## NEW YORK CITY

# OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD

## BOARD MEETING

## VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Training Room 143, 12th Floor

100 Church Street, New York, New York

August 12, 2021

9:36 a.m. to 10:29 a.m.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joni Kletter, Esq. - Commissioner/Chief Administrative Law Judge, OATH, Chair/Executive Director, OATH ECB Shamonda Graham - Department of Buildings (DOB)

Jose Marquez - New York City Fire Department (FDNY)

Madelynn Liguori, Esq. - Department of Sanitation (DSNY)

Jorge Martinez, Esq. - Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

Russell Pecunies, Esq. - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Matthew Schneid, Esq. - Appointed Member (Real Estate)
Tom Shpetner, Esq. - Appointed Member (Business)
Matthew Smith, Esq. - New York City Police Department
(NYPD)

Jarrod Whittington - Appointed Member (Noise)

## ALSO PRESENT:

Rachel Amar - Special Assistant to Commissioner, OATH

John Castelli - Deputy Commissioner for Legislative

Affairs, OATH

Svetlana Iosilevich, Esq. - Executive Agency Counsel, Business Integrity Commission (BIC)

Richard J. LaPlant - Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Nancy Lin - Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Peter Schulman, Esq. - Assistant Commissioner for Appeals, OATH

Frances Shine - Secretary to the Board, OATH

Amy Slifka, Esq. - Deputy Commissioner/Hearings Division, OATH

Samuel Solomon, Esq. - Chief of Staff/Special Counsel, OATH

Olga Statz, Esq. - General Counsel, OATH

Joy A. Thompson, Esq. - Assistant General Counsel, OATH

1	August 12, 2021
2	(The board meeting commenced at 9:36
3	A.M.)
4	JOY A. THOMPSON, ESQ., ASSISTANT GENERAL
5	COUNSEL, OATH: Good morning, everyone. I would
6	like to start the roll call. I will start with
7	the Commissioner.
8	JONI KLETTER, ESQ., CHAIR, EXECUTIVE
9	DIRECTOR, OATH ECB, COMMISSIONER/CHIEF
10	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE, OATH: Yes.
11	MS. THOMPSON: Shamonda Graham. Joseph
12	Gregory?
13	JOSE MARQUEZ, NEW YORK CITY FIRE
14	DEPARTMENT (FDNY): Jose Marquez [unintelligible]
15	[09:36:21] [00:00:21].
16	MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.
17	[Unintelligible] [09:36:26] [00:00:26].
18	SHAMONDA GRAHAM, DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
19	(DOB): Guys, I'm sorry to interrupt, but can
20	somebody's background is very loud. Can it be
21	muted?
22	MS. KLETTER: Thank you.
23	MS. THOMPSON: Okay. So Shamonda
24	Graham, are you present?

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Whittington?

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JARROD WHITTINGTON, APPOINTED MEMBER (NOISE): Present.

MS. THOMPSON: We have eight present.

MS. KLETTER: Alright, thank you. just want to acknowledge that this is our first in-person meeting in at least a year and a half, since COVID began. It's my first in-person meeting as Chair, and I just want to thank you all for being here today and for everything that you've done in the last year and a half. I think what the ECB has accomplished, it's really extraordinary considering the conditions we were all working under and what the City was going through. So I really appreciate all of your efforts and the work that you've put in. really is incredible that we've been able to, that as an, as an Agency, OATH, in general, that we've been able to stay fully operational during this time and continue remotely and continuing serving the people of New York. So, I'm incredibly impressed with the team that we have and the work that you've all done. So thank you and it's, it's great to finally meet you in1 August 12, 2021 2 person.

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I'm first going to ask for a motion to adopt the minutes for the June 10, 2021 meeting. Thank you, Madelynn. Does anyone have any corrections? Okay. I'm going to ask Joy for a call for a vote to approve the minutes as presented.

MS. THOMPSON: Commissioner, just one correction, which is nine present. So I'm including [unintelligible] [09:38:58] [00:02:58] attendees. I will start by asking if anyone has any objections to the approval of the minutes for the June 10, 2021 ECB Board Meeting. Hearing no object- objections, the minutes are approved.

MS. KLETTER: Great. Great, thank you.

So we do have a few rules we're going to be discussing today. I'm first going to ask Olga

Statz to introduce, to introduce OATH's proposed final rule, correcting and adjusting the language in OATH's rules.

OLGA STATZ, ESQ., GENERAL COUNSEL, OATH:
Hi. Good morning, everybody. Good morning,
everybody. This is Olga Statz. And I'm, I'm

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here with the final round for the adjustments and corrections to the rule that you all have seen on numerous occasions by now.

And so, as you know, the, the rule adoption process is a long one. We go through the proposed rules and final rules. So what you have before you, there's no change to what you had approved previously. This is just the final, and it will be final. So we're asking you to approve that.

Any questions? No?

MS. KLETTER: Thank you, Olga. Hello, Russ. Alright. So I'm going to ask for a motion to approve.

MS. LIGUORI: Motion.

MS. KLETTER: Thank you, Madelynn. Joy, please call a vote.

MS. THOMPSON: I'm going to ask, at this moment, if anyone objects [unintelligible]
[09:40:43] [00:04:43] whether there are any objections to approving the final rule that corrects the language [unintelligible] [09:40:54] [00:04:54].

