

New Yorkers Educated to Solve "Tickets" Without Going to Court

OATH civilian courts give the option to those who have minor infractions to answer their cases by internet, mail or telephone



Commissioner and Administrative Judge Fidel Del Valle and Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez educate residents about the fines.

PHOTO: MARIELA LOMBARD / EL DIARIO NY

BY: [EDWIN MARTINEZ](#) SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

The recent **wave of arrests and arrests** of immigrants in some City courts has resulted in many undocumented immigrants failing to comply with citations imposed on them by the authorities when they allegedly commit an offense. And in their eagerness that is no longer an impediment that prevents those who receive "tickets" respond **before civil courts** in **New York**, the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (**OATH**) is promoting several educational workshops for people to know that in many cases they do not need to go personally to the courts, but they can solve their summons by telephone or via the internet.

This was announced on Monday by the judge and commissioner of that body, **Fidel del Valle**, who called on New Yorkers, regardless of their immigration status, to take advantage of these tools given by the court to catch up with their processes and do not let them pass.

"In New York we have about **1 million annual summonses** and the vast majority can solve them without having to go, but only 300,000 respond," said Del Valle, recalling that when a person who has been subject to a subpoena process, you have half the chances that the case will win. " **43%**of people are dismissed, but if they do not appear, it is impossible for a judge to remove them. Also if you do it by phone, computer and mail, it is impossible for ICE staff to find them, because they are protected. "

The official also recalled that in the five OATH courts in New York there is a policy that prohibits collaboration with Immigration agents, as in the rest of the city.

"If **ICE officers** are present at one of our offices, City attorneys have equipment to intervene immediately, but so far no case has been filed in any of our courts," he warned.

Dominican **Morena Morales** , who confessed to having a "pending ticket," welcomed the call of the civil courts, saying that solving her summons without going to court, is much more comfortable and does not generate additional economic losses.

"Doing it online is easier. To me in my life I have not put many tickets but in a single year they put me five, many unfair because the police do it to complete the quotas they need, but fighting from my own house I do not lose a day's work, I remain calm and it's better for everyone. "



Resident Morena Morales

Councilman **Ydanis Rodriguez** , who is promoting an educational workshop Tuesday on ways to respond to a civil summons without having to go to court, also said that the announcement of the OATH commissioner is a guarantee of protection to justice.

"We want people to know that they have rights, because many times people receive a ticket and they prepare to go to pay and although there are many who were made responsible, there is another group that receives it being innocent and we want to show that no one is guilty until a judge makes that decision," said the councilor, who added that under the current climate of immigrant fear of not going to many courts, this is a perfect choice.

"It is a relief for all, especially for the undocumented community but we reiterate that when someone is going to respond to a summon does not have consequences of that information happening to immigration, but to stop going if it has consequences in the future", added the Dominican leader , who urged other courts to offer more OATH court options for citations.

"I think it is important to continue reproducing what Del Valle is doing in OATH, but we reiterate that the 8 million New Yorkers, whether they have immigration status or not, can go to court quietly because we do not share information with federal authorities," he said. .

Also, state Senator **Marisol Alcántara** said that with this announcement there are no longer excuses for not responding to a subpoena and warned that those who do not have computers can request help at any office of elected officials in their neighborhoods.

"This initiative brings the services of the City to its community and if the undocumented are afraid to go to court, it is important that people take advantage of these methods to respond to a ticket because otherwise if they do not work," concluded the policy .

Educational workshop

- This Tuesday will be a workshop on this topic at the YM & YWHA headquarters of Washington Heights, located at 54 Nagle Ave, between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm
- If you would like to know more about the resources that civil courts in OATH provide to resolve tickets, you can visit <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/oath/index.page>
- 1 million tickets are issued each year for minor infractions
- 300,000 of the people who receive them come to solve them
- 43% of those who go are exonerated
- 80% of those who have tickets can solve them without going to court
- Fines for open beers on the street remain the most common

