



OFFICE OF
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TRIALS AND HEARINGS

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**OATH HEALTH TRIBUNAL WILL OPEN FIRST LOCATION OUTSIDE
MANHATTAN ON STATEN ISLAND**

The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings' Health Tribunal Will Use Video-Conferencing During Hearings, Enabling it to Open a Location on Staten Island for Restaurant Owners from the Borough Who Choose to Contest Tickets In-Person.

Starting Tuesday, December 27, 2011 hearings on Notices of Violation issued by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to Staten Island restaurants and other food service establishments will have their scheduled hearings at a new hearing location on Staten Island. The new hearing office, located at 350 St. Marks Place, Staten Island, NY 10301 will make it easier for Staten Island restaurant owners to contest DOHMH charges because they will no longer have to travel to Manhattan. This is the first hearing location to open outside Manhattan; previously, all DOHMH cases were heard at the Tribunal located at 66 John Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY, 10038.

“OATH’s goal, at all of its tribunals, is to provide the public with access to fair and timely hearings. We want to provide anyone who wants to participate in the administrative justice process, the chance to do so in the most convenient and efficient way possible,” said OATH’s Commissioner and Chief Judge, Suzanne Beddoe.

OATH is committed to using technology and innovation to make the administrative justice process more convenient and accessible for people who have received Notices of Violation or tickets from City agencies. The opening of the Staten Island location is being made possible through the use of video-conferencing which will enable DOHMH inspectors to testify using a webcam. OATH hopes that the use of this technology will save both the DOHMH and the respondents who wish to contest their violations in person, time and money.

The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) took over the management of the Health Tribunal from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) on July 3, 2011. OATH has since made it possible to appeal a Health Tribunal decision online and contest newly issued tickets by having hearings with a judge over the phone, rather than coming to the Health Tribunal in-person. The OATH Health Tribunal will continue exploring alternative hearing options, such as hearings online, in 2012.

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