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PETER SCHULMAN, ESQ., ASSISTANT

COMMISSIONER FOR APPEALS, OATH: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Some- something in, in that room is creating some, some, like staticky feedback in the, in the Board Meeting room. Is something like rustling by a microphone?

## [OFF MIC CONVERSATION]

MS. KLETTER: Yeah, it could be that there's [unintelligible] [09:41:22] [00:05:22]. How is it now? How is it now?

MR. SCHULMAN: It's better. It's better.

RACHEL AMAR, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO

COMMISSIONER, OATH: It's better, but we can't actually hear you so well. If, if you guys can talk a little louder.

MS. THOMPSON: Okay. At this time, I will --

MS. GRAHAM: Thank you. I agree.

MS. THOMPSON: Okay. At this time, I will ask if there are any objections to the motion on the table to approve the final rule correcting language in OATH's rules. Okay.

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Seeing and hearing no objections, this motion passes unanimously.

MS. KLETTER: Thank you. Thank you,

Joy. I'm now going to ask Olga Statz to

introduce an important rule that some of our

staff have been working very hard on. It's

clarifying the procedures for remote proceedings

and appearances. Olga, please [unintelligible]

[09:42:19] [00:06:19].

MS. STATZ: Thank you, Commissioner.

Yes. What you have before you is a rule that
we're proposing to have adopted. And it, and as,
as you saw by reading it, it involves allowing,
or making clear that OATH proceedings can take
place remotely. And so, so, for both the Trials
Division and the Hearings Division, what had been
usually exclusively in-person hearings, we
propose to have them also be remote. And, as you
all know, the reason for, we all know the reason
for this is because of the pandemic.

At the pandemic, the Commissioner turned on a dime, basically, and was able to start remote hearings almost immediately, based on her

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own authority as Commissioner. That's authority that she has in the Charter. However, in consultation with the Law Department, they said that if we propose to continue this and extend the practice, they recommend that we engage in rulemaking.

And in, as a result of that advice, we came up with these rules, which basically are, most of them are just taking the rules that, that already exist and making sure that it's clear that one can also proceed remotely.

So there, there are a few other ones that I'd like to point out to you, but the majority of the rules are simply saying "or remote," "or videoconferencing," "or telephone," etcetera, etcetera. Now, in doing that, we also, we also decided, based on the experience we had over the last year and a half of doing remote rules — the remote hearings, I mean — we realized how things should function. And, as a result of that experience that we had, both at the Clerk's Office and in the Hearings Division, we're proposing one new rule, which shows up at

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the, at the end, which is Section 17 of Proposed Rules, it starts at page 10. You're all on page 10? It's Section 6-24(a), and it gives all of the specific processes of phone calls that have to be used if an attorney or a representative wants to proceed remotely.

So that's the only, that's the only new rule that you're seeing here. Everything else is basically an adjustment of the rule to allow us also to have remote hearings. So I'm, and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have about the new one.

MS. KLETTER: And I'm just going to add to that a little bit, just so you all know.

Well, first of all, since March of 2020, we've done almost 200,000 cases remotely. And it's been incredibly successful. I've, I don't think I've received one complaint from an agency or an attorney or a respondent regarding the procedures that we've put in place. So it's really been remarkable how well we've been able to transition to primarily telephonic hearings.

And come September, which is now only

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two and a half weeks away, we intend to start offering in-person hearings, assuming somebody is pre-approved for an in-person hearing. And that pre-approval won't require any sort of special argument or rationale. They just need to request the in-person hearing three days in advance. But if they go up and they haven't made the request, then we'll assist them in rescheduling an in-person hearing or setting up a telephonic one.

But, come September, we will be offering in-person hearings for those that would like it.

At least in some of our locations, not in all of our boroughs, but in, at least in Manhattan and, and Long Island City. But come October,

November, we'll be offering it, like in the fall,

[unintelligible] [09:46:14] [00:10:14]. So we are moving towards offering in-person for everyone shortly. Okay.

MS. GRAHAM: Hello?

MS. GRAHAM: Hello.

MS. GRAHAM: Hi. This is Shamonda

Graham. I'm sorry to interrupt. Commissioner,

it is a little bit low, so I'd just like to

1	August 12, 2021
2	repeat what I heard to ensure that I heard it
3	correctly.
4	Again, Shamonda Graham from Department
5	of Buildings. Did I hear you just say that in
6	September, come September, in-person hearings
7	will be offered to, basically, the public, the
8	named respondent, if they request an in-person
9	hearing? But I, I did hear you say something
10	about October or November. Would that be
11	expanding to the five boroughs? I, I just want
12	to make sure I understood.
13	MS. KLETTER: Correct, yes. Alright.
14	And I'm going to speak a little bit louder and
15	into the microphone. So
16	MS. GRAHAM: Thank you.
17	MS. KLETTER: And which boroughs are we
18	doing September?
19	[OFF MIC CONVERSATION]
20	MS. KLETTER: Right. So, come
21	September, we will be offering in-person hearings
22	for those that request it in advance in Manhattan
23	and Long Island City.
24	MS. GRAHAM: Got it.

