



**During *City Hall in Your Borough* Week
City's Administrative Law Court Launches Inaugural "Outreach at
the Beach" at Rockaway Beach**



The NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) was stationed at Beach 116th Street on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, to let people know their rights when they receive a City-issued summons and the process for how to fight summonses at OATH.

QUEENS, NEW YORK – On July 18, 2017, senior officials and staff from the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) held the court's inaugural *Outreach at the Beach* event. Distributed materials informed people of the various ways to deal with the types of summonses that New Yorkers commonly receive at the beach and during the summer months, such as open container summonses, excessive noise summonses and summonses for being in a park after dark. These summonses used to be filed at NYC Criminal Court but now, as a result of the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA), the NYPD has the option to file them at the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH), which is the city's independent administrative law court.

“New Yorkers deserve a level playing field when contesting City-issued summonses and people need to know that they have the absolute right to fight a City-issued summons, and when they do, that their case will be heard by an independent decision-making body,” said **Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle**. “By being in the community talking to people who have received summonses and bringing information about the newly simplified hearing process directly to the places where in the summer months summonses are issued, OATH is showing New Yorkers that its hearing process is easy to navigate and that it is fair and transparent.”

OATH representatives gave out literature to more than 700 people during the day. Most of the literature that was distributed was in English but about 20% of the literature distributed was in Spanish to Spanish-speaking visitors. The information given out was about the hearing process at OATH; OATH’s remote hearing options, including Hearings Online and Hearings by Phone; the new OATH Help Centers at all hearing locations; and the new option to complete community service instead of paying a fine, which is an option that is available for certain summonses covered by the CJRA.



OATH Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs, Marisa Senigo, hands out literature to beach goers.

About OATH

OATH is the independent administrative law court where nearly all City enforcement agencies- such as the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection and Consumer Affairs, among many others- file their summonses for hearings. However, OATH

does not handle parking tickets or traffic tickets. Last year, OATH received nearly 850,000 summonses from the City's various enforcement agencies. OATH has made [an informational video](#) about the CJRA and how those summonses can be responded to at OATH.