



The Council of the City of New York
Office of Council Member Donovan Richards



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Council Member Donovan Richards and OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge Fidel F. Del Valle Announce First-ever “Neighborhood Pop-Up Court” in Queens for City-issued Summonses

Queens, NY - On Tuesday, September 18, 2018, Council Member Richards (Chair of the NYC Council Committee on Public Safety) was joined by OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel Del Valle, to announce that the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) — the City’s independent administrative law court — will hold first-ever Queens *Neighborhood Pop-Up Court*.

The upcoming *Pop-up Court*, co-hosted by Council Member Richards and OATH, also represents the first-ever *Pop-Up Court* that will allow people who are issued non-criminal NYPD summonses for low-level quality of life infractions to fight those summonses at a hearing without having to travel outside of their neighborhood. The Pop-up Court will take place on September 27, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Laurelton District Office of Council Member Richards located at 234-26A Merrick Blvd. Laurelton, NY 11442.

“It’s an honor to hold the first OATH Neighborhood Pop-Up Court in Queens, because sometimes the biggest barrier to clearing a civil summons is finding reliable transportation to the courthouse,” said **Council Member Donovan Richards, chair of the Committee on Public Safety**. “Whether the summons was issued by Parks, Sanitation, the Health Department or a non-criminal violation from the NYPD, residents can have their issue heard conveniently in their neighborhood. I’d like to thank OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge Fidel F. Del Valle for his commitment to bringing services out to the people across the five boroughs.”

“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,” said **OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle**. “*Pop-Up Courts* is just the latest innovative program OATH has employed and joins other established programs such as our Hearings Online, Video Hearings, Hearings by Phone, and Hearings by Mail, all of which aim to make fighting a summons from a City agency as convenient and time-efficient as possible for New York City residents and small businesses.”

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 OATH or a hearing at one of OATH's *Pop-Up Courts*.

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 includes the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection, Consumer Affairs, FDNY and NYPD, among many others. Last year, OATH received approximately 877,000 summonses from the City's various enforcement agencies. During that time, 44% 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. OATH staff and Hearing Officers will be available to check in respondents and hold hearings at the District office until 4pm on Thursday, September 27. 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.

OATH's next Pop-up Court is scheduled for October 17, 2018 at Community Board 3 on Staten Island.

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