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2	MS. KLETTER: And we'll be expanding to
3	other boroughs later in the fall.
4	MS. GRAHAM: Understood. I heard you
5	correctly, then.
6	MS. KLETTER: Questions?
7	MR. SCHNEID: There was a note in the
8	last section you just pointed out, about 25 cases
9	per counsel?
10	MS. STATZ: Yes.
11	MR. SCHNEID: Can you explain that,
12	just, just as a scheduling issue?
13	MS. STATZ: Yes.
14	MR. SCHNEID: You felt that was the
15	appropriate number?
16	MS. STATZ: Yes. That's the number we
17	found that can be heard in one day. So when
18	people have tried because this, a lot of this
19	was trial and error. And the numbers that you
20	see here are numbers that really, from
21	experience, we found that they work properly.
22	So, at the beginning of the process, we
23	were not sure exactly how many cases they, how
24	many cases individual attorneys could handle.

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And so we would allow people to do a lot of them. And what would happen is that they wouldn't get through the cases in one day, which would force us then to push, to, to create an adjourn date and to push matters forward. So this number was basically the average number that we found that most attorneys could get through in, in, in a day, so that those hearings could be completed.

One of the things that, that we have to always keep in mind is that we try not to multiply the times a matter comes before a hearing. It's not efficient. We try to have one summons heard by unintelligible[09:48:58]
[00:12:58] the hearing officer one time and have that determination. But when we allow things to be pushed over or have to be redone, that's a multiplication of effort and it's a duplication, and it's, and it's too, using too much time and resources to do the one thing. So this number, basically, is the number that gen-, that's self-generated, based on the experience we've had over the last 15 months. Yes?

MS. GRAHAM: Olga, what was that number?

	Dago 1
1	Page 1 August 12, 2021
2	MS. STATZ: It's 2-, so
3	AMY SLIFKA, ESQ., DEPUTY
4	COMMISSIONER/HEARINGS DIVISION, OATH: Not to
5	exceed 25.
6	MS. STATZ: Twenty-five.
7	MS. GRAHAM: Okay, thank you.
8	MS. STATZ: You're welcome.
9	MS. GRAHAM: That's my number, too.
10	That's why I was asking?
11	MS. STATZ: Yeah. I'm sorry?
12	MS. KLETTER: She said that's her
13	number, too.
14	MS. GRAHAM: Shamonda Graham, Department
15	of Buildings. We looked at this a long time ago.
16	[CROSSTALK] [09:49:42] [00:13:42]
17	MS. STATZ: Yeah, so you probably
18	MS. GRAHAM: We looked at this a long
19	time ago and we have the same, a similar number.
20	We don't think any person can handle more than 25
21	cases in a day.
22	MS. STATZ: Correct. Exactly. So I'm
23	glad to know that it's confirmed. We, that's,
24	that's what we came up with, as well.

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Yes, Madelynn?

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MS. LIGUORI: Madelynn Liguori,

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because of the 25-summons limit. What we've seen 5

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in these cases, typically, are many more

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summonses than that. Usually, one representative comes in for, let's say a group of 200 summonses.

Sanitation. I just have a question to clarify,

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Would they be impacted, like --

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MS. STATZ: Yes. What happens is that

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this is for individual attorneys. And what

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happens, most of the time, the, the reps and the

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attorneys work in firms. So, for example, you

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have Firm A. They have 10 attorneys. Each one of the 10 attorneys can have 25 cases. So the,

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the thing is it's 25 per individual attorney.

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But if a law firm has 10 attorneys, they can do

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2-, so the volume of, the normal volume is being

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handled, but it's being handled in, person by

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person, in a way that we can control the flow.

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that, but --

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[CROSSTALK] [09:50:52] [00:14:52]

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MS. SLIFKA: Madelynn? Madelynn? Mad-

MS. LIGUORI: Right, no, I understand

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Madelynn, this is Amy Slifka from -- Amy Slifka. If, if you issue a posting case, for example, and it's all to the same respondent and it's 200 summonses or such, we would allow the respondent to sign in for those cases, because it's one charge and, and we can handle that type of situation.

This is really where it's 25 separate cases, 25 different issues. So, but there are exceptions to even that. So, for example, for Shamonda Graham, if it's a failure to comply, and the person received 20 summonses with the same issue, we'll let them come in, plus a few more. So it, it, it varies. The sense is one attorney cannot handle 25 individual cases, more than that in a day.

MS. LIGUORI: Okay, understood --

MS. GRAHAM: Amy?

MS. LIGUORI: Do we need to clarify --

MS. GRAHAM: Amy? This is Shamonda.

That is great. That sounds good and I understand the concept of the issue. I do have one

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Commissioner. I'm not sure. I know that the respondents will be, be able to elect to come in person. Does that have any bearing on the enforcement agencies? Or are we able to continue to appear remotely?

MS. KLETTER: Right. Yeah, it's up to the discretion of the agency.

MS. GRAHAM: Got it. Thank you.

MS. KLETTER: And that would be, since we know in advance which cases are going to be heard in person, the agency will be informed, you know, if they're interested in knowing whether the person is coming in person or by phone. They can make that determination as to whether they want to appear in person or not.

MS. SLIFKA: Right. I just, yeah,
Shamonda, just included, eventually, included
with the list that Lou sends daily, we will start
to include those cases that are scheduled for inperson hearings for the respondent. I mean,
again, it's your discretion whether to come or
not.

