy SF in place. There’s no reason why multi-billion dollar corporations like Lyft and Uber shouldn’t play by the same rules and be judged by the same standards as other businesses who contribute towards their workers’ access to healthcare.”

Gig Workers Rising represents gig workers around the Bay Area, and took part in the May 8th International Day of Action and Uber shutdown. "As a Lyft driver who primarily works in San Francisco, I put in well over 60 hours a week and don't make minimum wage after expenses. I struggle to make my rent and feed my family. Other bills often just have to wait. Without health insurance, it's hard to even get a prescription for blood pressure meds and access primary healthcare that I need to take care of myself." said Steve Gregg, a Lyft driver and Gig Workers Rising organizer. "I'm taking my struggle to the City and County of San Francisco to ask that gig companies be held accountable to existing minimum wage and healthcare laws."

The hearing will be held on Friday, June 28th at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. Mandelman is the Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

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