



The Council of the City of New York  
Office of Council Member Fernando Cabrera



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Council Member Fernando Cabrera and OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge Fidel F. Del Valle to Announce First-ever “Neighborhood Pop-Up” Court in the Bronx for City-issued Summonses**

Bronx, NY - On April 24, 2018, Council Member Cabrera will be joined by OATH Commissioner Fidel Del Valle to announce that the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) –the City’s independent administrative law court where all City agencies file their regulatory and enforcement summonses for hearings— will hold the first event in the Bronx for a brand new initiative being rolled out by OATH called *Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts*.

Through the initiative, OATH will be traveling 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.

“I’m proud to host the first Neighborhood Pop-Up Court in the Bronx at my district office,” said **Council Member Fernando Cabrera**. “This OATH initiative is a great step in continuing efforts to ensure fair hearings for enforcement summonses. This is a community of small businesses. Having the ability to answer a summons in person in the neighborhood is a tremendous benefit to business owners who supply great energy to our economic life.”

“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.”

The announcement on Tuesday aims to broadcast to Bronx residents that the Bronx kick-off of the *Neighborhood Pop-Up Court* initiative will take place at the District Office of Council Member Fernando Cabrera located 107 East Burnside Ave, Bronx, NY 10453 on Friday, April 27, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

At Friday's *Neighborhood Pop-Up Court* OATH staff and Hearing Officers will be available to check in respondents and hold hearings at District office until 4pm. 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 Bronx Pop-up Court is scheduled for May 23, 2018 at the Office of Council Member Ritchie Torres.

### **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 850,000 summonses from the City's various enforcement agencies. On average, 40% of summonses that are fought at OATH hearings are dismissed by OATH Hearing Officers.

### **About OATH's Neighborhood Pop-Up Courts**

Each Pop-Up Court involves a case-specific, mail marketing outreach campaign that targets recipients of summonses issued by the Department of Sanitation and certain types of summonses issued by the Health Department.

Recipients of these summonses who have not already admitted and paid the summons and who live in one of the five zip codes that surround the pop-up location were sent letters informing them that they have been issued a summons that can be fought at the pop-up court on the specified date and also informed them that if they are unable or do not want to fight the summons in person, that they have the ability to fight the summons using one of OATH's remote hearing options.

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