MS. GRAHAM: Got it. So we'll have a

1 August 12, 2021 2 flag. But as far as, we get the cases from Lou, and that all makes sense, but we get those cases 3 4 one day before the hearing. So, for us, even though I know we have the discretion to come in 5 in-person, really, the one-day notice, can you 6 7 imagine? You deal with the hearing officer --MS. SLIFKA: Shamonda, Shamonda, 8 9 Shamonda, you will get this list as we have it. 10 It'll be updated daily. 11 MS. GRAHAM: Got it. Okay. 12 MS. SLIFKA: You'll get the list as we 13 have it. 14 MS. GRAHAM: Okay. I appreciate that. 15 MS. SLIFKA: So you should be getting 16 it, probably starting around next week. 17 MS. GRAHAM: Yeah, I'm not, I'm not even 18 questioning that. I just wanted to note that you 19 and I both know we can't get any of the attorneys 20 to come in af-, with only one day. But, okay, 21 thank you. 22 MS. KLETTER: So Madelynn just raised a

good point, which is that the wording in this

rule sort of states summons, and then, later on,

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1	August 12, 2021
2	it states cases. And does it make sense to make
3	it more consistent across the paragraphs?
4	MS. STATZ: So, Madelynn, if I'm
5	understanding you correctly, are you looking at
6	page 11? I'm looking at subsection (b) and
7	subsection (c). It says no one registered
8	representative or attorney shall appear by remote
9	means on a single hearing date for no more than
10	25 [unintelligible] [09:54:03] [00:18:03] cases.
11	Instead of "summonses," you prefer the word
12	"cases," right?
13	MS. LIGUORI: Yeah.
14	MS. STATZ: And also for (c). For each
15	group of up to 25 cases to be heard on that date.
16	Okay. But the rest of
17	MS. KLETTER: No, because later, it says
18	25 cases.
19	MS. STATZ: Yeah, well, I'm just noting
20	on (c).
21	MS. KLETTER: Two areas.
22	MS. STATZ: I'm sorry, just (b), (2)(b)
23	and (c). And, and then, however, for, for
24	example, for $(4)$ , going up to $(4)$ , the use of

1 August 12, 2021 2 sum-, the use of the word "summonses" is correct, 3 right? Because it says: 4 The attorney or registered representative calls in for their first 5 scheduled hearing no later than the earliest 6 7 scheduled hearing time as set forth on the summonses or rescheduled notices. 8 So that use of "summonses" is correct. 9 10 So what I need to look for when we go through 11 this rule is just when we're talking about the 12 abs-, the representation. So that's when I use, 13 that's when you recommend that I use the word "cases" rather than the word "summonses." Is 14 15 that correct? 16 MS. LIGUORI: Correct. 17 MS. STATZ: Okay, thank you. Okay. So 18 the last line in (d), as well, that would be 19 "cases," right? 20 Once a registered representative or 21 attorney is assigned to appear on a group of cases, a different registered representative 22 2.3 or attorney may not appear in that case. 24 Is that, is that --? Okay. So, so far,

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2	I see, it's sugges- suggested that it's in (b),
3	(c) and (d) for "summonses." Right, Madelynn?
4	MS. LIGUORI: Correct.
5	MS. STATZ: Thank you so much. And does
6	anyone else have any questions? Thank you, then.
7	MS. KLETTER: Tom, did you have a
8	question?
9	MR. SHPETNER: No, I'm just parsing the
10	language, the basis of the suspension. I think
11	you could actually leave it. I think we just
12	need to kind of take a minute, you know.
13	MS. KLETTER: Yeah, yeah, let's all
14	MS. STATZ: I'm going to yeah.
15	MS. KLETTER: I think Olga wants a
16	little bit of time right now to review it.
17	MR. SHPETNER: Alright. Let me know
18	when you're finished. Yeah.
19	MS. KLETTER: Okay. So we'll just
20	pause. We're going to pause for two minutes so
21	people can review the rule more thoroughly.
22	[OFF MIC CONVERSATION]
23	MS. STATZ: Look, what do you think,
24	Madelynn?

The attorney or registered representative sub- submits only one list for a hearing date and submits that list electronically pursuant to the Tribunal's direction to a recipient designated by the Tribunal, regardless of the county in which the cases were scheduled.

Are we good?

MS. LIGUORI: Yeah.

MS. STATZ: Okay, yes.

[OFF MIC CONVERSATION]

MS. STATZ: Okay. Okay, terrific.

Thank you very much. Does anyone have, else have any questions, additional questions? Yes?

MR. SCHNEID: Yeah. My only question is about the timeframe. It sounded like when the agency says that they can only get one-day notice, here, where we're talking about three-day -day notice, is that for the respondents?

MS. STATZ: That's for the respondents. The respondents have to notify the agency of -- when, when they're coming in with a volume of cases, they need to notify the agency at least

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three days in advance in a form that, where the agency can actually process the, the sum-, process the summonses, process the cases, and ensure [unintelligible] [09:58:17] [00:22:17] ensure that the representative is actually representing that person, because that causes a lot of friction and difficulty. So it takes about three days. That's another trial-and-error timeframe. It takes about three days for us to do this properly. So that's why we're putting in that three days.

