



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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The NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) brings its Five-Borough  
*Outreach at the Beach* Initiative to Staten Island



*The NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) was on the boardwalk at Sand Lane on August 16, 2017, to let people know their rights when they receive a City-issued summons and the process for how to fight summonses at OATH.*

**STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK** – On August 16, 2017, senior officials and staff from the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) held the court's Staten Island *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. OATH informational materials also addressed options for responding to summonses at OATH that are issued by other City enforcement agencies, such as summonses from the Sanitation Department or Department of Buildings.

“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 800 people during the day. The information was about the hearing process at OATH; OATH’s remote hearing options, including Hearings Online and Hearings by Phone; the OATH Help Centers that are at all hearing locations; and the new option to complete community service instead of paying a fine, which is an option that is available to certain summonses covered by the CJRA.



*From Left to Right: OATH Deputy Commissioner/Chief Clerk, Maria Marchiano, and OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle, pose for photo after speaking to a group of beachgoers from the Arrochar Friendship Club Senior Center.*

### 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- such as the Departments of

Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection, Fire, NYPD, TLC 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 and the CJRA is expected to divert 100,000 cases from Criminal Court to OATH each year. OATH made a [two minute video](#) that explains the CJRA and options to respond at OATH, including the brand new community service option that is offered for CJRA cases. The informational video is available for viewing on the OATH website.

OATH offers recipients of summonses convenient hearings options such as Hearings Online, Hearings by Phone, Hearings by Webcam and Hearings by Mail. It also offers free translation services for all hearings and document/form submissions.

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