



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, May 17, 2021

**THE NYC OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS ANNOUNCES NEW
CALL-BACK OPTION NOW AVAILABLE FOR ITS HEARINGS BY PHONE**

*Call-back option serves to make the telephonic hearing process even more convenient
for New Yorkers fighting summonses at OATH hearings.*

*Hearings by Phone remain the predominant method for appearing for hearings on civil
summonses as OATH offices remain closed to the general public.*

New York, NY - Today, OATH Commissioner Joni Kletter announced that starting May 17, 2021 OATH's telephonic remote hearings will be much more convenient for the many New Yorkers who decide to fight City-issued summonses at OATH hearings.

Members of the public who check in for their scheduled telephonic hearings will be able to opt for a call back when their hearing is about to begin, rather than wait on the phone line after checking in.

As the City continues to get back to normal, OATH expects to continue getting an increasing number of summonses from the City's enforcement agencies. The call-back function increases convenience as it allows respondents to attend to other matters once they have checked in for their remote hearing. Importantly, this option will help alleviate wait times for respondents as Hearings by Phone remain the predominant hearing method for adjudicating cases involving city-issued civil summonses.

Until further notice, OATH offices remain closed to the public and in-person hearings are only being granted in limited circumstances where a respondent can illustrate that they have a compelling need to have their hearing in person. When granted, in person hearings are only being held at OATH's lower Manhattan hearing center located at 66 John Street, NY, NY 10038.

How to Respond to City-Issued Summonses

Currently, OATH hearings are nearly exclusively held by phone or by submitting a written defense online. Recipients of summonses should visit OATH online at www.nyc.gov/oath to see if their case is eligible and to submit their defense in writing using the online form. To schedule a Hearing by Phone, respondents should submit the request form found at nyc.gov/oathphone. To request a hearing in person, respondents should submit a written request with explanation to livehearings@oath.nyc.gov. All requests and written defenses should be submitted at least 3 days before the hearing date.

###