MS. KLETTER: Good? Okay. So thank you for those suggested edits. We are now going to ask for a motion to approve, with those, with the caveat that those edits will be made to the draft. But we, you know, we are trying to do this as expeditiously as possible because we, obviously, we want to get these rules in place as soon as possible.

MR. SHPETNER: Tom Shpetner, citizen member. Can we maybe just get a blackline afterwards?

MS. KLETTER: Yes, [unintelligible]

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2 [09:59:18] [00:23:18].

MS. KLETTER: Is there a motion to approve? Thank you, Madelynn. I'm going to ask Joy [unintelligible] [09:59:25] [00:23:25].

MS. THOMPSON: Thank you. At this time, I'm going to ask, and instead of a roll call, I'm going to ask if there are any objections to the approval of the proposed rule that sets, clarifies remote hearings and appearances? Do we have any objections? Okay, at this point, this motion is approved unanimously. Thank you.

MS. GRAHAM: Hello, Olga? This is

Shamonda Graham. I just want to note that I

can't vote because I'm on via telephone. So I

just wanted to make sure that's noted. I'm not

sure if I should be abstaining.

And, then, I'm so sorry for being a bit behind. I am on the phone, so I did have one question. It doesn't require a change. But when the respondents notify the tribunal for the cases that they are intending on coming in on, is it possible to maybe have in the rule that they also notify the enforcement agency? So that way they

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2	take some, some of the burden Amy, I am
3	thinking that some of the burden can maybe shift
4	from OATH to the respondent so that everybody is
5	aware that they, they're coming in on so many
6	cases. So that's a thought and a comment. Maybe
7	we can adjust the rule.
8	MS. SLIFKA: Shamonda, as far as that
9	goes, it's hard for them to send you the list at
10	the same time they send us the list, because we
11	actually check the list to make sure that they do
12	appear on those 25 cases.
13	MS. GRAHAM: Oh, got it.
14	MS. SLIFKA: Yeah. And, and, and they -
15	_
16	MS. GRAHAM: So what they send you, they
17	may not appear on. I understand.
18	MS. SLIFKA: And I just want to make
19	clear, I just have a question, actually, since
20	you raised it. Cases equal summonses. I mean,
21	we're just using the word "cases" as opposed to
22	"summonses," right?
23	MS. STATZ: Amy, [unintelligible]
24	[10:01:29] [00:25:29]. Amy, can you, can you say

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2 that again? I didn't hear you.

MS. SLIFKA: Oh, are we talking about cases is the same as summonses?

MS. STATZ: I think that, that the point that Madelynn raised is cases really give the con-, the connotation that they're separate matters.

MS. SLIFKA: Okay.

MS. STATZ: And I just used, because, because I think that the point that Mad- Madelynn is trying to make is that she might have a, a situation where it's the same violation on 200 summonses. Like I used the, those posting things. And she, she doesn't want there to be a misinterpretation that you can't do the whole 200 same violation the same day. It's the same respondent, the same vi-, the same charge, the same ev- everything. So we're, the only reason we're using the word "cases" is just to give the connotation that it's separate matters, not just the physical summonses. Because you, it, as you said, there are situations where you will hear a block of 200 summonses at once. So I think that

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that's just like the compromise language that
we're coming up with to give the indication that
we're talking about separate charges and separate
stuff is going on. So we want to limit the
people, individual attorneys to separate charges,
25 separate charges, 25 separate things,
basically.

MS. SLIFKA: I'm sorry I'm bringing this up late, but the problem is, sometimes a summons has more than one charge. And I don't know how that would impact it. And I, I, sorry I did not, this, I didn't get that originally.

MS. STATZ: Yeah. You, you know, somehow, somehow, even if it has one charge, if we, I suspect -- this is just my opinion at this point -- we use the word "case," we're still covered, because it's, it's broad enough that we can have two charges and one summons, because it's a case. It's like, it's one respondent with three charges and one summons. That's still a case, right?

MS. SLIFKA: Okay, okay.

MS. STATZ: If we say "summons," we're

	Dago 3
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2	talking about individual things. So I think
3	MS. SLIFKA: Okay.
4	MS. STATZ: that "case" is a safer
5	word.
6	MS. SLIFKA: Okay.
7	MS. KLETTER: And I just want to note
8	for the record that Shamonda has an approved
9	accommodation, so your vote does count.
10	[OFF MIC CONVERSATION]
11	MS. KLETTER: Shamonda
12	[CROSSTALK] [10:03:48] [00:27:48]
13	MS. GRAHAM: Yes, and I'm sorry, guys,
14	for coming in so late. I am here. I'm so sorry
15	for coming in so late. Shamonda Graham,
16	Department of Buildings. When I say late, I just
17	mean with my comments to the rule. I see we got
18	this last night and I'm kind of on one leg, so
19	that's why I have my reasonable accommodation.
20	But I understand your point, Amy, about
21	them not being able to notify the issuing
22	agencies, but I do take note that the other issue
23	you're raising, "issue" versus "case," we should
24	be really, really careful. And we may

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even want to add, to add some language that clarifies. And it is going to be very hard to word it, unless you guys think "case" suffices, but to clarify that, hey, if you have 25 or 15 summonses and they're all failure to comply as it would relate to DOB, then that would be considered one issue because there's only one problem. And you will need to deal with the fact that a summons from DOB and other enforcement agencies may contain more than one violating condition. I mean that's the difference between issuing 10 summonses and one in some cases.

