



The Council of the City of New York  
Office of City Council Member Robert F. Holden



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Council Member Robert Holden and the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) Announce “Neighborhood Pop-Up Court” for City-issued Summonses Will Come to his District in Middle Village, Queens**

**Queens, NY** – Council Member Robert Holden and officials from the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) today announced that OATH’s *Neighborhood Pop-Up Court* for City-issued summonses will come to the Council Member’s district on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. OATH has held more than a dozen similar events in the outer boroughs; this represents only the second time OATH has held a *Pop-Up Court* in Queens and the first time one has been held in the Middle Village, Rego Park, Ridgewood region of Queens.

The upcoming *Pop-up Court* will be held at the district office of Council Member Robert Holden which is located at 64-69 Dry Harbor Road, Middle Village NY. OATH will be conducting hearings from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on May 22, 2019. The *Pop-Up Court* allows people to fight certain summonses at a hearing with an OATH Hearing Officer without having to travel outside of their neighborhood.

Types of summonses eligible to be fought at the *Pop-Up Court* are summonses issued by the Sanitation Department and Parks Department; summonses issued by the Health Department for alleged pest control and rodent violations; and those non-criminal, quality of life summonses issued by the NYPD such as allegedly having an open container of alcohol, public urination, being in the park after dark, littering, spitting and excessive noise. As with all summonses, only summonses with upcoming hearing dates are eligible to have a hearing at either OATH or at one of OATH’s *Pop-Up Courts*. This means that the eligible summons must have either a hearing date of May 22, 2019 or a hearing date that is after that. OATH is not the court that holds hearings on parking tickets, traffic or speeding tickets, red light camera tickets or MTA turnstile violation summonses so those summonses cannot be resolved at the Pop-Up Court on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

“Giving people the opportunity to adjudicate summonses in their own back yard is a win-win,” said **Council Member Holden**. “This is an excellent idea by OATH, an agency that cares about New Yorkers and their quality of life. I look forward to hosting this pop-up court and many more events that benefit our constituents in the future.”

“As the City’s central independent administrative law court, OATH’s top priority is to make it as easy as possible for those who have been issued summonses from City enforcement agencies to have their day in court. Our *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts* program brings the court to where you

work and live so that fighting City summonses and accessing justice at OATH is more convenient and less time consuming,” said **Marisa Senigo, OATH’s Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs.**

“The Council has played a significant role in partnering with OATH to bring *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts* to communities throughout the City. OATH thanks Council Member Holden for taking the lead to help provide greater access to justice and make it more convenient for residents and small businesses to challenge their summonses,” said **John Castelli, OATH’s Deputy Commissioner for Legislative Affairs.**

### **About OATH**

OATH is the independent administrative law court where nearly all City enforcement agencies file their summonses for hearings. The agencies that file summonses at OATH for hearings include the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection, Consumer Affairs, FDNY and NYPD, among many others. OATH, however, does **not** conduct parking ticket hearings or hearings on alleged red light or speed camera violations. Last year, OATH received approximately 844,000 summonses from the City’s various enforcement agencies. During that time, 47% of summonses that were fought at OATH hearings were dismissed by OATH Hearing Officers.

### **About OATH’s Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts**

Through the *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts* initiative, OATH travels to neighborhoods across the five boroughs to conduct hearings directly in the community at Community Boards, libraries, offices of elected officials and other civic organizations in an effort to increase response rates to City-issued summonses by making it more convenient for people to access justice at the City’s administrative law court. The program is focused on areas that are so-called “transportation deserts” or are far away from where our borough hearing offices are.

In order to alert people that the Pop-Up is in their neighborhood, OATH will search its system and then send out letters to all respondents with eligible summonses. Letters are sent in both English and Spanish and Polish.

OATH staff and Hearing Officers will be available to check in respondents and hold hearings at the district office until 4pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. Full translation services will be available in up to 250 languages. Respondents will be sent the Hearing Officer’s decision in the mail within seven days.

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