



**NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)**  
*The City's Independent and Impartial Administrative Law Court*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NYC OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS (OATH)  
ANNOUNCES PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EXTENDED AND WEEKEND  
HOURS AT ITS HEARINGS DIVISION**

*To increase New Yorkers' access to City justice, beginning Tuesday, September 19, 2017 through January 30, 2018, OATH's Brooklyn Hearing Office will be open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The full range of OATH Hearings Division services, including walk-in hearings, on-site community service and Help Center assistance will be available during these extra hours of operation.*

OATH's Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle, today announced the beginning of a pilot program to provide extended and weekend hours at its Brooklyn Hearings Division location. New Yorkers who receive some of the most commonly issued civil summonses will be able to have walk-in hearings, make admissions and payments, visit OATH's [Help Center](#) to get assistance or, if eligible, complete their on-site community service during these new hours of operation.

“As the City court where nearly all City agencies file their summonses for hearings and where nearly all New Yorkers have the potential to be summoned, OATH must always be working towards ensuring that the hearing process is fair and broadly accessible,” **said Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle.** “New Yorkers charged with breaking a City rule or law have an absolute right to a hearing where they can tell their side and give their defense to a neutral, independent decision-maker whose duty it is to issue the decision in their case. OATH's goal through this experiment is to learn whether providing different hours of operation could make it easier for people to assert that right and fight the charges that have been filed against.”

Summonses that are eligible for [walk-in hearings](#) are summonses that have an upcoming hearing date at any OATH hearing location and summonses that do not require the summons-issuing agency to be present at the hearing. These include nearly all summonses issued by the NYPD,

Parks Department, Department of Sanitation and Health Department. New Yorkers interested in finding out if their case can be heard at a walk-in hearing or want to reschedule their hearing to a time during these new hours of operation can contact the [OATH Clerk's Office](#).

On-site [community service](#) is an option available to New Yorkers who attend the OATH hearing in person after receiving a civil summons from the NYPD, the Parks Department or the Department of Environmental Protection for a low-level quality of life violation that historically would have been filed in NYC Criminal Court but was instead filed at OATH. These include civil summonses issued for offenses such as drinking in public, public urination, excessive noise, being in a park after dark or breaking another park rule or law. The change in venue for these types of summonses and the new community service option available for these specified violations are a result of the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) which was signed into law last year and went into effect on June 13, 2017. A [full list](#) of the types of summonses that are eligible for community service and the number of hours imposed is available on the OATH website.

Since [in-person hearings](#) take approximately 30 minutes to complete, OATH is advising those respondents who walk-in for hearings to arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the office closing. Those who would like to do community service after admitting or being found in violation of a charge that is eligible for community service should consider how many hours will be imposed when taking advantage of these new hours of operation if they want to complete their service on the same day.

The pilot program runs from Tuesday, September 19, 2017 through January 30, 2018. The OATH Hearings Division in Brooklyn where these extended and weekend hours of operation will be piloted is located at 9 Bond Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201. During the pilot program, the Office will be open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays, with a [few exceptions](#) that are listed online, due to holidays.

## **About OATH**

The NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) is the City's independent administrative law court where nearly all City enforcement agencies- including the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection, Fire, NYPD, Consumer Affairs, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission, among many others- file their summonses for hearings. OATH, however, is not the court that is responsible for holding hearings on parking tickets or traffic tickets.

Last year, the OATH Hearings Division received nearly **850,000 summonses** and the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) is expected to divert 100,000 cases from Criminal Summons Court to OATH each year. OATH made a quick 2 minute video that explains the CJRA and options for responding to summonses at OATH, including the new community service option that is offered for CJRA cases. The [informational video](#) is available on the OATH website.

In addition to in-person hearings, OATH offers recipients of the most commonly issued summonses convenient [hearing options](#) such as Hearings Online, Hearings by Phone, Hearings by Webcam and Hearings by Mail. It also offers free translation services for all hearings as well as for all document/form submissions.