MS. STATZ: Well, Shamonda, though, though I see, I see your point, but the, I think that "case" is the safest word for us to use because we can, we can, it's more elastic than, than the word "summons." And, also, the word "issue" doesn't appear in this rule. So, and we kind of specifically avoided words that focus on the substance of, of the violations. We're just focusing on it's a case. It could have, it could be one summons with two charges in it, it could be one summons with one charge against this guy,

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and then he has [unintelligible] [10:05:38]

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So I think that the word "case" gives

the agency -- because one of the things that we have to keep in mind when we do rules is that you can't cover every situation. You always have to give flexible enough words to allow the agency to kind of move around with it based on what's actually happening on the ground. And I think that, in this, in this situation, the word "case" is probably the safest one. But I'm happy, if you e-mail me something, I'm happy to take a look at it and see, and then discuss it with the Law Department and see what we can do about it. But I think, at this point, maybe staying with "case" would be a good idea. But I'm happy to get anything, to take anything, e-mail me and discuss with you.

MS. GRAHAM: Okay. Well, for my team, it's fine. Just to be clear, for Department of Buildings, this is fine, the way that it's worded. I'm thinking about respondents. They may play with the wording here.

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2	MS. STATZ: Okay. Okay, thank you so
3	much.
4	MS. KLETTER: So, Shamonda, just to
5	clarify, is your vote a yes on the, the vote we
6	just
7	MS. GRAHAM: I'm sorry, go I can't
8	vote. I can't vote, unfortunately.
9	MS. KLETTER: I'm saying, I'm saying
10	that you can vote.
11	MS. GRAHAM: I can?
12	MS. KLETTER: Yes.
13	MS. STATZ: Because you have a
14	reasonable
15	MS. GRAHAM: Oh, well, then
16	MS. KLETTER: You have an accommodation.
17	Yes.
18	MS. GRAHAM: Okay. Well, then, I'm
19	voting yes. Yes, I'm fine with it.
20	MS. KLETTER: I'm now going to introduce
21	the proposed rule repealing OATH's Sanitation
22	penalty schedule, by Olga Statz.
23	MS. STATZ: Thank you, Commissioner.
24	Yes. As you know, since approximately 2016, OATH

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and ECB have been
itself of all per
the majority of
longer in OATH's
within the rules
We have
Sanitation as one
Sanitation, Depa
putting together
order for that per

and ECB have been divesting, has been divesting itself of all penalty schedules. And for, and the majority of the penalty schedules are now no longer in OATH's rules. They are now in the, within the rules of the enforcement agencies.

We have just a handful left, and with Sanitation as one of, as one of the rules.

Sanitation, Department of Sanitation is, is putting together its penalty schedule. And in order for that penalty schedule to take effect, we have to be able to repeal ours. So this is the first stage in the repealing of the OATH Sanitation penalty schedule to allow them -- and we'll be coordinating with the Department of Sanitation so that our complete repeal would take place as their, as their penalty schedules are adopted.

So this is the first stage of that. If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

MS. KLETTER: Thank you. Is there a motion to approve?

MS. LIGUORI: Motion.

MS. KLETTER: Thank you. Thank you,

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1 August 12, 2021 2 Madelynn. I'm going to ask Joy to do a roll call 3 vote. 4 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner. 5 And to clarify, for this particular proposed rule, I'm going to just ask if there are any 6 7 objections to OATH's repealing its Sanitation 8 penalty schedule. 9 MR. SHPETNER: This is Tom Shpetner, 10 citizen member. I'm not objecting, I'm 11 abstaining. 12 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you, Tom. So we have one abstention. Any other opposed or 13 14 abstaining on this vote? Then the motion does 15 pass. Thank you. 16 MS. KLETTER: Thank you very much. I'm 17 now going to introduce OATH's resolution to 18 approve a temporary program to resolve 19 outstanding Environmental Control Board 20 judgments, by Sam Solomon. 21 SAMUEL SOLOMON, ESQ., CHIEF OF 22 STAFF/SPECIAL COUNSEL, OATH: Thank you very 2.3 Sam Solomon, Chief of Staff and Special 24 Counsel at OATH. I will read the resolution

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because it's quite brief, and I want to make sure everyone has a chance to hear just what's in it.

And then I'll make a couple of notes for your background on the first resolution.

Pursuant to Local Law 80 of 2021, which establishes a temporary program to resolve the outstanding judgments imposed by the ECB, the Board hereby concurs with the Commissioner of Finance establishing a temporary program to resolve outstanding judgments for a 90-day period, to be effective during the fiscal year that commenced on July 1, 2021, provided that such period may be extended for an additional period of 90 days by rule of the Commissioner of Finance, if such Commissioner determined that such an extension would encourage further resolution of outstanding judgments, generate revenue for the City and reduce the amount of outstanding debt owed to the City.

This temporary program will permit respondents who are subject to default judgments to resolve those judgments by

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payment of base penalties without payment of full penalties and accrued interest.

It will also permit respondents subject to judgments entered and docketed after adjudication and finding of violation to resolve those judgments by payment of 75 percent of imposed penalties, without payment of accrued interest, if the judgment was entered prior to March 7, 2020, or 25 percent of the imposed penalty without payment of accrued interest if the judgment was entered and docketed on or after March 7, 2020.

MS. KLETTER: And just to be clear, that language comes from the bill. And I wonder if it makes sense to circulate a copy of the bill, which we can do, which was passed by the City Council maybe two months ago.

MR. SCHNEID: The defined period itself is in the bill?

MR. SOLOMON: That is correct. So the 90-day period is the one that was established by law, with the possibility of 90-day extension by the Commissioner of Finance.

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The, and just a couple of notes that I have on this. And the law was passed by the Council unanimously in June. And the program is required to be run by the Department of Finance during this, this current fiscal year. A start date has not yet been announced publicly, and the program has not begun yet. It only applies to debt owed as a result of judgments imposed by the Environmental Control Board.

Prior programs similar to this one were adop-, were operated in 2009 and 2016. And the local law requires the Department of Finance to perform public education about this opportunity for respondents who owe debt to the City. And once those materials, public materials are made available, OATH will ensure that interested respondents who have inqui- inquired with our staff are informed about the opportunity.

And then, lastly, the City has asked the ECB for approval of this measure in order to ratify the authority of the Department of Finance to offer this [unintelligible] [10:12:36]

[00:36:36] debt owed to the City under the local

1 August 12, 2021 2 law. 3 MS. KLETTER: Any questions? Questions? 4 Matt? 5 MR. SCHNEID: Can you just further explain how you're going to get the word out and 6 7 what that looks like? 8 MR. SOLOMON: Yes. We, this program, 9 because it's run through the Department of Finance, we will be referring people to the 10 11 Department of Finance to actually make their 12 applications for amnesty. But we will make 13 information available both on our website, and 14 then we also plan to have physical materials 15 available at our offices and the respondents will 16 be able to take it with them [unintelligible] 17 [10:13:14] [00:37:14]. 18 MS. KLETTER: We do a, we do a lot of, 19 we do a lot of outreach with elected officials 20 and their staff in various places through our 21 Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs and our 22 Deputy Commissioner of Intergovernmental Affairs. 2.3 So we'll make sure that the, that --

MR. SCHNEID: But there's no, like,

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1 August 12, 2021 2 notice sent to everyone who has a judgment? MR. SOLOMON: No, not to my knowledge. 3 4 MR. SCHNEID: Well, once you get the [unintelligible] [10:13:43] [00:37:43], you will 5 just send around the materials [unintelligible] 6 7 [10:13:45] [00:37:45]? MR. SOLOMON: Yes, absolutely. 8 9 MS. KLETTER: Yeah. I mean, I think 10 it's worth having conversations with the Mayor's 11 Office to make sure that, that this is being done 12 centrally, because it's multi-agency and they 13 should be getting the word out. So we'll make 14 sure we do that. Any further questions? 15 I'm going to ask for a motion to approve 16 the resolution. Thank you, Madelynn. I'm going to ask for Joy to call a vote. 17 18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you. Okay. And so 19 we're going to just ask, again, for any op-20 opposition to the approval of the resolution that 21 will, approves a temporary program to resolve

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Abstentions? I'm not seeing or hearing any. The

outstanding ECB Board judgments. At this time,

I'll ask if there are any opposition?

1 August 12, 2021 2 motion is approved unanimously. Thank you. MS. KLETTER: Great. Thank you. And 3 4 Peter Schul- Schulman will be circulating the 5 bill, so you should be getting an e-mail shortly. 6 He has a copy. 7 I am now going to ask Kelly Corso to introduce the pre-sealing reports. 8 9 KELLY CORSO, ESO., ASSISTANT 10 COMMISSIONER FOR HEARINGS DIVISION ADJUDICATIONS, 11 OATH: Good morning, everyone. Can you hear me? 12 MS. KLETTER: Yes. 13 MS. CORSO: Great, thank you. So we 14 have four pre-sealing reports today for the Board. All of them involve backflow violations. 15 16 One of them is going to be a recommendation for 17 water shut-off, so I'm going to do that one last. 18 The other three cases, the hearing 19 officers agreed with DEP's recommendation that 20 there be no further action for these, because the 21 respondents provided evidence of compliance at 22 the hearings. So those are the, the first three. 2.3 The water shut-off, shut-off case is,

this case goes back to April 2012. The

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respondent is 2710-2714 Broadway, LLC, and the premises is located at 2710 Broadway in Manhattan. And it is occupied by a City MD

urgent care and an English language school.

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So back in April 2012, DEP issued a Commissioner's order for the respondent to install backflow prevention device and it warned the respondent that, if they did not comply, that the water would be shut off.

Then, in August of 2014, DEP issued a summons to the respondent because the respondent has failed to comply with the order. The respondent did not appear for the hearing and a default decision was issued to the respondent.

Then, in June of 2016, the Board issued a cease and desist order to the respondent because respondent still had not complied with the Commissioner's order. A cease and desist order directed the respondent to appear for a special hearing on August 13, 2016, to show why the water supply to the premises should not be shut off. Respondent did not appear for that hearing and the respondent, in fact, did not

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reach out to OATH to reschedule the hearing until November of 2019.

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After a number of reschedules, the first special hearing occurred on October 27, 2020.

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Since then, the case has been adjourned six times

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for the respondent to comply with the

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Commissioner's order. Respondent's

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representative was advised at the hearings that

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the water would be shut off if the respondent

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continued to ignore the order to comply.

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At the last hearing, on July 6, 2021,

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the respondent's representative offered no

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evidence to indicate that substantial progress has been made towards compliance and, to this

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date, the backflow device has not been installed.

So DEP recommended at the last hearing

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that the water service to the premises be

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terminated, since the respondent has failed to

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comply with the order. And based on the lengthy

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history of the case and respondent's continued

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failure to comply with the order, the hearing

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officer agrees with DEP's recommendation that the

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water to the premises be shut off.

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Questions?

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MR. SHPETNER: Hi. This is Tom Shpetner, citizen member. Has, has respondent's representative given any reason for their dilatory behavior? I don't know, Kelly, can you hear me?

MS. CORSO: No, Tom. Can you repeat what you said?

MR. SHPETNER: Yeah. Really, just briefly, have they given any excuse or kind of an explanation for their dilatory behavior?

MS. CORSO: It doesn't seem like it. And, in fact, at one point they said that they wanted an adjournment to get their final test results approved for the backflow prevention device. And then, it turn, they turn around at the next hearing and we find out that they actually haven't even had it installed. So there's a lot of, it seems like that the respondent may not be communicating much with the representative who is showing up for, for the, the hearings.

MR. SHPETNER: And just one other

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2	question. The respondent is not the same party
3	as either the school or the doctor's office, is
4	it?
5	MS. CORSO: I don't believe so.
6	MR. SHPETNER: Okay, thanks, Kelly.
7	MS. KLETTER: Okay, thank you. I'm
8	going to ask if there's a motion to approve.
9	MR. SCHNEID: I, I [unintelligible]
10	[10:19:58] [00:43:58] question. I want to
11	understand.
12	MS. KLETTER: Okay.
13	MR. SCHNEID: So the water shuts off,
14	even though the doctor's office isn't involved.
15	So they lose their water, as well, even though
16	it's the landlord who didn't take the action.
17	Are they made aware of what's going on before
18	this happens?
19	MS. CORSO: I have to defer to Russ on
20	that one. Russ?
21	RUSSELL PECUNIES, ESQ., DEPARTMENT OF
22	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP): Yes. Yeah,
23	Russell Pecunies with DEP. So once we get the
24	Board letter, a copy of the Board letter

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directing that the water be turned off, we would have inspectors go to the premises and basically -- I mean, we, we're not going to go -- there's a process in turning the water off. The street or the sidewalk have to be marked. Then, then it will not just be that somebody will show up there and turn the water off. They will have sort of one last-ditch opportunity to come into compliance before the water gets turned off.

MR. SCHNEID: And the tenants themselves get notified?

MR. PECUNIES: Who?

MR. SCHNEID: The, the, the occupants of the building. It sounds like it's --

MR. PECUNIES: The tenants will be, yes. We send an inspector there. We have notices that say the water to this premises will be terminated on Thursday, whatever it is, due to failure to comply with the cease and desist order. They would be posted on the premises. So the tenants will be aware.

MS. KLETTER: Anything else? Is there a motion to approve? Thank you, Madelynn. I'm

1 August 12, 2021 2 going to ask Joy to call the vote. MS. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner. 3 4 At this time, I'm going to ask if there are any 5 objections or abstentions to the motion that we approve the full pre-sealing report as presented 6 7 by Kelly Corso? Okay. Hearing and seeing none, 8 the motion passes. 9 MS. KLETTER: Thank you. I'm now going 10 to ask for a motion to go into executive session 11 to discuss some recent cases. Thank you, 12 Madelynn. The motion to go into executive 13 session is approved. So everyone other than OATH 14 ECB Staff and ECB members must leave the room or 15 sign off until a motion to return to public 16 session. 17 MR. SCHULMAN: Okay. If you're not OATH 18 and you want to stay on, I will move you to a 19 waiting room and then bring you back once the 20 executive session is done. 21 [OFF THE RECORD] 22 [ON THE RECORD] 2.3 MR. SCHULMAN: We're good. 24 MS. KLETTER: Okay, great. Thank you.

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2	Does the Board have any additional questions?
3	Yes, Madelynn?
4	MS. LIGUORI: What is the October date?
5	MS. KLETTER: So the proposed dates
6	right now are October 4th or October 5th. Is
7	there some, a date that folks prefer?
8	[CROSSTALK] [10:28:18] [00:47:18]
9	MS. KLETTER: We would bring a cake, but
10	literally, none of us are eating. I would have
11	brought donuts today, but, like, I didn't think
12	it was appropriate for us to be eating. And
13	especially with the masks, so. Okay, great.
14	Alright. So the next Board Meeting will be
15	October 5th. Are there any comments from the
16	public? No? Then I ask for a motion to adjourn
17	the meeting. Thank you, Tom. The meeting is
18	adjourned.
19	MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.
20	ALL: Thank you.
21	(The board meeting concluded at 10:29
22	A.M.)
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## CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of Board Meeting of the Environmental Control Board on August 12, 2021, was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By

Claudia Marques

Date: August 23, 2021

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